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

>> pg 3

Ringing in New Year’s, Asian American Style

<< pg 5

>> pg 9 George Takei beams into ‘Celebrity Apprentice’
COLUMNSMEN 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 designating 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. I will ask how they can see the editors seem to be on the path to doing.

I have been a long-time supporter of the JACL and 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 mandate of the P.C.

Kathy Biola
Fresno, Calif.

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

GOD BLESS OUR AMERICAN SOLDIERS

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 AAJ. I am a Sasebi, 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 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 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 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 Suzuki’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 ardously 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 Japanese. 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 plea 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)

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.

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
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.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

As Asian Americans voiced their frustrations after a military investigating officer recommended dropping the involuntary manslaughter charge against an accused infantryman in Pfc. 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 in 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 Americans advocate say it is an outrage to drop the most serious charge against one of the eight infantrymen charged in the death of Chen. Elizabeth Oyang, 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," Oyang said. "Danny was the only Asian American in his platoon in Afghanistan. According to Army investigators, he was called 'Jook,' 'Chink' and 'DragosLady.'"

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

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 have also had some of the racist jokes from my peers when I was in the military," said Pakkee Fung, 29, a Chinese American who was in the United States Marine Corps. "So racism does exist in the military. It 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 Velazquez, D-New York, and New York City Councilwoman Margaret Chin, said JACL National Director Floyd Mori.

"Hazing, 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 John and Lance Cpl. Carolis 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 hazing 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 pursue several action items such as demanding that the court martial 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 council members 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 haz ing 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."

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

Mayor 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 cosis 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, 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 $76,000 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 start construction. Jeff Owyoung, co-chair of the WWII JA Internment Museum project, said the project along with Melissa Gober after they named McGehee Chamber of Commerce Mayor Rosalie Gould.

"After that we will start taking bids on the project," he said. Owyoung, of Chinese descent, was named co-chair of the museum project along with Melissa Gober after they named McGehee Chamber of Commerce Mayor Rosalie Gould.

He is hoping that the museum can one day display or 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 Gould, former Mayor Jeff Owyoung, co-chair of the WWII JA Internment Museum project, and McGehee Mayor Jack May at the Railroad Depot Museum.

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.

Incarnated as a child, he took his family with him to return to the former campsgrounds 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 being contacted by Mayor Jack May, contact him at mcgeheeear@allegiance.tv.
CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON: ASIAN AMERICANS RING IN THE NEW YEAR

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

By Nadea J. Ko, Reporter

For 16-year-old Rena Ogiwa, Japanese New Year is a time to get together with her family to munch on mocki and watch fireworks, the Japanese New Year's Eve traditions 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 Ogiwa's father Hiroshi Ogiwa remembers Japanese New Year, or Osechi, in his childhood as a time when he would receive money from relatives and Do, because, as a child.

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

"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 it's not as simple as simply coming together, celebrating the New Year with family.

"Over the course of this time, we travel to visit family and friends, bring food dishes with us to celebrate together for 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 envelops, my family goes to the temple."

This year Chinese New Year began on Jan. 31 and runs for 15 days. Vietnamese New Year also began Jan. 31.

"I feel like it's the most important event as we drew a crowd of more than 20,000 people to this one day festival," said Denise Tagomori Park, a spokesperson for JCOH. "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, the local Shinto priest, enters every New Year's Eve to receive blessings and purchase ornaments for the entire family. These Japanese traditions are important to us and make us feel as if we are coming together, celebrating the New Year with family."
JAS WARIES 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 Seiji 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 provisions of the bill, especially the portion dealing with indefinite detention.

“I have signed this bill despite having serious reservations with certain provisions that may justify 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 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 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 the essence of 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 JAs groups around the country prepare for Day of Remembrance events in commemoration 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.

“The year, in the context of the National Defense Authorization Act that provides for the indefinite detention of suspected terrorist, we should be more vigilant than ever,”” said Barbara Takei, CFO of the non-profit Tule Lake Committee. “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, host John Kobylt and Ken Chiampou began a discussion on unethical business practices. Part of their comments included statements about Korean American painters as “scam artists” and a continuing attack on immigrant communities, including the Latino and African American communities.

“As an organization dedicated to combating injustice and hate against Asian and other immigrant communities APACL 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: Chevy, 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.”

“Messieurs. 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 Valley 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 Asian 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, krci.org/blog.
JAVA PROPOSES U.S. POSTAGE STAMPS FEATURING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWAREES

The Japanese American Veterans Association is proposing to the U.S. Postal Service that a commemorative stamp series be issued for the WWII veterans that have received the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of the recent Congressional Gold Medal (COM) 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 Airmen; Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP); and the Nave Code Talkers.

JAVA President Gerald Yamada further outlined their proposal is a letter to Chairwoman Jean Pickers Fernstenberg 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 COM design has been vetted by the U.S. Mint and accepted by each group."

JAVA's proposal has already been endorsed by the Japanese American WWII Veterans Stamp Campaign, which is co-chaired by Fuse Takabuki, Chet Okin, 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 an American veteran 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 project can send letters to: Chair Jean Pickers Fernstenberg, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee; c/o Stamp Development, U.S. Postal Service; 475 L'Etoile Plaza SW, Room 3300; Washington, D.C. 20260-3501.

A copy of the letter should also be sent to: JAVA; 10316 Montgomery Court; Vienna, VA 22182; or gya­mada@go­ing­forward­strat­egies.com.

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 who was filmed and posted on YouTube, city police said in the video the attackers could be heard repeating racial slurs and making derogatory comments about speaking Chinese.

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

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

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 sweatshirt hoods over their heads and some wearing masks — are seen repeatedly kicking and punching the victim to the snowy-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 three­minute 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 they plead for them to stop in what sounds like broken or heavily accented English. However, the attack is not always clear in the video, which was posted on YouTube last Christmas for violating the site's policy "prohibiting hate speech." At the end of the video, the victim runs away as the assailants chase 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 the 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 anti­violence advocacy group, said it did appear race was a factor in the attack, especially because of the use of slurs.

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

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 discourse 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 committees most:

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

Megan Gately, Second 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 inter­national 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 Ho­oper 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 WPN district as their civil rights co-chair. He was honored in 2002 with the National JACLer of the Bicentennial Award for organizing support for the innocent Muslims, 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 Livin' Jews-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."
Capture Your Family's Food Culture Before It's Too Late

By Gil Asakawa

More 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 Sasei (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 even some Sasei and Cossei, and even Rokusei generation gatherings. With these families, those Sasei immigrants are already fading history.

So it's no wonder we have efforts to capture the senior generation oral and visual oral histories. The Seattle-based Denko organization (www.denko.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) offer great resources for recording your family's 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 forget for long for another kind of cultural history: the culinary kind.

My mother is a Sasei. My dad was a Nisei born in Hawaii in the 1930s. When they met 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 steaks 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 gloop sticky fake bottled stuff for us), gyudon (Japanese beef bowl), soba (she made terrific kakiage, or soup, oden, yakisoba and hiyashi chuka soba (a summertime favorite, cold nomencloodles in a soy-vinegar sauce topped with cucumbers, ham, egg and ginger, among other ingredients). For most New Year's even she would serve a buffet of homemade 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 steak 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 since it became common in supermarkets. And, she would mix the fibrous side-product of making tofu with shrimp, scallions and vegetables to make unohana okara.

She also used to make killer tempura — not too breaded, and with the perfect, not-too-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 Eria 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 hope all JAs 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 Nihon Voice blog at www.nikkeiview.com, and you can see his mother's cooking videos online.

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Part 2: DVD and Two Books About Pearl Harbor

By Harry K. Honda

This 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 Minneapolis, Twin Cities and his sister, are believed to be the only Americans in Mitsukuse, Ehime-ken, in 1941 to see the men in World War II, three Japanese mini-subs stationed there in the decade after the Korean conflict. So we have strong ties to and childhood memories of Japan.

Two perished but Sakamaki swam ashore and told how humane he was treated. Allen writes, "Rick [was] the only student in our company Fisett in German and English that led to his admittance to the Army school" to learn Japanese. He was among the few accredited full-time interpreters and translators at the Tokyo War Crimes Trials. At the 1993 MS reunion in Washington, both Allen and Rick gave papers, recalling their two months at Uraga (Kamagawa-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 were not armed, they would not attack any of the eight of us."
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 Nalani 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 celebrity candidates.

Eighteen celebrities, including Takei, are vying to win $250,000 for 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 Kamai, JANM public information officer. “He has always set an 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 few of celebs including Adam Carolla, Arsenio Hall, Aubrey O’Day, Clay Aiken, Dayana Mendoza, Debbie Gibson, Dee Snider, Lisa Lampanelli, Lou Ferrigno, Michael Andretti, Patricia Velasquez, Paul Teutul Jr., Penn Jillette, Thresa Gudie. The Cure’s and Victoria Gotti.

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

Although Takei says he didn’t know of some reality TV star like “The Real Housewives of New Jersey” star Teresa Gudie, who is known for overcooked 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 unsigned tables and she’s rather brusque,” 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 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 member. “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 Vulcan’s “Star Tels,” 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 rushed him for the film “Ice Palace,” starring Richard Burton and Robert Ryan. It was Takei’s first feature film appearance.

“And with that money, 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 fellow started me on real estate investment, not unlike Donald Trump’s father.”

Takei says he paid off his earnings from the cemetery plots in apartment building purchase. He has owned about seven, 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 various projects. Takei plays the holographic snazzy grandfather on Nickelodeon’s “SuperNiners.”

He is also a co-founder and co-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 backdooring in the room. I try to maintain a high standard, hopefully that got communicated to some of the ones who didn’t.”
now that the sea with an opportunity for the name change.

Hayashi pleaded no contest to the shoplifting charge Jan. 6. The
Chandler Police Court Judge Dennis Hayashi.

With a letter of support.

in support of the name change.

The IAC also provided Staples with a letter of support.

“By adopting this new name

AAS CELEBRATE FRED KOREMATSU DAY

By Pacific Citizen Staff

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


Fred Korematsu's legacy represents courage in the face of discrimination. It was a privilege to know Fred and his family personally,” said Rep. Zoe Hino,

Public Library. Community

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 the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998.

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

Public Library. Community activists Mia Yashi and Gordon Hirabayashi were also honored at the event.

Other celebrations across the nation also honored 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 or call 202/357-1000.
By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

NU Governor Picks Asian American for Top Court

TRENTON, N.J.—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie picked 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 Sweats 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 Siahal was sworn in during a judicial robing ceremony at the state courthouse Jan. 20.

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

Siahal 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 Jan. 19 she will succeed Karen Nanninga, 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 fellowship 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 Star First Team, and the 2011 New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) All Conference First Team. As 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

Pilgrimage 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 internees attend the pilgrimage.

The evening program will include a Manzanar At Dusk (MAD) from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Lone Pine High School gymnasium, located at 518 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 Calif 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 Angeles 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 development of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

‘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 to focus on the Japanese American citizens who “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 pilgrimage are now available at www.tulelake.org. And because of the pilgrimage registration deadline is April 30. After April 30, if there is space available, the registration fee will be $450 for all categories.

The committee has sponsored the annual pilgrimage which will take place this year on June 30-July 3.

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 opportunity 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

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For more information please go to: www.matrixenergyandretail.com

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NAT’L JACL KICKS OFF 2012 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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.jac1.org. All applicants must be a student or individual JACL member. Membership under a parent or family will not be 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 NCWNP Dir. Patty Wada; jac1-ncwnp@gmail.com or National JACL V.P. for Planning & Development Jason Chang; vpp-d@jac1.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@jac1.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://jac1.org/leadership/dc-summit.htm.

For questions, contact a JACL district office or the JACLD.C. office at 202/223-1240 or email Stephanie Otani-Suzzano at susano@jac1.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 Hink of the Anti-Defamation League; and a session exploring the importance of the Asian American movement and identity facilitated by Kevin Kishimoto, 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 Muenzen at jac1-fellow@gmail.com or visit www.jaclchicago.org.
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 Bonack (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 Literature, Washington and Lee University; Mark Matsui (Seattle), president, North Seattle Community College; Susan Osumi (New York), partner, Kelley Dye and Warren LLP; Barry Taniguchi (Hilo, Hawaii), president and CEO, KTA Super Stores; Michael Tanigami (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. 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 community 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. NIK, major newspapers, Stars and Stripes reported it to be a "treasure trove located by the 1st Cav; so 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, "I'd hafta cut you in trouble." ■

Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.

Polaris Tours

Presents:

2012 Tour Schedule

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 100th 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 & Split
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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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 Maebori at teresa.maeboriverizon.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: $20/General admission
The Day of Remembrance event includes the awarding of replica Congressional Gold Medals to local WWII vets.
RSVP: Call Bobbi Hanada at 559/343-1862 by Feb. 12.
Family members of late vets please contact Dale Ikeda at daleikeda@att.net or 559/313-9322.

NorCal JACL Remembrance Ceremonies
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.pdxjac.org

Day of Remembrance 2012
Takio Festival
SEATTLE, WA
Feb. 19, 1 p.m.
Seattle University 1016 Marion St.
Cost: $20/General admission
Seattle University and the JACL are organizing this year's Minidoka Taiko Fundraiser.
Info: Visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/219585

Day of Remembrance: From Honolulu to Guantanamo
HONOLULU, HI
Feb. 13, 1 p.m.
UH at Manoa Law School, Classroom 2 2515 Dole St.
The Honolulu chapter of the JACL is holding the 2012 Day of Remembrance event "From Honolulu to Guantanamo. Due Process Under Siege," with keynote speaker Neil Kellay, former acting U.S. solicitor general.
Info: Call 808/945-7633 or e-mail info@jcch.com

The 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 Littletokyo@hs@gmail.com

>> 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 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 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

>> PSW
JANM Annual Dinner LOS ANGELES, CA May 5 J.W. Marriott Hotel 800 W. Olympic Blvd JANC's 2012 Annual Gala Dinner is themed "Transforming a Forgotten Story," highlighting the evolution of the JA experience.
Info: Call 213/625-0414

>> 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

>> PNW
The 25th Anniversary of the Hiramatsu Center at the Flushing Cultural Center, inspired by Judy Kawabata.
Info: Call 206/439-9120

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 562/961-4901 or e-mail cbentley@calstate.edu
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 Nakaue, 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.

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 strength and determination.

TRIBUTE

Yemiko Nobusada
January 7, 2012

Yemiko Nobusada, 95, 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 “Osky” Kana and 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 Kana’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.

Yemiko 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 donations be made to 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.

To Place a Tribute and Honor Your Loved Ones, Call 800/966-6157
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 at 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 the details of their maneuverings, thus avoiding scrutiny and subsequent legal challenges to their actions.

The Enemy Expiration 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 nonprofit 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.