



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JACL

FEBURARY 03 — 16, 2012

**Death of Private  
Danny Chen sparks  
controversy and a  
military investigation.**

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AP PHOTO/U.S. ARMY, FILE



PHOTO: IPPEI + JANINE NAOI

**Ring in New Year's,  
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**George Takei beams into  
'Celebrity Apprentice'**



# Letters to the Editor

## COLUMNIST KUMPEL EVOKES STRONG REACTION FROM READERS

This letter is in regards to the column by James Kumpel in the Nov. 18-Dec. 15, 2011, issue of the *Pacific Citizen*. His support of the Tea Party in a publication dedicated to the Asian Pacific community is highly offensive, not primarily because I do not share his perspective, but rather that the mission of the JACL is supposed to be beyond partisanship.

Is it not enough that the country is inflamed by political divisions? Do we now have to see the *P.C.* become a place to debate our political perspectives under the guise of "freedom of the press"? Does being a JACL chapter board member permit "free press" for political ideology that has little to do with the goals of the JACL?

I am not a "radical anarchist" but I did participate in Occupy Wall Street. We did not see signs denigrating Republicans or Democrats. It is a cause beyond partisanship as JACL needs to be. But even such issues have no place in the *P.C.*, as it does not directly relate to the specific concerns of Asian Americans, unless we open this floodgate as the editors seem to be on the path to doing.

I have been a long-time supporter of the JACL but would seriously consider withdrawing this support if we become a voice for a political party, irrespective of the relevancy to Asian Pacific concerns. I hope we will re-examine our objectives and mandates of the *P.C.*

Kathy Biala  
Fresno, Calif.

Got the latest issue of the *Pacific Citizen*. You don't have the column inches to waste on columnist James Kumpel and the rightwing place.

I will continue to complain 'till he is removed — for lying. Since when do you allow lies?

Donald Gecewicz  
Chicago, Illinois

Thank you for adding balance to your publication. I enjoy reading James Kumpel's articles. He has given me reason to renew my JACL membership.

Tracie Sasaki Seibert  
Via email

## REMEMBERING SANTA ANITA ASSEMBLY CENTER

Thank you for the nice articles of all the camps and assembly centers. I did not see any articles about the Santa Anita Assembly Center in Arcadia, Calif.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked, I was 19 years old living on a farm in Downey, Calif. Our family of three girls and one boy were sent to Santa Anita Assembly Center on April 14, 1942. I believe there were 10,000 of us there.

Many of my girlfriends worked on making the camouflage nets for the war in the grand stand. I worked in the mess hall. We lived in the horse stable for six months. Some lived near the race track.

We were sent to Rohwer Internment Camp on Sept. 24, 1942. It took two days on the train to arrive there.

I am 90 years old now, and writing about my camp days I have remembered.

Is there going to be any marker at Santa Anita saying Japanese Americans also lived here for a short time?

Susan Matsumoto  
Kalaheo, Kauai

## GOD BLESS OUR AMERICAN SOLDIERS



COURTESY OF BRIAN YAMAMOTO

At last our heroes have been duly honored with the Congressional Gold Medal which they so richly deserve for their services in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regiment and Military Intelligence Service during World War II.

Whenever stories of their heroism are retold, I am in awe of their accomplishments and they make me proud to be an AJA. I am a Sansei, born in Honolulu, and in 1962 I was a stewardess for Pan Am stationed in New York. I recall a flight assignment to Rome when we had a couple of days layover. So two other stewardesses (a blonde from Boston and a Canadian blue-eyed brunette) and I decided to do some sight-seeing while shopping.

We were in downtown Rome, when a few young men approached us. They tried guessing where the other girls were from, saying the blonde was German

or Swedish and the brunette was British or French, when one girl asked them to guess where I was from. Much to our surprise, one man said: 'Oh we know she is an American from America.' When asked how he could know that I was American he replied: 'All the American soldiers who helped save our village looked like her,' pointing in my direction. Then the young men started cheering: 'American, American,' while they circled around us.

I was overwhelmed by the thoughts of the brave young American soldiers who helped save all those villages and towns in Europe. It was the most heartening times of my life. So, I thank all you brave American Congressional Gold Medal Honorees and God Bless.

Nancy Sakurai  
San Francisco, CA

## DOESN'T NATIONAL COUNCIL DECIDE THE LOCATION OF ITS DIRECTOR?

Vice President Gail Sueki's recent commentary (Nov. 18-Dec. 15, 2011, *Pacific Citizen*) piqued my interest since it indicated that the national board had decided that the director would be located in D.C. I wonder if the provision in the JACL Constitution & Bylaws that national council determines the location of headquarters has been amended so the national board decides its location. I presume that it is still expected that the national director shall be located at the national headquarters.

The issue is close to me since I, as 1970-72 NCWNP governor, instigated the building of the JACL headquarters in San Francisco as a means of thwarting a move by some members of the national board to relocate the headquarters to Los Angeles after Masao Satow was eased out of the national directorship he had so arduously filled for over 25 years.

As a newcomer to the JACL leadership, rather than simply opposing the move, I gained the support of the San Francisco JACL and the NCWNP district council to build a JACL headquarters in Japantown. I believed that if the national council approved the building of a national headquarters building in San Francisco, that action would moot the movement of the JACL headquarters away from Northern California to Southern California. The national council approved the building of the headquarters building in San Francisco at its biennial convention at D.C. in 1972 and the headquarters was dedicated there in 1974.

My ploy seemed to have worked until recently when the national director's office was somehow moved to D.C., where a D.C. representative had been located previously.

Shigeki J. Sugiyama  
Past National JACL President (1974-1976)

## PACIFIC CITIZEN

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# AA ADVOCATES DEMAND JUSTICE FOR PRIVATE DANNY CHEN

Following the death of Chen, AA advocates are calling for the military to uphold its policies to prevent hazing and racially motivated harassment.



COURTESY OF THE CHEN FAMILY

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

Pvt. Danny Chen's death has raised alarms for many in the Asian American community.

Asian Americans advocates voiced their frustrations after a military investigating officer recommended dropping the involuntary manslaughter charge against an accused infantryman in Pvt. Danny Chen's death.

The recommendation was made public Jan. 22 after a hearing wrapped up for Spc. Ryan Offutt, 32. Offutt faces 13 charges in connection with the Oct. 3 death of Chinese American infantryman Pvt. Danny Chen, who was 19 when he was found dead in a guard tower from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

All other charges were recommended to be forwarded to a court martial.

"While it's true that the investigating officer in the Offutt case did not recommend to the Special Court-Martial Convening Authority that manslaughter charges go forward to trial, he (the special court-martial convening authority) does have the latitude to make that recommendation to the Army major general who is the general court-martial convening authority," said George Wright, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon.

Offutt is one of eight United States Army soldiers who are facing charges in the death of Chen. Investigation hearings for the other accused soldiers will be held before Feb. 20.

Chen, who grew up Chinatown New York, was deployed to Afghanistan, where he allegedly endured racial harassment from superior officers.

Hours before Chen's death he allegedly was subjected to verbal and physical abuse from his superior officers after he took a shower and forgot to turn off a water heater.

Asian American advocates say it is an outrage to drop the most serious charge against one of the eight infantrymen charged in the

death of Chen. Elizabeth OuYang, New York branch president of OCA and spokesperson for the family, said Chen's parents are upset at the news.

"They feel it is not enough for what they did to Danny," OuYang said. "Danny was the only Asian American in his platoon in Afghanistan. According to Army investigators, he was called 'Gook', 'Chink' and 'Dragon Lady.'"

Chen was also allegedly forced in a separate incident to tell his English-speaking comrades how to pitch a tent in Chinese, OuYang added.

The news of Chen's death has inspired other Asian Americans to air their grievances about their experiences in the military.

"Pvt. Danny Chen he grew up pretty much two blocks from where I grew up. So I can definitely empathize with him because as an Asian American I also got some of the racist jokes from my peers when I was in the military," said Pakee Fang, 29, a Chinese American who was in the United States Marines Corps. "So racism does exist in the military. It truly does."

But not all Asian American soldiers say their time in the military mirrors Chen's experience. Lt. Col. Clifford Chen, a Chinese American who was born in New York and grew up in California, says Marines have a saying that they are all one color: green.

"It's become passé to use that expression, but I think the intent was correct," Chen said. "Like anywhere I have probably come across individuals that may have been ignorant or racially insensitive, but I couldn't say that I have ever experienced systematic maltreatment or discrimination based on my race."

Advocates from OCA, JACL and the Asian American Justice Center met with officials

from the Army at the Pentagon on Dec. 14 to discuss diversity training in the military and disciplinary guidelines for possible hazing incidents.

Also present at the meeting were Rep. Nydia Velasquez, D-New York, and New York City Councilwoman Margaret Chin, said JACL National Director Floyd Mori.

"Harassment, bullying and hazing are all too prevalent in our institutions and a major part of this cruel treatment is targeted at the AAPI community," Mori said. "We also want to see justice administered in the case of Danny Chen where those who were responsible in causing his death are given the maximum punishment allowed by military law."

Chen's case comes after another Chinese American, Lance Cpl. Harry Lew, committed suicide in Afghanistan after allegedly being hazed by fellow Marines.

Eighteen months after Lew enlisted in the Marines he committed suicide by shooting himself in the head with a machine gun.

Before he died in April of 2011, Lew scrawled a suicide note on his arm saying, "May hate me now, but in the long run this was the right choice. I'm sorry. My mom deserves the truth."

Fellow soldiers allegedly physically and verbally abused Lew after he fell asleep while standing guard a day before his death. Three Marines are accused in the case.

Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Jacoby appeared Jan. 30 before a special court-martial in Hawaii where he pleaded guilty as a part of a plea deal. Prosecutors withdrew charges that Jacoby threatened and humiliated Lew.

The court-martial proceedings for Sgt. Benjamin Johns and Lance Cpl. Carols Orozco III will occur at later dates.

For some, the news of Chen's death hits close to home.

"It has become increasingly clear that hazing and harassment must be addressed throughout our armed services. In the case of Private Danny Chen, his Chinese heritage led to violent racial discrimination and harsh treatment," said Rep. Judy Chu. "My nephew (Harry Lew) took his own life after enduring hazing and physical assault. I know firsthand the pain a family faces when hazing leads to the loss of a loved one, and it is something no family should have to endure."

To ensure that these incidents are not repeated, civil rights organizations like OCA are circulating a petition asking for the community to take action for Chen.

The petition suggests that the community follow several action items such as demanding that the court martials be convened in the U.S., contacting the OCA New York branch with military hazing stories, holding teach-ins about Chen's death, writing to newspapers and city councilmembers and becoming a member of the organization, among other things.

Community leaders say they hope Chen's case will lead to more effective diversity training to ensure soldiers are able to safely serve their country.

"The hazing of Private Danny Chen, that allegedly caused his death, is an urgent call to action," said Rep. Mike Honda.

"I hope that the House Committees on Armed Services and Oversight and Government Reform will take these warnings seriously and hold hearings in order to protect our brave service members from any future danger." ■



PHOTO: DEBORAH HORN

Jeff Owyang, co-chair of the WWII JA Internment Museum project, and McGehee Mayor Jack May at the Railroad Depot Museum.

## TOWN OF MCGEHEE, ARKANSAS DETERMINED TO BUILD JEROME/ROHWER INTERNMENT MUSEUM

Locals, including the small town's mayor, have raised money for a museum to be built in honor of the former Japanese Americans incarcerated there during WWII.

By Christine McFadden, Correspondent

**M**ayor Jack May of McGehee, Arkansas has been working for years to construct a museum commemorating the Japanese American internees at the former Rohwer and Jerome World War II internment camps.

May is not JA, nor does he have relatives that were incarcerated. His connection goes back to his father who was a deputy sheriff and his uncle, a deputy security camp commander at Rohwer during WWII. Born in 1939, May recalls visiting his family working at Rohwer as a child.

"On Sunday afternoon, [I'd] go visit my aunt and uncle and cousin at this camp," he said. May recalls the tarpaper buildings, the common cafeteria, and the muddy roads from a lack of gravel in the hastily constructed camps.

"We didn't eat in the cafeteria with them [the JAs]," May recalled. "I think the families employed there had their own kitchens."

When May was contacted two years ago by the Delta Cultural Center about a JA exhibit in storage looking for a permanent home, he agreed to help. The project to obtain funding and renovate an old train depot in McGehee began.

Located right between the two camps, the

town of McGehee is the perfect place for a museum, geographically and historically.

"There's a lot of people in our part of Southeast Arkansas that are very familiar with the two camps and have some connections with the people out there," said May. "Even today in McGehee, Arkansas, I can show you buildings that were moved and are still being used."

With enough grant money obtained, the WWII Japanese American Internment Museum project is currently aiming to open the physical museum by the end of 2012 with a dedication ceremony sometime in October. May is hoping that the museum will attract former internees and their families to visit.

"I was out there during the war as a small child," he said. "These are the only two permanent camps east of Colorado."

### Building a Dream in McGehee

The previous exhibit, "Life Interrupted: The Japanese American Experience in World War II Arkansas," was constructed by the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles and the University of Arkansas, Little Rock.

To bring it out of storage, the museum project and Mayor May have obtained \$767,000 in grants from the National Park

Foundation, the Arkansas Highway Department, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, as well as local donations.

The team is currently waiting for approval from the Arkansas Highway Department to get started, said Jeff Owyang, co-chair of the WWII JA Internment Museum project.

"After that we will start taking bids on the project," he said. Owyang, of Chinese descent, was named co-chair of the museum project along with Melissa Gober after they were named McGehee Chamber of Commerce Man & Woman of the Year.

He is hoping that the museum can one day display on loan a collection donated to the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Little Rock by former McGehee Mayor Rosalie Gould.

The collection features former artwork, letters, and other valuables from the camp. When art teacher Jamie Vogel, who taught in Rohwer, passed away in 1982, she willed her collection to Gould.

Over time, her collection grew into what some have called "the most comprehensive collection that was in private hands," Gould said. When she donated it to the Butler Center, it was appraised at a value of one million dollars.

Similar to Mayor May, former Mayor

Gould shares a unique history to the camp. Her father-in-law owned the former swamp-land Rohwer was built on, selling his land to the government during the war.

By the time Gould arrived in Rohwer in 1949, when she married her husband, she said nobody talked about the camps. She has had over 2,000 former internees visit her since obtaining the collection in 1982.

### Finding Former Internees

One of the main goals of the museum project is to locate former internees and their families to invite them to return to the former grounds and see the museum. So far only four West Coast families have contacted May.

According to May, there are currently no JAs in McGehee, Arkansas, a town with a population of 4,500. The last JA family that was around after the incarceration, he believes, went north to Little Rock, their descendants dying about seven years ago.

"There's no one here that was in those camps," he said.

They've also sent letters to surrounding schools within a 200-mile radius of McGehee inviting classes to come to the museum and learn about the camps.

Eiichi Kamiya was incarcerated with his family first at the Santa Anita Assembly Center, then at Jerome, and finally at Rohwer.

Incarcerated as a child, he took his family with him to return to the former campgrounds in 1979 when his children were the same age.

"It was kind of like showing them what life was like for me when I was their age," he said.

During his visit, he spoke to some locals and was surprised to find that many of them had looked at the former internees with envy.

"Back in those days, it was really backward," he said. Without running water and a sewage system, many of the locals were envious of the JAs inside.

"We lived inside of the barbed wire and they looked at us in envy ... we just sat in there and ate; they thought the guards were there to keep them away."

McGehee resident Bill Conway hopes the museum will become a tourist attraction for those visiting the small, Mississippi Delta town. Among the future plans for the museum also include the construction of a memorial park and the restoration of a monument at Rohwer.

But Conway also hopes the museum will stand as an important civil rights lesson.

The museum will "remind people of how fragile their freedom really is," he said. ■

*If you or your relatives were incarcerated at Rohwer or Jerome and are interested in reaching out to Mayor Jack May, contact him at: mcgeheear@alliance.tv.*

**These are the only two permanent camps east of Colorado.**

Mayor Jack May



# CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON: ASIAN AMERICANS RING IN THE NEW YEAR



PHOTO: IPPON + JAVINE YAO

AAs invite us into their New Year's celebrations and talk about the significance of their family's rituals.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

For 16-year-old Rena Ogino, Japanese New Year is a time to get together with her family to munch on mochi and watch *Kouhaku*, the Japanese New Year's Eve singing special.

"We always have to call family in Japan and wish them a happy New Year as well, because the New Year is the most important holiday in Japan," she said.

Rena Ogino's father Hiroshi Ogino remembers Japanese New Year, or *Oshogatsu*, in his childhood as a time when he would receive money from relatives and do *takoage*, or fly kites.

The New Year's rituals and the significance of them have evolved since Hiroshi Ogino's childhood. For instance the meaning behind different foods prepared for the New Year may not be fully understood by younger generations, he said.

"Some of the food they understand. Soba is for long life," he said about his

children's understanding of Japanese New Year traditional foods. "But I don't think even young people in Japan know. Japan has changed since I was a kid, too. But it's natural for kids living here [in the U.S.] not to understand fully."

The Japanese New Year rituals observed by many people of Japanese descent like the Ogino family are believed to date back to the 17th century in Japan.

Before following the Western calendar in 1873, Japan went by the lunar calendar. Japanese New Year Day is now celebrated on Jan. 1.

Many ring in the Japanese New Year by going to temple, cleaning the house and preparing traditional foods.

Busy in the kitchen preparing *ozoni*, *karashi renkon*, *gyoza* and sushi is how Montana resident Patrick Takeo Tsukuda, 32, celebrates Japanese New Year Day.

Some of the New Year's rituals and the meanings behind them may have been lost with each new generation in the Tsukuda family. But the importance of enjoying quality family time is still an essential element of Japanese New Year in his household.

"I do think that this day is very different from what my grandparent's would have celebrated," said Tsukuda. "I think that my parent's and I share the same traditions. But they kind of evolve. As the Nisei have been getting older, I wonder who we will make mochi with in the future."

Traditional Japanese New Year's foods, or *osechi ryori*, vary between each family. Chef Andy Matsuda, of the Torrance, Calif.-based Sushi Chef Institute, says New Year's

dishes like black beans are seen as good luck for one's business. Eating cooked shrimp, Matsuda says, during a New Year's feast ensures a long life, and *kobumaki*, or a kelp roll, brings happiness.

"Each cooked dish has meaning of healthy life, good luck, success with business and etcetera," said Matsuda. "Mochi, *zou-ri*, is made in the morning. The meaning of this is a long and healthy life."

In Hawaii, Japanese New Year celebrations have merged with Hawaiian culture. At the Japanese Culture Center of Hawaii, or JCCH, the New Year's Ohana Festival is a fusion of Japanese music and ukulele performances.

"This year was another record-breaking event as we drew a crowd of more than 20,000 people to this one-day festival," said Denise Tagomori Park, a spokeswoman for JCCH. "The festival's importance to the community is evident every year as it continues to grow and make a statement as one of the best-known cultural festivals in the state."

At home, Tagomori Park follows the same Japanese New Year traditions that her grandparents followed.

"We still eat the traditional foods that my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles have prepared every New Year's Day," said Tagomori Park. "My uncle visits the local Shinto shrine every New Year's Eve to receive blessings and purchase *omamori* for the entire family. These Japanese traditions are important to us but not as much as simply coming together, celebrating the New Year with family."

In Andrew Yick's house, observing Chinese New Year is similar to the way

Japanese New Year is celebrated. New Year celebrations are primarily a time Yick uses to enjoy being with his family.

"Over the course of this time, we travel to visit family and friends, bringing food dishes with us to celebrate together the New Year," Yick said, who is the PSW district's development coordinator. "In addition to visiting family members over traditional Chinese New Year dishes and exchanging red envelopes, my family goes to the temple."

This year Chinese New Year began on Jan. 23 and runs for 15 days. Vietnamese New Year also began Jan. 23.

Yick's parents, Lem and Lillian, say they prepare for the coming new year by cleaning their house and ridding it of old belongings. Much like Japanese New Year each dish in a Chinese New Year feast is meaningful. Dishes like *faht-go* (a whole fried fish) and pigs feet symbolize prosperity.

Although Japanese and Chinese traditions differ, with both holidays there's always the same clean up and recovery process at the culmination of the New Year.

"After the majority of the gathering clears, we are all exhausted," Tsukuda said. "Usually we try to take the day after New Year off because we are completely wiped out from working," Tsukuda said. "It completely wipes me out." ■

**'These Japanese traditions are important to us but not as much as simply coming together, celebrating the New Year with family.'**

Tagomori Park



# JAS WARY OF OBAMA'S SIGNING OF NAT'L DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Reminiscent of the WWII incarceration, the act would allow for the indefinite detention of U.S. citizens suspected of terrorist activities.

*By Pacific Citizen Staff*

In the midst of New Year's Eve celebrations, many may have missed President Barack Obama's reauthorization of the controversial National Defense Authorization Act which allows for the indefinite detention of U.S. citizens. But those Japanese Americans who were victims themselves of similar laws during World War II were paying close attention.

"I know you know that this was wrong, and yet you did it anyway," wrote community activist Soji Kashiwagi, human relations commissioner for the City of Pasadena, California, in a personal letter to Obama. "And I'm here to remind you that the consequences of those actions and the long-term damage done to Japanese Americans over 70 years ago are still being felt to this day."

Kashiwagi's sentiments were expressed by many JAs after Obama signed his name to the controversial bill Dec. 31. The sweeping

\$662 billion act provides military funding for 2012 and includes a controversial provision that allows for the indefinite detention of U.S. citizens and non-citizens suspected of terrorist activities without trial or charge, denying them legal rights under the U.S. constitution.

Obama himself expressed misgivings about the legislation even as he signed his name to the bill. Originally saying that he would veto the bill, he later changed his position after Congress made some last-minute revisions. Obama has vowed to use his discretion in applying various measures of the bill, especially the portion dealing with indefinite detention.

"I have signed this bill despite having serious reservations with certain provisions that regulate the detention, interrogation, and prosecution of suspected terrorists," Obama said in a *Washington Post* article. "I want to clarify that my Administration will not authorize the indefinite military detention without trial of American citizens. Indeed, I believe that doing so would break with our most important traditions and values as a Nation."

He added, he would "reject any approach that would mandate military custody where law enforcement provides the best method of incapacitating a terrorist threat."

National JACL immediately expressed concern of the defense act, noting the similarities to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.



"Shame on Congress for passing this new law," said National JACL Director Floyd Mori. "The JACL is disappointed in the president for signing into law these provisions that will allow the same kind of hysteria, bigotry, and poor political leadership to perpetuate abuses of civil rights of many Americans as it did during World War II."

He added, "The president caved in on his earlier vow to veto NDAA and accepted amendments that only protect citizens' Constitutional rights on the surface. He allowed American citizens' rights to be sacrificed for political expediency. Let's listen to the warnings of history and let's remember for what the Constitution stands."

As JA groups around the country prepare for Day of Remembrance events commemorating the signing of Executive Order 9066, which led to the incarceration of close to 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry, the signing of the defense act will likely be utmost on their minds.

"This year, in the context of the National Defense Authorization Act that provides for indefinite military detention of the accused, we need to be more vigilant than ever," wrote Barbara Takei, CFO of the non-profit Tule Lake Committee. "During this time when Japanese Americans and other civil rights advocates are planning Day of Remembrance programs ... we must not close our eyes to what is happening again. ■"

## KOREAN AMERICANS PROTEST RACIST REMARKS BY 'THE JOHN AND KEN SHOW'

Members of San Fernando Valley JACL take part in a Jan. 19 protest in a show of solidarity with the Korean American community.

*By Pacific Citizen Staff*

In a show of solidarity, members of JACL joined the Korean American community in protesting racist remarks made by the hosts of the popular Clear Channel-owned "The John and Ken Show" on KFI AM 640 in Los Angeles.

On a Jan. 5 airing of the talk radio show, hosts John Kobylt and Ken Chiampou began a discussion on unethical business practices. Part of their comments included statements about Korean American painters as "scam guys" who seek to "rip people off."

The comments stirred immediate responses from groups like the Asian Pacific American Legal Center and the Korean Resource Center, which called the hosts' comments racist and a continuing attack on immigrant communities, including the Latino and African American communities.

"As an organization dedicated to



Members of the SFV JACL and the Korean American community protest outside KFI Studios.

combating injustice and hate against Asian and other immigrant communities APALC is here today to stand in support of the Korean American community and organizations, such as Korean Resource Center, who demand that Clear Channel and KFI AM pull this show from the air," said Senior Staff Attorney Yungsuhn Park at a press conference Jan. 17. "In Southern California, which is home to the largest Korean population outside of Korea and one of the largest and most diverse immigrant communities in the U.S., there is no room for

the kind of hateful and divisive rhetoric that the show regularly employs."

Other groups taking part in the press conference included the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium, Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles. In addition to condemning the remarks made by the hosts of "The John and Ken Show" the groups are asking for advertisers to pull their support of the show. Some of the current advertisers include: Chevron, Hyundai, North America and

Target.

Members of the Korean American Bar Association also noted in a letter to KFI AM 640 Program Director Robin Bertolucci that Kobylt and Chiampou make a distinction between "Korean" and "American."

"Messrs. Kobylt and Chiampou seem to have forgotten that Korean Americans are, in fact, Americans," the letter states. "Comments like theirs only serve to foster negative stereotypes about the Korean American community, which has in fact contributed tremendously to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of Southern California and the United States."

Protestors also took their demands to the headquarters of KFI Radio in Burbank at a rally Jan. 19 sponsored by the Korean Resource Center. Members of the San Fernando JACL held signs that read "Stop Racism" and "Keep Hate Speech off the Air" to show their solidarity with the Korean American community.

The recent protest by the Asian American community is part of a larger effort by the National Hispanic Media Coalition which has also complained in the past about the anti-immigrant comments by the hosts of "The John and Ken Show" towards Latinos. The group is calling for the show to be taken off the air. ■

For more information, [krcla.org/blog](http://krcla.org/blog).



## JAVA PROPOSES U.S. POSTAGE STAMPS FEATURING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARDEES

The Japanese American Veterans Association is proposing to the U.S. Postal Service that a commemorative stamp series be issued for WWII military units that have received the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of the recent Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) awarded to the World War II Nisei soldiers.

The commemorative stamp series would include the Japanese American soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service; Tuskegee Army Airfield; Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP); and the Navajo Code Talkers.

JAVA President Gerald Yamada further outlined their proposal in a letter to Chairwoman Jean Pickers Firstenberg of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service.

"To save on design costs, JAVA suggests that the design of the Congressional Gold Medals be used for the stamp design for each group. Each CGM design has been vetted by the U.S. Mint and accept-



ed by each group.

Yamada further noted that the stamps could be distributed with all four groups on a single stamp sheet or printed separately for each of the WWII groups.

JAVA's proposal has already been endorsed by the Japanese American WWII Veterans Stamp Campaign, which is co-chaired by Fusa Takahashi, Chiz Ohira, Aiko King and Wayne Osako.

In a statement they note: "We fully support the commemorative stamp proposal from JAVA that is based upon honoring veterans who have earned the Congressional Gold Medal. This would be a wonderful tribute to American veterans who have clearly made their mark on history. We urge the U.S. Postal Service to continue its tradition of recognizing the contributions of our nation's veterans."

Supporters of this effort can send letters to: Chairwoman Jean Pickers Firstenberg, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee; c/o Stamp Development; U.S. Postal Service; 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300; Washington, D.C. 20260-3501.

A copy of the letter should also be sent to Gerald Yamada, president; JAVA; 10316 Mountington Court; Vienna, VA 22182; or [gyamada@goingforwardstrategies.com](mailto:gyamada@goingforwardstrategies.com). ■

## JACL ANNOUNCES POWER OF WORDS COMMITTEE

National JACL recently announced the members of the Power of Words Committee, which is comprised of various JACLers from the seven districts.

The Power of Words initiative is a movement to ensure the use of accurate terminology for the Japanese American World War II experience. The goal of the initiative is to recommend that inaccurate misnomers and euphemisms of the past be replaced in future discourses with more accurate descriptors.

It was at the National JACL convention in Chicago in 2010 that the Power of Words Resolution passed by an overwhelming vote of 82 to 2. At the convention in Los Angeles last year the Power of Words Emergency Resolution was passed by a vote of 55 to 17. Both of these resolutions call for the creation of a Power of Words committee to develop a handbook and implement a plan to promote and support the use of appropriate terminology in all future documents, publications and educational trainings.

JACL National President David Kawamoto has appointed the following committee members:

**Greg Marutani, Chair** — Marutani resides in San Francisco and has served on the San Francisco JACL board, is a past chapter president, and served on the *Pacific Citizen* editorial board. He is a current member of the JACL National Education Committee.

**Megan Gately, Pacific Southwest District Representative** — Gately works at the Arizona Historical Society in the Education and Outreach Statewide Division. She has coordinated teacher-training workshops for JACL since 2007 and is active in the Arizona JACL chapter and PSWD.

**Sandra Grant, Intermountain District Representative** — Grant works for the Utah State Office of Education as an educational specialist for Title I Schools as a fiscal compliance officer. She is active in the Wasatch Front North JACL chapter and Intermountain District.

**Lisa Hanasono, Midwest District Representative** — Hanasono is an educator and has taught classes in communication and Asian American studies to college students in the Midwest. She is an interpersonal communication scholar who has spent years researching phenomena related to stereotyping, racial discrimination and social support. She is active in the Midwest District Council and the Hoosier chapter.

**Hiro Nishikawa, Eastern District Representative** — Nishikawa is active in the Philadelphia chapter and the Eastern district. He is retired from the biotech pharmaceutical drug discovery and development industry. As a young boy, he and his family were incarcerated at Poston during WWII. He has lectured the past several years to college and high school classes about the WWII camp experience.

**Andy Noguchi, Northern California Western Nevada Pacific Representative** — Noguchi is active in the Florin chapter and NC-WNP district as their civil rights co-chair. He was honored in 2002 with the National JACLer of the Biennium Award for organizing support for the innocent Muslim, Arab and South Asian communities after 9/11. He is a recently retired senior investigator and assistant district director for the U.S. Department of Labor/Wage & Hour Division.

**Dawn Rego, Pacific Northwest Representative** — Rego is the conference & events manager for the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, a child advocacy organization. She is active in the Seattle JACL and Pacific Northwest district.

**Bob Taniguchi, Central California Representative** — Taniguchi teaches mathematics at Merced Community College. He is active in the Livingston-Merced chapter and the Central California district.

In a national JACL statement, the organization says: "It is the hope of this committee that by accurately promoting correct terminology, eliminating the use of government misnomers and euphemisms, our community can finally tell our story." ■

For more information: [www.JACLPowerOfWords.org](http://www.JACLPowerOfWords.org).

**'It is the hope  
of this com-  
mittee that ...  
our communi-  
ty can finally  
tell our story.'**

## CHICAGO POLICE ARREST SEVEN IN YOUTUBE BEATING OF ASIAN AMERICAN TEEN

So far the police are saying the attack was not racially motivated.

*By Associated Press*

CHICAGO—Seven teenagers were arrested recently in the beating and robbery of a 17-year-old Asian American high school student that was filmed and posted on YouTube, city police said. In the video the attackers can be heard repeating racial slurs and making derogatory comments about speaking Chinese.

One of the teens, now identified as Raymond Palomino, 17, was charged as an adult and the rest —

a 15-year-old girl, two 16-year-old boys and three 15-year-old boys — were cited in juvenile delinquency petitions. All were charged with one count each of robbery and aggravated battery, police spokesman Mike Sullivan said.

On the video, several attackers — many with sweat shirt hoods over their heads and some wearing masks — are seen repeatedly kicking and punching the victim to the snow-covered ground Jan. 15 on the city's South Side. Despite the epithets, police said the beating did not appear racially motivated.

Throughout the more than three-minute video, the assailants, whose racial identities are unclear, can be heard using the N-word dozens of times, and one attacker asks, "Am I speaking Chinese to you?"

The videotaped attack on a teen in Chicago isn't the first to go viral. In 2009, footage of the fatal beating of a 16-year-old honor student was circulated worldwide.

In the most recent video, the assailants at times used a shoe and a chunk of ice to strike the victim, as he pleads for them to stop in what sounds like broken or heavily accented English. However, the au-

dio isn't always clear in the video, which was posted on YouTube and later removed for violating the site's policy "prohibiting hate speech." At the end of the video, the victim runs away with the assailants chasing him.

The victim was taken to a hospital for a laceration to his lip, bruising and abrasions, authorities said.

Police said the motive was robbery. The attackers allegedly took a pair of gym shoes, the victim's wallet and nearly \$200 in cash.

"At this time, it does not appear that this incident was racially motivated," a Jan. 17 statement from the police department said. Chicago authorities declined to discuss further details, citing a pending investigation.

Members of CeaseFire, Chicago's most well-known anti-violence advocacy group, said that it did appear race was a factor in the attack, especially because of the usage of slurs.

"People use the 'N-word' whether they're African American, Latino or Asian," said CeaseFire Director Tio Hardiman. "But when you beat up a guy, it's racially motivated." ■

**'People use the "N-word" whether they're African American, Latino or Asian. But when you beat up a guy, it's racially motivated.'**



# NIKKEI VOICE

## Capture Your Family's Food Culture Before It's Too Late

By Gil Asakawa



**M**ore than other Asian American communities, Japanese Americans are losing our institutional cultural knowledge as our elders die. The Nisei are, like Tom Brokaw's "Greatest Generation," passing on. Many Sansei (including myself) are on the older end of the Baby Boomer scale and we're no spring chickens either.

Some Asian ethnic communities in the United States are more recent arrivals than the Japanese. Many JA families came to the states in the early 1900s and can count Yonsei and Gosei, and even Rokusei generations at gatherings. Within these families, those Issei immigrants are already faded history.

So it's no wonder we have efforts to capture the senior generation on audio and video oral histories. The Seattle-based Densho organization ([www.densho.org](http://www.densho.org)) is doing an excellent job of archiving the stories of our elders. The Japanese American National Museum and organizations such as Go For Broke National Education Center ([www.goforbroke.org](http://www.goforbroke.org)) offer great resources for conducting your own oral histories.

Although it's cool to watch people recount their lives, and learn more about the experiences of early Japanese immigrants to

the U.S., and of course hear about their concentration camp experiences, I sometimes long for another kind of cultural history: the culinary kind.

My mother is an Issei. My dad was a Nisei born in Hawaii in the 1930s. They met when my dad was in the U.S. Army and stationed in Hokkaido. My brothers and I were all born in Japan when my dad was stationed there in the decade after the Korean conflict. So we have strong ties to and childhood memories of Japan.

My mom has always cooked Japanese food. She cooked all kinds of Japanese dishes for us when I was young. Even when she cooked spaghetti or steak or some other Western dish for us, she cooked Japanese food for herself — usually salmon and miso soup. When we had hamburgers, spaghetti or pizza, she would serve white rice not just for herself but for us if we wanted. (It never occurred to me to put the spaghetti sauce over the rice!)

Some of the Japanese dishes I grew up with were her homemade teriyaki sauce (no gloppy sticky fake bottled stuff for us), gyoza dumplings, *chawan mushi* egg custard, soba (she made terrific *dashi*, or soup), *oden*, *yakiniku* and *hiyashi chuka soba* (a summertime favorite, cold ramen noodles in

a soy-vinegar sauce topped with cucumbers, ham, egg and ginger, among other ingredients). For most New Year's eves she would serve a banquet of handmade sushi for us and lucky family friends, along with a feast of other traditional food.

I didn't like it all — stuff like *oden* and salmon stunk up the house and I was embarrassed to bring my non-Asian friends over. To this day, I'm not much of a fish eater because there was so much salmon in the house all my childhood.

She even made her own tofu, because she either couldn't find tofu in stores here in the States, or she didn't like the taste of store-bought tofu once it became common in supermarkets. And, she would mix the fibrous side-product of making tofu with shrimp, scallops and vegetables to make *unohana okara*.

She also used to make killer tempura — not too breaded, and with the perfect, not-too-soy-saucy *dashi*. Most often, instead of making the tempura people are familiar with at restaurants, she would make *kakiage* tempura, kind of a comfort-food version of small bits of shrimp, snow peas, carrots and green onions breaded and fried into palm-sized pieces.

My dad passed away too young at 59, and

after that my mom stopped making a lot of the more complicated Japanese dishes and just cooked for herself. A couple of years ago we moved her into a smaller house across the street from my younger brother, and she has given up more of her cooking.

She's now becoming more and more forgetful, and so we decided to ask if she would help us learn how to make two signature dishes, and allow us to videotape her. My wife Erin and I spent a day with her and made *unohana okara* and *kakiage* tempura, both favorite dishes of ours.

We had asked her years ago if we could videotape her cooking, but she refused then. I think now she knows her time is limited, and so is her memory, so she didn't complain. In fact she seemed to enjoy being the star of the production. It was a powerful, wonderful day reliving family food memories and learning to make these dishes.

I'm glad we did it, and hope we can film more cooking lessons with my mom this year. I urge all JAs to do the same. Our family histories are important. But our family culture — including our culinary culture — is priceless. ■

*Gil Asakawa is the author of the Nikkei View blog at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com), and you can see his mother's cooking videos online.*

# VERY TRULY YOURS

## Part 2: DVD and Two Books About Pearl Harbor

By Harry K. Honda



**T**HIS IS DESSERT (so to speak), as two readers have supplied "sweeteners" for this column with the same title that ran last November.

A Kibei Nisei, Albert Yamamoto of Minnesota Twin Cities and his sister, are believed to be the only Americans in Mitsukue-mura, Ehime-ken, in 1941 to see the men in training who manned "Killer Subs at Pearl Harbor".

The Japanese Navy had anchored a large barge with a crane in the middle of the small harbor as headquarters and service base. The Yamamotos were living in a house on the seawall that provided a view of the harbor.

Albert adds: "Mitsukue was selected as the secret base, according to information that I gained much later, because of its topographical similarities with Pearl Harbor and that it

was located in a rather sparsely populated region in a fairly remote part of the Inland Sea ... I was 13 or 14 years old at the time, and had no idea of the significance of what I was witnessing.

"One of the noncom trainees used to visit our home almost daily after training for rest and relaxation after a strenuous day of training. He was not among those that attacked Pearl Harbor, but perished during a raid on Sydney in [May 31] 1942."

According to the "Oxford Companion to World War II," three Japanese mini-sub subs tried to torpedo Allied warships in Sydney. One got tangled in anti-torpedo netting and scuttled itself. Another disappeared and the third mini-sub was finally hunted down and the two-man crew committed suicide. One mini-sub was exhibited in Australia in 1942.

THE SECOND READER, Allen H. Meyer of Chicago, a well-known attorney, was an MIS classmate of Ulrich "Rick" Straus, whose book, "The Anguish of Surrender: Japanese POWs of World War II," that embellished a story about another mini-sub.

The mini-sub, commanded by Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki, had a malfunctioning gyrocompass, couldn't locate Pearl Harbor, sailed undersea past Diamond Head, crashed into a reef and began to sink in Kaneohe Bay.

The mini-sub split into two. His Number Two perished but Sakamaki swam ashore 500 yards, and was arrested on Dec. 8 by two Nisei Territorial Guards on patrol (Sgt. David Akui and Roy Terada).

Thus came U.S.A.'s first Japanese POW and imprisoned at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. After the war and back in Japan, he wrote

and told how humane he was treated.

Allen writes, "Rick [was] the only student in our company fluent in German and English that led to his admittance to the Army school" to learn Japanese. He was among the few accredited tri-lingual interpreters and translators at the Tokyo War Crimes Trials.

At the 1993 MIS reunion in Washington, both Allen and Rick gave papers, recalling their two months at Uruga (Kanagawa-ken) interrogating POWs returning to Japan. Those from Dutch East Indies, where Dutch and British were using them to fight insurgents, were still fully armed "and we were ordered not to carry arms, on the assumption that if we were not armed, they would not attack any of the eight of us."

>>See HONDA pg.13



## GEORGE TAKEI HITS THE BOARDROOM IN NBC'S 'CELEBRITY APPRENTICE'

Actor George Takei is competing in the fifth season of *"Celebrity Apprentice"* in the hopes of winning \$250,000 for the Japanese American National Museum.

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter



There's only one thing that could lure actor George Takei into Donald Trump's boardroom to compete on *"The Celebrity Apprentice"* against fellow celebs: charity. Eighteen celebrities, including Takei, are vying to win \$250,000 for a charity of their choice on season five of the NBC show. The male contestants are pitted against the female cast members in the premiere of *"The Celebrity Apprentice"* on Feb. 12.

If Takei avoids being fired by Trump, he will give his winnings to the Japanese American National Museum, or JANM.

"I'm a former chairman of the board of the Japanese American National Museum and currently a trustee. I've been on the board of trustees for practically the entire existence of the museum. And that's an institution that's very near and dear to my heart," said Takei in his signature baritone voice. "Every opportunity I get to raise money for the museum, I do."

Takei serves as chairman emeritus of the board of trustees and has supported the museum since before 1992 when it opened to the public. In the past Takei has also donated his TV game show prize winnings to the museum, so it's no surprise to those with JANM that the actor would do so again.

"The Japanese American National Museum is extremely honored to be George Takei's chosen charity for *Celebrity Apprentice*," said Chris Komai, JANM public information officer. "He has always set a fine example as a community activist with his hands-on involvement."

To win the show, Takei will have to use his business acumen to take on a slew of celebs including Adam Carolla, Arsenio Hall, Aubrey O'Day, Cheryl Tiegs, Clay Aiken, Dayana Mendoza, Debbie Gibson, Dee Snider, Lisa

Lampanelli, Lou Ferrigno, Michael Andretti, Patricia Velasquez, Paul Teutul, Sr., Penn Jillette, Teresa Giudice, Tia Carrere and Victoria Gotti.

Before being cast on the show, Takei knew little of his fellow cast mates, aside from comedienne Lisa Lampanelli, who he had worked with on the Comedy Central Roast of William Shatner.

Although Takei says he didn't know of some reality TV stars like *"The Real Housewives of New Jersey"* star Teresa Giudice — who is known for overturning a table on TV — gossip about her reputation swirled on set when filming began.

"When I got on the show I was told about it, that she upturns tables and she's rather hysterical," Takei said about the New Jersey reality TV star. "But I found her in fact to be actually somewhat shy, which is a strange word to use to describe someone who has that kind of reputation."

Working alongside so many outspoken personalities, Takei's position on the team was to crack the whip and

keep a few of the "rigid individualistic" celebs on task.

"We have a lot of chefs," Takei said with a laugh about his fellow cast members. "But there's someone that needs to be doing the cooking as well. There's got to be that whip cracker to remind people that, Yes, talking is fine. Planning is fine. Being brilliant is fine, but the work needs to get done."

Celebs like magician Penn Jillette naturally fell into a leadership role, said Takei. Known more for his role as Sulu on *"Star Trek,"* Takei's background is also in real estate.

Following his father's wishes, Takei studied architecture at the University of California, Berkeley. Not wanting to have any regrets, Takei soon transferred to the University of California, Los Angeles where he got his first acting job.

A casting director caught Takei's performance in a student production and nabbed him for the film *"Ice Palace,"* starring Richard Burton and Robert Ryan. It was Takei's first feature film appearance.

"And with that savings, my thought was to buy a MG Roadster to go to UCLA," Takei said laughingly. "But my father who was in real estate took the money from me and put it into mortgage on cemetery plots, and so my father started me on real estate investment, not unlike Donald Trump's father."

Takei says he parlayed his earnings from the cemetery plots in to apartment building purchases. He has owned about seven or eight to date.

"I still invest in real estate and I've got another purchase in Arizona just percolating right now," Takei said.

Aside from real estate and his gig on *"The Celebrity Apprentice,"* Takei is keeping busy with other projects. Takei plays the holographic ninja grandfather on Nickelodeon's *"Supah Ninjas."*

He is also a co-creator and cast member of the musical *"Allegiance,"* a theatrical production that looks at the Japanese American experience during World War II. The musical will premiere at The Old Globe theater in San Diego, Calif. on Sept. 16.

Until then, Takei's fans can catch him on TV in Trump's boardroom where drama is sure to unfold.

"The most stressful part is being in the boardroom because that is where the decisions are made," Takei said. "We all want to survive. So there are some that will be backbiting in the room. I try to maintain a high standard, hopefully that got communicated to some of the ones who didn't." ■



# JACL CCDC TO HONOR WWII VETERANS AT DAY OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

By Pacific Citizen Staff

In a tribute to the heroic Japanese American World War II veterans, the Central California District of the JACL will award replica Congressional Gold Medals to the vets at its Day of Remembrance event.

In November of last year, some of the JA veterans made the trip to Washington, D.C. to receive their Gold Medals in person. The local veterans will receive their replicas Feb. 19 at the CC District's DOR luncheon.

"This year's Day of Remembrance will pay special tribute to all our Nisei veterans who bravely risked their lives on the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific to defend our country," said Dale Ikeda, event co-chair. "Because many of our local veterans could not travel to the Capitol for the national ceremony, we wanted to take the opportunity here at home to pay tribute to their courage and patriotism."

Communities across the country will be holding various DOR events, where people will remember the significance of the signing of Executive Order 9066. The bill was signed 70 years ago sending close to 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry to various American concentration camps during World War II. Despite this injustice, many JAs volunteered to fight for the United States on the battlefields of WWII. The 442nd Regiment, which later included the



100th Battalion, became the most highly decorated unit for its size in American military history. The heroics of the MIS helped to shorten the duration of the War.

During the War, Fresno County had two temporary assembly centers where JAs were held before being sent to various concentration camps. At the Pinedale Assembly Center there were 4,832 internees and 5,344 internees were held at the Fresno Assembly Center.

A grant from the Nisei Farmers League will cover the cost of the replica Gold Medals and other expenses for the veterans. The event is being co-sponsored by the Clovis Veterans Memorial District.

The DOR planning committee is currently looking for Nisei veterans in the Central Valley. In addition to the 442nd, 100th and MIS veterans, all WWII vets, including

those who served in the Counter Intelligence Corps and the Women's Army Corps, will be receiving the replica medals. ■

## CCDC DOR

**Date:** Feb. 19, reception at noon, lunch and medal ceremony 1 p.m.

**Location:** Clovis Veterans Memorial Building on Fourth Street

**Price:** \$40 (veteran and a guest, or a spouse of a veteran and a guest are free)

**Info:** Family members of veterans who have passed away can contact Dale Ikeda for more information at 559/313-9322 or daleikeda@att.net

**RSVP:** Reservation deadline is Feb. 12. Call Bobbi Hanada at 559/434-1662

# AAS CELEBRATE FRED KOREMATSU DAY

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Asian Americans nationwide paid tribute to a Japanese American civil rights hero on California's 2nd annual Fred Korematsu Day.

In early January Calif. Gov. Jerry Brown proclaimed Jan. 30 to be Fred Korematsu Day, in honor of the JA civil rights icon. Former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2010 signed Assembly Bill 1775 naming the day in honor of Korematsu, a native Californian.

"Fred Korematsu's legacy represents courage in the face of discrimination. It was a privilege to know Fred and his family personally," said Rep. Mazie Hirono, D-HI. "Although it took close to four decades for Fred to receive justice, his story reminds us that we must continue to commit ourselves to the ideals of equality and diversity."

When President Franklin Roosevelt signed E.O. 9066, Korematsu, then 23, refused to be relocated with the some 120,000 people of Japanese descent who were unjustly incarcerated during WWII. Korematsu was later arrested and interned in 1942.

Korematsu took his case to the Supreme Court, working with the American Civil Liberties Union.

In 1983 Korematsu's name was cleared when he petitioned to reopen the case and his conviction was overturned. Congress in 1988 issued a formal apology to those unjustly incarcerated and awarded each survivor \$20,000. President Bill Clinton awarded Korematsu with the Presidential Medal of Freedom award in 1998.

In the city of Pasadena, Southern Californians honored Korematsu and his legacy in the JA community in a ceremony held at the Pasadena

Public Library. Community activists Min Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi were also honored at the event.

Other celebrations across the nation also recognized Korematsu. At the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. two 1940s-era portraits of Korematsu were presented on Feb. 2 in a private ceremony. The photos, which were gifts from the Korematsu family, will be a part of a permanent exhibit called "The Struggle For Justice."

Those in attendance at the event included Korematsu's daughter, Karen, and Rep. Judy Chu. Norman Mineta, former U.S. secretary of transportation, also spoke at the ceremony, among others. ■

For more information about the exhibit, visit [npg.si.edu](http://npg.si.edu) or call 202/633-1000.

# NATIONAL NEWSBYTES

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

## New York Legislature Seeks to Create Asian Districts

ALBANY, N.Y.—New York's Legislature has proposed adding four election districts that will be dominated by Asian American voters and the Senate would add a 63rd seat under a long-awaited redistricting plan.

The Assembly would create three districts in AA neighborhoods in Queens and Brooklyn. The Senate would reconfigure election lines in Queens to form an Asian-majority district.

The proposed districts released Jan. 26 would also create a new Senate seat in Democrat-dominated Albany County by carving out a section of suburbs dominated by Republican voters. The Senate's Republican majority says census data and voting rights laws demand the addition in the faster growing Albany area.

## San Francisco Gets OK to Proceed With Subway Work

SAN FRANCISCO—Federal officials have given San Francisco the green light to move forward with construction work for its \$1.6 billion subway expansion project.

Mayor Ed Lee said Jan. 18 that the city received a "letter of non prejudice" from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The letter is a strong sign that officials will approve nearly \$1 billion in federal grants for the expansion within the next few months, said Lee in a *San Francisco Chronicle* article.

The project would extend the T-Third line from the Caltrain station, on the south side of the city, to Chinatown, on the north side. The subway's estimated opening date is 2019.

## Arizona Park Named to Honor JA Baseball

CHANDLER, Ariz.—The Chandler City Council voted 6-1 in favor of changing the name of West Chandler Park to Nozomi, meaning hope in Japanese.

Bill Staples, who is on the Chandler Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member, collected 250 signatures in support of the name change. The JACL also provided Staples with a letter of support.

"By adopting this new name

we will honor the past, educate the present and provide a source of wisdom for future generations," Staples told the board.

## Details Wanted in California Legislator's Shoplifting Case

HAYWARD, Calif.—It was just an accident, California Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi's representatives say, that the lawmaker walked out of Neiman Marcus without paying \$2,500 for leather pants, a skirt and a blouse. Later, a more dire-sounding explanation emerged: a benign brain tumor for which she is taking medication.

Hayashi pleaded no contest to the shoplifting charge Jan. 6. The three-term lawmaker who has represented Castro Valley and Hayward since 2006 is prevented from running again because of term limits and has no plans to resign. She is the wife of Alameda County Superior Court Judge Dennis Hayashi.

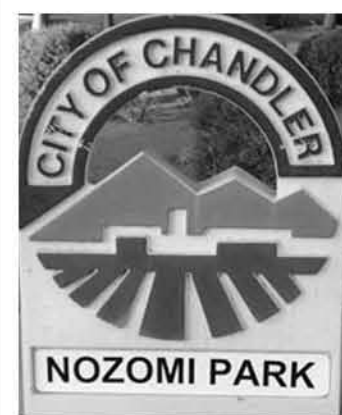
Hayashi was sentenced to three years of probation, ordered to pay \$180 in fines and court costs and told to stay at least 50 feet away from the Neiman Marcus store.

## CDC Finds Ethnic Disparities in Cancer Screening

A new study finds that there are significant disparities in cancer screening rates in AA and Hispanic populations. The study was commissioned by the National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In the AA community screening rates for breast cancer, cervical cancer and colorectal cancer were lower than the Healthy People 2020 target rates. The breast cancer screening rates was 64.1 percent, below the 81 percent target. Cervical cancer screening was 75.4, with the target rate at 93 percent.

The study's authors say their findings demonstrate the need to continually track cancer screening rate disparities. ■





# APAS IN THE NEWS

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

## NJ Governor Picks Asian American for Top Court

TRENTON, N.J.—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie proposed a historic first for the state Supreme Court by nominating a Korean-born law enforcement official to the bench on Jan. 23. The Republican governor announced the nomination of Phillip H. Kwon at a Statehouse news conference.

Kwon works in the Attorney General's Office and lives in Bergen County. He would be the first Asian American on the high court. The nomination needs confirmation from the Democrat-controlled Senate.

## Broward Swears in First Asian American Judge

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—Broward County's first Asian American judge has been sworn into office. The South Florida Sun Sentinel reports Circuit Judge Raag Singhal was sworn in during a judicial robing ceremony at the state courthouse Jan. 20.

Singhal's parents emigrated from India to the U.S. in 1960. He said his parents had almost nothing when they arrived in Michigan.

Singhal was born three years later and grew up in New Jersey. He later moved to South Florida, where he became a well-known death penalty lawyer.

## Former Minnesota State Senator Mee Moua to Lead AAJC

The Asian American Justice Center has named former Minnesota State Sen. Mee Moua as president and executive director. On March 19 she will succeed Karen Narasaki, who served for 20 years with the national civil right organization.

Moua recently served as vice president for strategic impact initiatives at the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum. Previously, she served three terms in the Minnesota Senate where she chaired the Judiciary Committee. Born in war-torn Laos, her family fled a refugee camp in Thailand and moved to the United States when she was five. She has a juris doctorate from the University of Minnesota Law School.



## Stephanie Otani-Sunamoto Named New JACL Inouye Fellow

Stephanie Otani-Sunamoto has been named the new Daniel K. Inouye Fellow. She will assist with JACL's public policy initiatives and leadership programming from the D.C. office. The fellowship is named after Hawaii's longtime Sen. Daniel Inouye and is sponsored by Eli Lilly.

Otani-Sunamoto is a graduate of Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in comparative studies in race and ethnicity with honors.

## Dr. Hisashi Kajikuri Awarded Foreign Minister's Award

Dr. Hisashi Kajikuri, a cardio-thoracic surgeon from Monterey, Calif., has been awarded Japan's Foreign Minister's Commendation award for his efforts to promote mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

He is affiliated with the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and is a longtime member of the Buddhist Temple in Monterey. Born in Japan, Dr. Kajikuri first came to the U.S. on a Fulbright Fellowship. After returning to Japan again he eventually resettled in the U.S. permanently at his current home in Monterey.

## Siegelman Named NCAA Division III All-America Second Team

Sachi Siegelman, a former JACL Berkeley Chapter scholarship and Bea Kono Scholarship winner, was recently named to the 2011 NCAA Division III All-America Second Team in women's soccer. She is currently a senior at Williams College.

Siegelman was also named to the 2011 NCAA Division III All-New England First Team, the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) New England Women's Soccer All Stars First Team, and the 2011 New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) All-Conference First Team. A co-captain and starting defender of the Williams women's soccer team, she helped the team advance to the quarterfinals of the 2011 NCAA Tournament. ■

# 43RD ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE SET

Planning is already underway for the 43rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage which will take place this year on April 28.

Sponsored by the Los Angeles-based Manzanar Committee, the pilgrimage will start at noon at the Manzanar National Historic Site, located on U.S. Highway 395 in California's Owens Valley, between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence, approximately 230 miles north of Los Angeles.

Each year, hundreds of students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated attend the pilgrimage.

The evening program will include Manzanar At Dusk (MAD) from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Lone Pine High School gymnasium, located at 538 South Main Street (U.S. Highway 395), in Lone Pine, nine miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site, across the street from McDonald's.

MAD is co-sponsored by the Cal Poly Pomona Nikkei Student Union, the UCLA Nikkei Student Union, the UCSD Nikkei Student Union, Lone Pine Unified School District, and Lone Pine High School.

More details about the pilgrimage, including information on bus transportation from the Los An-



geles area, will be announced at a later date.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site. Water will be provided at the site.

The non-profit Manzanar Committee has sponsored the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage since 1969, along with other educational programs. The Manzanar Committee has also played a key role in the establishment and continued devel-

opment of the Manzanar National Historic Site. ■

## 43rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage

Date: April 28, noon to 8 p.m.

Location: Manzanar National Historic Site

Info: manzanarcommittee.org, 323/662-5102, or http://blog.manzanarcommittee.org

# 'UNDERSTANDING NO-NO AND RENUNCIATION' IS THEME FOR 2012 TULE LAKE PILGRIMAGE

The 4-day pilgrimage will take place June 30-July 3.

"Understanding No-No and Renunciation" is the theme for this year's 19th pilgrimage to the Tule Lake concentration camp which will take place June 30 to July 3.

The pilgrimage will continue the focus on the Japanese American dissenters who said "no" to America's demand that they prove loyalty, and understanding the nearly 5,600 Japanese Americans who gave up their devalued U.S. citizenship while segregated at Tule Lake.

The Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee recently announced that registration forms for the four-day event are now available at [www.tulelake.org](http://www.tulelake.org). And because of the all-volunteer work of the Tule Lake Committee, the registration fee is made possible at \$400 per person. For those on low or fixed incomes, the fee is \$325.

The registration fee is all-inclusive and covers charter bus

transportation, lodging, meals and all activities during the four-day pilgrimage. The Tule Lake Committee again will offer free registration to former Tule Lake internees who are 80 years and older.

The pilgrimage registration deadline is April 30. After April 30, if there is space available, the registration fee will be \$450 for all categories.

Activities during the four-day pilgrimage include a tour of the Tule Lake campsite and a memorial service. Intergenerational discussion groups and open forums provide an occasion to learn, share

experiences and help heal the wounds of the incarceration experience. ■

## 2012 Tule Lake Pilgrimage

Date: June 30-July 3

Registration fee: \$400/person, \$325 for low or fixed income, free for former Tule Lake internees over 80; forms at [www.tulelake.org](http://www.tulelake.org)

Registration deadline: Apr. 30

Lodging: Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls

Info: Hiroshi Shimizu, 415/566-2279, 415/317-2686 (cell) or [hshimizu@pacbell.net](mailto:hshimizu@pacbell.net)

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## NAT'L JACL KICKS OFF 2012 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



COURTESY OF DANIELLE KIHARA

National JACL plans to distribute some \$70,000 to deserving college students.

Each year national JACL provides more than \$70,000 in scholarships to approximately 30 deserving students and the organization plans to do so again in 2012.

This year, JACL will once again offer scholarships for incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, and those specializing in law or the creative/performing arts. There is also a scholarship for those in need of financial aid in this time of rising tuition costs.

Information, including a brochure and all scholarship applications, can be downloaded at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org). All applicants must be a

student or individual JACL member. Membership under a parent or family will be not accepted.

All freshman applications must be submitted to the applicant's local chapter by March 1. The applications will be screened by each chapter and the outstanding ones will be forwarded to: 2012 JACL National Freshman Scholarship Committee, c/o Salt Lake City JACL, P.O. Box 584, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110. There is no limit to the number of applications a chapter may forward for consideration. The forwarded applications must be postmarked by April 1 to

be considered for the awards.

Applications for all other scholarship categories can be mailed directly by the applicant to: 2012 JACL National Scholarship Program, c/o Portland JACL, P.O. Box 86310, Portland, OR 97286. Applications for these categories must be postmarked by April 1 to be considered for the awards.

Students can join JACL via the website or by calling 415/921-5225. For questions, contact NC-WNP Dir. Patty Wada: [jacl-nwnp@msn.com](mailto:jacl-nwnp@msn.com) or National JACL V.P. for Planning & Development Jason Chang: [vpp-d@jacl.org](mailto:vpp-d@jacl.org). ■

## NAT'L JACL PROGRAMS

### John Moy & Southwest Airlines Congressional Internship Program

National JACL is now accepting applications for its John Moy & Southwest Airlines Congressional Internship.

During the program's inaugural year in 2011, interns were placed in the offices of Reps. Xavier Becerra, Calif.-31, and Mike Honda, Calif.-15. Congressional interns will have a unique opportunity to experience the policymaking process and gain exposure to Asian American Pacific Islander issues.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis for two eight-week, paid internships beginning in Winter 2012. Duties and responsibilities will be outlined by the congressional member's office in which the intern is placed. Placement offices have yet to be determined. Preference will be given to rising undergraduate juniors and seniors and recent graduates.

This internship program is made possible by a donation from John Moy, a longtime supporter and member of JACL, and round-trip tickets will be provided by JACL's official airline, Southwest Airlines. ■

For more information, contact 202/223-1240 or [policy@jacl.org](mailto:policy@jacl.org).

### The JACL/OCA Leadership Summit is March 10-13

National JACL recently announced that its 2012 JACL/OCA Wash., D.C. Leadership Summit has been scheduled for March 10-13.

The JACL/OCA Leadership Summit is a joint program organized by JACL and OCA, formerly the Organization for Chinese Americans. This four-day conference provides an opportunity for 30 emerging leaders of the JACL and OCA to learn firsthand about current national public policy issues facing the Asian American community.

For more information and an application: <http://jacl.org/leadership/dc-summit.htm>.

For questions, contact a JACL district office or the JACL D.C. office at 202/223-1240 or email Stephanie Otani-Sunamoto at [inouye-fellow@jacl.org](mailto:inouye-fellow@jacl.org). ■

### Chicago JACL's Project: Community! Now Accepting Applications

The Chicago JACL is now accepting applications for its Project: Community! program, a leadership development and cultural awareness program for Japanese American high school students.

Through interactive workshops and activities, participants will explore their personal identity, gain an awareness of the history and character of the Japanese American community in Chicago, and learn about the issues facing the community today. Project: Community's goal is to inspire and empower the future leaders of the JA community.

Sessions will be held at the Chicago JACL office on Saturdays in March and April, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Workshops will include a session on JA history featuring a panel discussion with former WWII internees; a session on bullying, discrimination and hate crimes facilitated by Esther Hurh of the Anti-Defamation League; and a session exploring the importance of the Asian American movement and identity facilitated by Kevin Kumashiro, professor of Asian American Studies at UIC.

Applications are due by Feb. 10. The program is free and lunch will be provided during all sessions.

For more information, contact Christine Munteanu at [jacl.fellow@gmail.com](mailto:jacl.fellow@gmail.com) or visit [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org). ■



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# PROMINENT JAS SELECTED FOR LEADERSHIP DELEGATION TO JAPAN

Ten Japanese American leaders from across the country have been selected to travel to Japan to meet with top officials to further develop the U.S.-Japan relationship and establish a meaningful role for Japanese Americans.

This is the twelfth delegation to participate in the Japanese American Leadership Delegation (JALD) program, which is sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and organized by the U.S.-Japan Council.

For the first time in program history, the delegation will visit the city of Sendai in the Tohoku region to show support for the region devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake and learn from those living there. In Sendai, the delegates will participate in a symposium sponsored by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and the U.S.-Japan Council focused on empowering civil society in Japan. The delegation will also visit Tokyo for a variety of exchanges with high level leaders.

This year's delegation was chosen based on several key themes being developed by the U.S.-Japan Council including



entrepreneurship, NGO/NPO partnerships, high technology and education, among others. The delegates come from across the country and are active in their communities, engaged in U.S.-Japan relations and committed to deepening ties between JAs and Japan. U.S.-Japan Council President Irene Hirano Inouye will

lead the delegation.

The 2012 JA Leadership Delegation includes: Michael Bosack (Denver), manager, International Programs, Sparta Inc.; Barbara Hibino (San Francisco), CEO and founder, OpenWebU, Inc.; Shannon Hori (Miami), main anchor, WFOR - CBS Affiliate; Neil Horikoshi

(D.C.), president and executive director, Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund; Janet Ikeda (Lexington, VA), associate professor, East Asian Languages and Literatures, Washington and Lee University; Mark Mitsui (Seattle), president, North Seattle Community College; Susan Onuma (New York), partner, Kelley Drye

and Warren LLP; Barry Taniguchi (Hilo, Hawaii), president and CEO, KTA Super Stores; Michael Tanimura (Chicago), co-founder and creative director, Silver Image Creative, Inc.; and Paul Watanabe (Boston), associate professor, Department of Political Science U. of Massachusetts, Boston. ■

## UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER ANNOUNCES ARATANI CARE GRANTS



George and Sakaye Aratani are pictured here on the far left.

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center recently announced that the George and Sakaye Aratani Community Advancement Research Endowment, or Aratani CARE, grant applications are now available.

Detailed information about the grants and how to apply are available at: [www.aasc.ucla.edu/aratani](http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aratani). All applications are due by March 9.

The Aratani CARE grants are designed to promote projects that will benefit and advance JA communities, and strengthen ties between the Japanese American communities and UCLA students, staff and faculty.

Non-profit organizations and qualified individuals are invited to apply for grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000, to strengthen ties between JA communities and UCLA. Each proposal must include a campus partner (e.g., UCLA faculty, staff members, or student organization).

Awards will be announced by May, 2012. Grants should be completed within a year or less.

This year's grants will be evaluated by a panel of three judges drawn from the UCLA's Asian American Studies Center's "Faculty Advisory Committee." ■

## HONDA

>>continued from pg. 8

Of the ship with Japanese POWs from Europe, "we opened their steamer trunks ... to discover diaries, communications and orders in such volume that we had to call ATIS for help." 1st Cav sent men to guard the luggage; some documents were in German, "so it was fortunate that Rick was among the linguists."

"After some hours of review of the documentary material, Rick's group had it appropriated and forwarded to Tokyo" .... Our concern was with preparing evidence for War Crimes trials. NHK, major newspapers, *Stars and Stripes* reported them to be a "treasure trove located by the 1st Cav; no mention of Rick's group or Allen's group. "The 1st Cav colonel was credited with the entire find and so went the Occupation."

Allen is still on the "lecture circuit" on veteran causes. He spoke at MIS exhibits displayed at local schools and at the Illinois Holocaust Museum with 442nd vet Enoch Kanaya, a headliner in the *Chicago Sun-Times* (Nov. 11, 2011). "So, you see I am kept busy," Allen post-scripts, "Idle hands can get you in trouble." ■

Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.

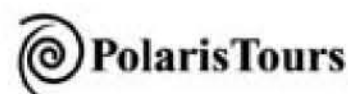
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Mar. 19 - Mar. 29	Majestic China: "Shanghai, Guilin, Xian, Beijing"
Apr. 03 - Apr. 12	Spring Japan: "The Beauty of the Cherry Blossoms"
Apr. 12 - Apr. 24	Beautiful South Korea: All Major Highlights & Drama Sites
Apr. 12 - Apr. 18	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cherry Blossoms in Washington DC & Williamsburg
May 05 - May 20	Treasures of Turkey: Where Europe meets Asia
May 24 - May 26	Summertime Las Vegas: Show: Rod Stewart or Garth Brooks
Jun. 11 - Jun. 24	Discover Croatia: Dalmatian Coast & Slovenia
Jul. 03 - Jul. 12	Summer Japan: "Vacation with the Whole Family"
Aug. 04 - Aug. 12	Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park
Sep. 06 - Sep. 17	Let's Go Hokkaido
Sep. 29 - Oct. 10	The Legendary Danube River Cruise: Hungary, Austria, Germany
Oct. 03 - Oct. 17	New England Colors & Eastern Canada: Fall Foliage
Oct. 05 - Oct. 09	Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta: New Mexico's Most Dazzling Spectacle
Oct. 16 - Oct. 25	Autumn Japan: Magnificent Fall Colors
Oct. 22 - Nov. 03	Spectacular South Africa & Victoria Falls
Nov. 01 - Nov. 12	The Best of Kyushu
Nov. 29 - Dec. 01	Holiday in Las Vegas: Show: TBA

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS\*



### Day of Remembrance: From Honouliuli to Guantanamo HONOLULU, HI

**Feb. 12, 1 p.m.**

UH at Manoa Law School, Classroom 2  
2515 Dole St.

The Honolulu chapter of the JACL is hosting the 2012 Day of Remembrance event "From Honouliuli to Guantanamo: Due Process Under Siege," with keynote speaker Neal Katyal, former acting U.S. solicitor general.

**Info:** Call 808/945-7633 or e-mail [info@jcch.com](mailto:info@jcch.com)

### Day of Remembrance MERION, PA

**Feb. 25, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

Merion Friends Meeting  
610 Montgomery Ave.  
The free program features speaker Jean Hibino, executive secretary, of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, Inc.  
**Info:** Contact Teresa Mae-bori at [teresa.maebori@verizon.net](mailto:teresa.maebori@verizon.net)

### Boston's Day of Remembrance BOSTON, MA

**Feb. 22, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

UMass Boston, Room 35445 of the Campus Center  
100 Morrissey Blvd.  
UMass Boston professor Paul Watanabe and graduate student Laura Ng will discuss their film on WWII Nisei. The co-sponsors of the event include New England JACL, among others.  
**Info:** Call 617/287-5650

### Time of Remembrance Discovery Program

**SACRAMENTO, CA**

**Jan. 30 - Mar. 23**

California Museum for History, Women and the Arts  
10th and O Streets  
This is an eight-week long educational program where students learn about the Japanese American experience.  
**Info:** Call 916/654-1729

### JACL Central California District FRESNO, CA

**Feb. 19, reception noon, lunch and award ceremony begins at 1 p.m.**

Clovis Veterans Memorial Building on Fourth Street  
Cost: \$40/General admission  
The Day of Remembrance event includes the awarding of replica Congressional Gold Medals to local WWII vets.  
**RSVP:** Call Bobbi Hanada at 559/434-1662 by Feb. 12.  
Family members of late vets please contact Dale Ikeda

at [daleikeda@att.net](mailto:daleikeda@att.net) or 559/313-9322.

### NorCal JACL Remembrance Ceremony

**SACRAMENTO, CA**

**Feb. 18, 1 p.m.**

Secretary of State's Auditorium  
1500 11th Street  
Donation: \$15/Per adult; \$10/Students over 18  
The Florin, Lodi, Placer County and Sacramento JACL chapters are hosting the premiere of "Prisoners and Patriots."  
**Info:** Call 916/427-2841

### Oregon Day of Remembrance PORTLAND, OR

**Feb. 19, 2 to 4 p.m.**

Portland State University's Hoffman Hall  
1833 SW 11th Ave.  
There will be a panel discussion moderated by professor Linda Tamura and performances by the Minidoka

Swing Band.

**Info:** Visit [www.pdxjacl.org](http://www.pdxjacl.org)

### Oregon Nikkei Endowment Day of Remembrance

**PORTLAND, OR**

**Feb. 22, 6 p.m.**

University of Oregon, White Stag Building  
70 NW Couch St.  
A panel discussion with recent grad students on Executive Order 9066 and moderated by Peggy Nagae, the lead attorney in Yasui v. United States.  
**Info:** Call 503/224-1458

### Day of Remembrance 2012

**Taiko Festival SEATTLE, WA**

**Feb. 19, 1 p.m.**

Seattle University  
1016 E. Marion St.  
Cost: \$20/General admission  
Seattle University and the Minidoka Pilgrimage Committee are organizing this year's Minidoka Taiko Fundraiser.  
**Info:** Visit [www.brownpaper-](http://www.brownpaper-tickets.com/event/219585)

[tickets.com/event/219585](http://tickets.com/event/219585)

### L.A. Day of Remembrance LOS ANGELES, CA

**Feb. 18, 2 p.m.**

JANM  
369 E. First St.  
The program will explore the theme "70 years After E.O. 9066," with speaker Robin Toma of the L.A. County Human Relations Commission. Organizers include the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, the JACL PSW district and JANM.  
**Info:** Call 213/625-0414

### Idaho JACL Day of Remembrance

**BOISE, ID**

**Feb. 20, 11 a.m.**

Governor's Office  
700 W. Jefferson St. # 228  
Idaho's Day of Remembrance is organized by Robert Hirai, Boise Valley JACL president.  
**Info:** Contact Rob Hirai at [Robert.hirai@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.hirai@gmail.com)



California State University  
Nisei Diploma Project  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
Feb. 6, 4 p.m.  
SDSU's Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center  
5500 Campanile Drive

The film "The California State University: Sharing and Celebrating Stories from Nisei Honorary Degrees," is a memorial dedicated to the Japanese Americans at the California State University who had their education interrupted during World War II.  
**Info:** Contact Colleen Bentley at 562/951-4801 or e-mail [cbentley@calstate.edu](mailto:cbentley@calstate.edu)

### >> NCWNP

**Monterey Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony**

**MONTEREY, CA**

**March 4, 1 p.m.**

JACL Hall  
424 Adams St.  
The Nisei Memorial Post 1629 Veterans of Foreign Wars and the JACL of Monterey Peninsula are co-sponsoring this presentation ceremony honoring Nisei vets.  
**Info:** Contact Jim Suzuki at 831/384-8493

### J-Sei Crab Feast

**EL CERRITO, CA**

**Feb. 12, 4 to 7 p.m.**

El Cerrito Community Center  
7007 Moeser Lane  
Cost: \$40/Adult dinner tickets; \$45/At the door; \$15/Children  
The crab feast, benefiting J-Sei, will feature taiko drummers. Frank and Amy Eto and Ruby Okazaki will be honored.  
**Info:** Call 510/848-3560 or visit [www.j-sei.org](http://www.j-sei.org)

**Contra Costa JACL Installation Luncheon**  
**ALBANY, CA**

**Feb. 26, 1 to 3 p.m.**

The Cape Cod Restaurant  
1150 Solano Ave.  
Cost: \$25/Per person  
The Contra Costa JACL chapter installation luncheon will feature guest speakers: Professor Brian Komei Dempster and JACLers Jill Shiraki and Phillip Ozaki.  
**RSVP:** To Susan Nishizaka at 510/758-6055 by Feb. 17

### JCCH's Judy Kawabata Exhibit

**HONOLULU, HI**

**Jan. 28 to March 16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Community Gallery  
2454 South Beretania St.  
The exhibit "Judy Kawabata: An Artful Life" will highlight the work of Hawaii-based artist Judy Kawabata.  
**Info:** Call 808/945-7633

### >> PNW

**The 25th Anniversary of the Hirabayashi Coram Nobis Case**  
**SEATTLE, WA**

**Feb. 11, 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.**

Seattle University, Campion Ballroom

901 12th Ave.

This conference is sponsored by the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at Seattle University School of Law to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the *Hirabayashi v. U.S.* coram nobis case.  
**Info:** Contact Junsen Ohno at 206/398-4283.

### >> PSW

**JANM Annual Dinner**

**LOS ANGELES, CA**

**May 5**

J.W. Marriott Hotel  
800 W. Olympic Blvd  
JANM's 2012 Annual Gala Dinner is themed "Transforming a Forgotten Story," highlighting the evolution of the JA experience. Norman Y. Mineta will also be honored.  
**Info:** Call 213/625-0414

### Little Tokyo Historical Society's New Year Celebration

**LOS ANGELES, CA**

**Feb. 4, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

Senor Fish  
422 E. First St.  
Donation: \$10/Per person  
The Little Tokyo Historical

Society will highlight the preservation work accomplished last year.

**RSVP:** Contact [littletokyohs@gmail.com](mailto:littletokyohs@gmail.com)

### Tanoshii Fun Camp

**GARDENA, CA**

**July 16-20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute  
1964 W. 162nd St.  
The Tanoshii Fun Camp promotes JA culture. Enrollment is open to kids 7 to 10.  
**Info:** Contact Ray Shibata at [Tanoshiifuncamp@gmail.com](mailto:Tanoshiifuncamp@gmail.com)

### >> MDC

**Mu Daiko Anniversary Concert**

**ST. PAUL, MN**

**Feb. 19, 2 p.m.**

McKnight Theater  
345 Washington St.  
Cost: \$29.50/Groups; \$16/Students  
This is Mu Daiko's biggest performance. Special guest Hanayui will also perform. JACL has reserved seating at a discount.  
**Info:** Call 651/224-4222



## TRIBUTE

**Kay Obayashi**

January 7, 2012

Passed away on January 7, 2012 after a brief illness at the age of 92.

He lived in Gardena and Long Beach, California where he worked as a Businessman until he retired in the late 1990's.

He is survived by sister, Cherry Tom; brother, Roy Obayashi; nieces, Christine Nakau, Barbara Van Gundy, and Patsy Obayashi; and many grand- and great-grand nieces and nephews. He was pre-deceased by wife, Sue and brother, George.

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## TRIBUTE

**Lillian Yuriko Tateishi**

January 24, 2012

Lillian Yuriko Tateishi passed away peacefully on January 24 in Culver City, from complications of a stroke. She was surrounded by three generations of her family.

Born in 1913 in Riverside, CA, she was sent at age 6 to live with her maternal grandparents in Japan. After her return in 1922, her family moved to Torrance and eventually to Lawndale, where she attended Leuzinger High. She graduated Valedictorian of her high school class in 1931 but was not allowed to give the graduation speech because of her Japanese ancestry.

She married Sam Tateishi in 1934, and in 1940, moved with their four boys to WLA until the outbreak of WWII when they were incarcerated at Manzanar. Yuri was separated from her husband when he was sent to an interrogation center six months after their imprisonment and was left to care for her four children alone. At the war's end, the family returned to WLA.

Throughout her life, she was sustained by her Christian faith, especially during the difficult years at Manzanar when she struggled alone to maintain some semblance of a normal life for her four young children, and the year-long vigil at the bedside of her ailing husband. She was a devoted member of the WLA United Methodist Church and dedicated much of her life in her service to the church.

Yuri Tateishi will be remembered as an exceptionally kind and gentle person who truly believed in the goodness of others. Her warmth and generosity were matched by her humility. She lived by the values of her culture



and her strong Christian beliefs, nurtured by what she saw as the goodness around her. She was that rare jewel in the crown and will be missed by family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband Sam and is survived by her four sons Toshi (Judith), Bob (Lilibeth), Bill (Sandy), John (Carol); her eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 2pm on Sunday, February 12 at the WLA United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers or koden, the family requests donations be made to the WLA United Methodist Church in Yuri's memory.

## TRIBUTE

**Yemiko Nobusada**

January 7, 2012

Yemiko Nobusada, 96, widow of Kay Nobusada, beloved oldest sister to Chieko Umeda, devoted mother to Warren (Barbara) and Arlene Nobusada and longtime resident of Monterey passed away on January 7, 2012. She was preceded in death by her younger brother, Kenneth "Oskey" Kono and her younger sister, Tomi Komoto.

Yemiko, or "Amy" as she was fondly called by her many friends, was born in San Francisco and grew up in Alameda where she worked in her father, Harry Kono's floral shop. She met Kiyoshi "Kay" Nobusada and married in 1941. Married for 56 years, they were interned during WWII at Gila, AZ before living on the Monterey peninsula for many years.

Yemi enjoyed attending all of the activities of her children, grand- children and great grand-children, traveling and sightseeing all

over the world with her husband, attending concerts and the theater with friends, dining with her friends and family, and tending to her garden.

She will be greatly missed by her family and friends and is survived by her sister, Chieko Umeda, two children, Warren and Arlene Nobusada, 5 grandchildren, Sandra Osaki, Kevin Nobusada, Alan Nobusada, Cheryl Nobusada Kosakura, Mitsu Nobusada-Flynn, and 5 great grandchildren, Melina, Ethan and Kai Nobusada, and Jennifer and Trevor Osaki.

A private memorial service was held on Saturday, January 14, 2012. The family requests that donations be made in her memory to the Buena Vista United Methodist Church in Alameda, located at 2311 Buena Vista Ave. Alameda, CA 94501.

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## COMMENTARY

# DEPORTING 'TROUBLEMAKERS' REDUX

By Barbara Takei

Time of Remembrance observances are coming up in another few weeks, a good time to do something to assure, "never again."

This year, in the context of the National Defense Authorization Act that provides for indefinite military detention of the accused, we need to be more vigilant than ever, especially with two companion pieces of legislation introduced this session of Congress. The two bills, S 1698 and HR 3166, resurrect the specter of the little-known government denationalization and deportation program that the Department of Justice used to strip nearly 6,000 Americans of their U.S. citizenship while they were imprisoned at the Tule Lake concentration camp during World War II.

### Denationalizing Dissidents at Tule Lake

On July 1, 1944, Public Law 405, that originated from racist

California legislators and drafted by then U.S. Attorney General Francis Biddle, was signed into law by President Roosevelt. This law, known as the 1944 Renunciation Act, led to thousands of Japanese-Americans imprisoned at Tule Lake.

The government prepared to deport these so-called "disloyals" and "troublemakers" to Japan when the war ended. This unprecedented deportation program aimed at thousands of JA dissidents almost worked. The deportations were stopped by Northern California ACLU attorney Wayne M. Collins, who spent the next 20 years in a lonely, but overwhelmingly successful fight to restore citizenship to thousands of JA renunciants.

The denationalization program was one of WWII's extreme instances of the abuse of power, used against American citizens who protested the denial of due process and the injustice of their incarceration

in America's concentration camps. Yet, the government's mistreatment of JA "troublemakers" and the unprecedented program to purge thousands of American citizens through the denationalization process is unknown to most JAs and to the general public.

The victims who renounced their devalued citizenship were silenced, stigmatized by other Nikkei and marginalized by the perpetual government-created loyal/disloyal paradigm that defined protest as disloyalty. The Army and the Department of Justice suppressed details of their maneuverings, thus avoiding scrutiny and subsequent legal challenges to their actions.

The Enemy Expatriation Act, S 1698 (Lieberman) and its companion bill, HR 3166 (Dent) await action in Congress. These bills would enable the government to strip American citizens of their U.S. citizenship if they are accused of "engaging in or purposefully and

materially supporting hostilities against the United States."

The bills are also being described as closing a loophole in the National Defense Authorization Act, signed into law on the eve of 2012 by President Obama, that provides for indefinite military detention of the accused. The denationalization legislation could be applied to U.S. citizens who are indefinitely detained, stripping away their rights as American citizens and enabling their treatment as foreign enemy combatants.

These companion denationalization bills are an assault on our nation's belief in civil liberties and civil rights, threatening unpopular groups with the same type of mistreatment that dissident JAs experienced while imprisoned at Tule Lake.


During this time when JAs and other civil rights advocates are planning Day of Remembrance programs — memorializing the

1942 Presidential removal order E.O. 9066 that banished 110,000 persons with Japanese faces to desolate concentration camps, stripped of their rights, their humanity and their dignity — we must not close our eyes to what is happening again.

Unless we wish to render the phrase "never again" meaningless, we must continue speaking out to prevent other human and civil rights travesties like E.O. 9066, the Renunciation Act of 1944, and streamlining the deportation of people who are deemed "troublemakers." More than ever, we need to renew our efforts at education and advocacy. ■

*Barbara Takei is CFO of the non-profit Tule Lake Committee. For the past decade she has researched and written about Tule Lake's segregation history and served as an advocate for the Tule Lake concentration camp site.*

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