



PACIFIC CITIZEN

PHOTO: NICOLE WILDER/SYFY



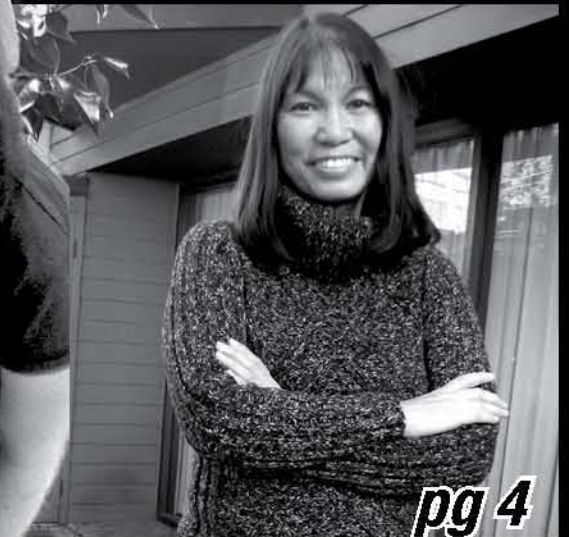
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New Nat'l Director Ouchida talks about her vision for the JACL.



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Maui H.S. Band to Take Center Stage at Famed Carnegie Hall

CHAPTERS SPOTLIGHT



PHOTO: TOM GRAVES
Terry Nakanishi, MIS WAC, and Bill Omoto, 100th Infantry Battalion, are honored at the Monterey Congressional Gold Medal celebration.

MONTEREY JACL CHAPTER HONORS LOCAL NISEI VETS

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The honor may have come some 70 years after their heroics on the battlefields of World War II but 35 Nisei soldiers were recognized with a Congressional Gold Medal at a recent ceremony in Monterey, Calif.

The packed room at the JACL Hall was a testament to the valor of the 35 men who were awarded the Gold Medals on March 4.

Last November Congress held a special ceremony in Washington, D.C. to honor the Nisei veterans with their Gold Medals, the highest civilian honor given by Congress, but many were unable to attend due to various health ailments and their advanced ages.

Many regional ceremonies have taken place and are still being planned to honor these veterans who were unable to attend the November

ceremony.

The Nisei veterans are comprised of members of the 442nd Regiment and 100th Battalion and even today this group of men is the most decorated unit for their size and length of service in the history of the U.S. military.

Also honored at the Monterey Gold Medal event were the soldiers of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) whose service is credited with shortening the length of the war. The MIS soldiers have a special connection to Monterey since many of them attended the MIS language school in Camp Snelling, Minn. the predecessor of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) that today is located in this coastal region.

"The original MIS ... faced crushing prejudice and discrimination in the United States during World War II, many of their family members suffered internment while they were serving their country," read a spokesman from a statement by U.S. Rep. Sam Farr, D-17th district.

DLIFLC assistant commandant, Air Force Col. Laura Ryan presented each of the Nisei soldiers or surviving family members with their Gold Medal replicas.

"Receiving this award was really an honor to me. I feel that Congress has finally ... recognized us for our service and loyalty," said MIS veteran George Aihara, in an interview with the DLIFLC.

Keynoter Tom Graves, a photographer who has documented the heroic Nisei veterans, spoke of the important role the Nisei soldiers played in integrating the U.S. military.

"You proved how important foreign languages are to the military. You fought to reverse longstanding discriminatory laws at home," he said, in an articles posted on the DLIFLC website.

Also in attendance at the event was Italian American veteran Al Tortolano who was a member of the Lost Battalion. The Rescue of the Lost Battalion is a famous battle in which the Nisei soldiers suffered huge casualties to rescue their fellow soldiers from Texas.

Tortolano thanked the Nisei veterans for their heroics which allowed him to continue his life, marry and have two children.

The Monterey Peninsula JACL and Nisei VFW Post #1629 sponsored the event. ■



PHOTO: CURTIS SUYEMATSU
Pictured here are Nisei veterans (front row, l to r): Shizuo Kondo, Leke Nakashimada, Hakuzo Nitta, Jim Onchi, Larry Saito, Noboru Takashima, Akira (Ike) Iwasaki, Art Iwasaki and Kazumi Oda; (second row): Shig Imai; (back row, l to r): Eisaku (Ace) Hiromura, Lorry Nakatsu, Kenji Yaguchi, Ben Soejima, Joe Onchi, Mark Namba, Sam Naito, Jimmie Mizuta, Shigeo Kuroye and Tex Irinaga.

OREGON HONORS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARDEES

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Twenty Nisei World War II veterans were presented with Congressional Gold Medals at a local ceremony in Oregon Feb. 26. The event was organized by the Oregon Nikkei Endowment (ONE) and the Oregon Nisei Veterans (ONV). More than 450 people attended the event at the Multnomah Athletic Club in Portland to recognize soldiers of the 442nd Regiment, 100th Battalion and Military Intelligence Service. The 442nd is still the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history. The work of the MIS is credited with helping to shorten the length of the war.

Last November Congress held an event in Washington, D.C. to honor the Nisei veterans with their Gold Medals, the highest civilian award given by Congress, in person. Unfortunately, due to age and various health ailments many were unable to attend. At the Oregon regional ceremony the Gold Medals were presented to the vets by Congressman Earl Blumenauer and retired Lieutenant General Joseph Peterson and Brigadier General Bruce Prunk. They were assisted by Marine Corporal Craig Leedham, grandson of the late Kay Akiyama, 442nd RCT, and Chloe Longfellow, granddaughter of the late Walter Fuchigami, MIS.

Mari Watanabe, executive director of ONE,

gave a brief history of the process the National Veterans Network took to assure the Gold Medals would be awarded to the Nisei veterans. LTG Peterson gave the keynote address and spoke about the real meaning of the words that make up the "Pledge of Allegiance." Special certificates were presented by Setsy Sadamoto Larouche, ONV commander, to other veterans from WWII to honor their duty and sacrifice. Erica Naito-Campbell, granddaughter of the late Bill Naito, MIS, produced a video honoring all Oregon Nisei veterans. The video was narrated by Kevin Kaufman and presented by Wesley Campbell, grandson of the late Bill Naito, MIA. ■

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ENDING THE SILENCE: APAS URGED TO INCREASE HIV/AIDS TESTING

Asian Pacific Americans represent 2.8 percent of the total reported HIV/AIDS cases in California, but one in three APAs living with HIV doesn't know it.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

Editor's note: This article was produced as a project for The California Endowment Health Journalism Fellowships, a program of USC's Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism. It is the second article in a three-part series examining Asian Pacific Americans and HIV/AIDS healthcare in California.

It is three in the morning and Philip, 27, wakes up from a nightmare that he soon forgets. He drinks a cup of milk and falls back to sleep.

The vivid dreams and dizziness are recurring experiences for Philip, side effects he attributes to taking Atripla, a pill he consumes daily because he has AIDS.

"Sometimes I dream about dying. It's scary sometimes," Philip said who agreed to speak on condition of partial anonymity. "Then I wake up in the middle of the night all of a sudden."

The Filipino American, who identifies as gay and lives in Southern California, was diagnosed with AIDS in May of 2010. Philip says he likely contracted HIV two or three years ago.

Last year in February Philip says he was hospitalized for three days after having seizures brought on by a high temperature. An HIV/AIDS test, his first one, revealed that his T-cell count, white blood cells that are important to the immune response, was at 157. A healthy T-cell count ranges from 800 to 1,200.

"It kind of hit me really hard because I was thinking, 'It couldn't happen to me. It couldn't happen to me,'" Philip said who graduated with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences. "I should know better, right? I went to college. I'm educated. But I just thought it would never be me."

Asian Pacific Americans represent 2.8 percent of the total reported HIV/AIDS cases in California as of June 30, 2011, according to the California Office of AIDS. But despite their relatively low risk level when compared to other ethnic groups, one in three Asian Pacific Americans living with HIV is unaware of their status.

Out of 10,763 Asians Americans who are 18 years and older, 6,828 were never tested, according to a 2009 survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Out of 558 Pacific Islanders, 350 had never been tested.

"There is still this belief that if you don't feel sick and if you don't look sick probably there's nothing wrong with you," said Peter Cruz, senior program manager of prevention services at APAIT Health Center. "And so APIs won't access medical care unless the physical symptoms start manifesting."

That was the case for Randy, who was born in South Korea but is ethnically Chinese. He was diagnosed in 2000 with HIV. The 49-year-old put off getting treatment until he was hospitalized in 2007.

"My sister told me I was in a coma and she showed me the picture and I thought, 'Oh, my God!'" said Randy, who asked to only use his American first name. "At that time I realized that this is my second chance to live in this world."

When properly treated, the advancement of HIV, which progresses in stages depending on the viral load and symptoms, can be prevented or delayed. In the last stage AIDS occurs.

After one week in a coma and three weeks in the hospital Randy returned home where he eventually disclosed his AIDS status to his wife, mom and sister.

"I think in Oriental community they are not really open to talk about HIV, sex, STDs or even gay or lesbian things," Randy said. "So when I told her [my mom] she thought that this disease is contagious and she went to my sister's place to live for about two years."

Married for about 21 years, Randy says he likely contracted HIV while cheating on his wife with men. The couple, however, is still together and his wife is HIV negative.

"I said, 'we can separate if you want,'" Randy said about talking to his wife about his AIDS status. "And she said, 'Well, we're already living together 20 years.' So she just said to me, 'Isn't that too late?' So I just treat her good and I'm not messing around anymore."

Many Asian Pacific Americans are diagnosed with HIV after the disease has progressed.

Forty-four percent of Asian Pacific Americans in 2004 received an AIDS diagnosis within one year of getting an HIV diagnosis, according to the CDC.

That compares to 37 percent for whites, 41 percent for American Indians and Alaska Natives, 43 percent for Hispanics and 40 percent for African Americans.

"We've also known for a long time that APIs are more likely to present with AIDS at a later stage than other groups and that's because APIs are not getting HIV testing and prevention services that they need," said Dr. Tri D. Do, an assistant professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco Center for AIDS Prevention Studies.

The 2010 National HIV/AIDS Strategy released by the White House emphasized the need to increase the percentage of those who know their status. The goals for 2015 are to "lower the annual number of new infections by 25 percent" by increasing from 79 percent to 90 percent those who know their HIV/AIDS status.

In Los Angeles an estimated 13,250 people living with HIV do not know it, according to the County of Los Angeles Public Health.

At the APAIT Health Center in Los An-

geles 700 people were tested last year, said Cruz.

The ethnic makeup of the clinic is 17 percent Latino, 13 percent African American and about 70 percent Asian Pacific Americans.

"Our goal is to reach 1,000 people each year," Cruz said.

Adam Chang, 25, was born and raised in San Francisco, but now resides in Hawaii where he is in law school. Despite regularly getting tested, Chang was diagnosed with HIV in 2009.

"I've been at A&PI Wellness Center since I was about 16 or 17 and so I got my tests every six months, not necessarily always there," said Chang. "I did everything by the book. But even if you do it by the book, you talk to a guy, you think you know the guy, you have that unprotected moment, it was just one time and that was enough."

HIV/AIDS healthcare workers like Dr. Do say Asian Pacific Americans could be unaware of their risk for HIV because awareness and prevention services, which are culturally competent, are lacking.

For those living with HIV/AIDS like Ran-

dy, stigma and shame serve as a barrier to

getting tested and seeking treatment.

"If you are sexually active you should go take a test every month ... or every other month," Randy said.

"To anyone. If you're diagnosed with that just go to treatment right away. Get the treatment right away otherwise all the symptoms come to you."

Recognizing the multiple factors that contribute to the low testing rates in the Asian Pacific American community, the Office of Minority Health has partnered with agencies that serve the community.

"We know that often, the messages that resonate the most with a community are the ones that are delivered by its own members," said Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, acting deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Minority Health. "For the last four years, the Office of Minority Health has also partnered with the Hawaii AIDS Education and Training Center to train doctors and other care providers in the latest HIV treatment modalities."

Despite being educated about HIV/AIDS,

Philip says he never thought he would contract HIV.

These days Philip spends his days looking for a job and a boyfriend. A tattooed music note on Philip's neck pays homage to his love of music. Walking through a grocery store Philip calls attention to a love song by Adele playing over the intercom, explaining with a wide smile how he plays the song at home.

A self-described hopeless romantic Philip talks of worrying about meeting the right boyfriend, one who would understand his AIDS status.

"It gets lonely. I feel like I have a lot of love to give to somebody," Philip said, explaining that he's still sexually active, but uses protection. "That's why I just give it to everyone else, like my friends."

Philip says he sometimes has regrets but there's no sense in dwelling on the past.

"I know I can pick myself back up again," he said. ■

To search for HIV/AIDS testing services in your area, visit www.cdcnpin.org/ca/.



PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

MEET PRISCILLA OUCHIDA, JACL'S NEW NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Ouchida, a Sacramento, Calif. native, began her duties as the new JACL national director March 1.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

Native Sacramento, Calif. resident Priscilla Ouchida was named the new JACL national director, becoming the first woman in the history of the organization to hold the title.

She began serving March 1 as national director at the national headquarters in San Francisco on a part-time basis. The third generation Japanese American will relocate to Washington, D.C. for the position in May.

Former national director Floyd Mori, who announced his retirement on April 22, will remain on staff until June 1. Mori was honored with the title national director emeritus at the Feb. 11 JACL national board meeting. The uncompensated position will work on special projects under Ouchida's direction.

Joining the JACL in 1976, Ouchida has served in different capacities on the regional and national level, including serving as JACL national vice president of general operations. Being the first in her family to join the organization, Ouchida says she later recruited her relatives to also join JACL.

The *Pacific Citizen* spoke with Ouchida recently to discuss her vision for the future of JACL.

I understand you will be the first female national director. How does that feel to know that?

"It's pretty humbling actually [laughs].

"Over the course of my career I guess I've had the privilege of often being involved in the first of different things.

"But this is probably the most important first in my career to be the first woman national director of the Japanese American Citizens League."

With the new job you'll have to relocate to Washington, D.C. That seems very exciting.

"I'm excited. Yes. I've never lived outside of California.

"Most people do it when they're younger. I've just waited until I'm older to do my first move away from home [laughs]."

I assume most of your family is on the West Coast? Will you miss them?

"Actually my entire family lives in Sacramento."

Will they relocate, too?

"Oh, no. No one is going to relocate. My daughter is going to school, so she's fine. And I've been taking care of my father and he's going to stay at home. We'll just have to change our lifestyle a little bit."

Can you tell me about your professional background?

"My whole career basically was with the California legislature.

"I was chief of staff and legislative director for Sen. Joe Simitian for eight years. And before that I was chief of staff and legislative director for Sen. Patrick Johnston for 20 years. Before that, for a couple of years, I was working for the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and for a while there were two chairmen of the committee. The second chairman was actually Floyd Mori. So I was under Floyd Mori when he was chairman of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee."

It's interesting that you worked under Floyd Mori and now he'll work under your direction as national director emeritus.



PHOTO: CHRISTINE FUKUSHIMA

New JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida stands in front of the JACL national headquarters building (Masao W. Satow Building) in San Francisco's Japantown.

tus.

"I sort of don't think of it that way.

"I think he's bringing a perspective from his experience as national director. And he's moved the organization in a very positive direction."

I know this is the first time there will be a national director emeritus. How do you think that will work?

"I think it's a plus.

"By having Floyd there there's always that institutional memory so you don't keep on going backwards and have to start all over from scratch."

What are your seminal accomplishments in your professional career?

"Probably the biggest one was Assembly Bill 2710 of 1982. And that involved the passage of the first legislation of the nation to award monetary reparations for government actions during World War II. It resulted in the payment of \$5,000 in compensation for back wages. I think it was almost 300 state employees who were fired on the basis on race by the state of California in 1942. California fired every employee of Japanese ancestry on charges of treason, right after the bombing of Pearl Harbor."

What was your role with that?

"I had done the original research for the bill. I mean I just started researching that probably when I was 17 years old. By the time it came to 1980 when I worked for Sen. Simitian and Patrick Johnston I had three binders full of documents and that formed the basis for the legislation."

Why did you start doing the research at 17?

"My aunt used to always talk about how she was fired by the state of California. She said, 'I just want you to know this. I don't want people to forget this,' is what she would always say.

"And I did two other Redress bills after that. The other one was in 1988 after the passage of HR 442. When I did the state bill I realized we had certain problems like it was subject to state taxation and people questioning whether or not it affected like Medi-Cal eligibility.

"I did a bill in 1988 even before HR 442 was passed.

"And that also would exempt it from consideration for public assistance benefits. So if you got \$20,000 from the federal government you would not lose your Medi-Cal benefits for example. I didn't want the government to give money with one hand and take it away with another hand."

Why was that personally important to you? Was your family interned?

"Yeah, my family was interned.

"First they went ... to Tule Lake. And then my mother's family was in Topaz and then my father's family was in Amache."

Can you tell me about your personal background and the ways in which your family celebrated their Japanese heritage?

"Actually my interest in civil rights probably started when I was four-years-old. I tell the story to people about, it was

>>See OUCHIDA pg. 13

MAUI H.S. BAND TO BRING LOCAL TALENT TO CARNEGIE HALL

After years of not even performing in local competitions, the Saint Anthony Junior Senior High School band is set to take the stage at Carnegie Hall.

By Christine Fukushima, Correspondent

Judy Garland has graced it, the Beatles have worked it, and Pink Floyd has rocked it — since its opening in 1891, the stage at Carnegie Hall has been the site of unique and memorable performances by everyone from rock idols to jazz stars.

In April 2013, Maui's Saint Anthony Junior Senior High School (SAS) band will bring a different type of "local" flavor to the famous performance space.

"That's big, for a school all the way on Maui to go all the way to New York to perform, especially at Carnegie Hall," said Everett Yamashita, the band teacher at SAS, from his band room in Wailuku.

As one of 12 invitees of the annual National Band and Orchestra Festival, organized by Manhattan Concert Productions, the SAS 9th to 12th grade symphonic band will travel to New York to perform for an audience numbering in the hundreds, says Yamashita.

SAS principal Patricia Rickard, who has been at the school for 20 years, says this is the biggest event the band students have ever been involved in.

"And this is the talk of the town in our Maui community," she said.

The performance is especially impressive for a band program that just a few years ago consisted of only about two-dozen students and just a couple of different classes. One year, they didn't have a percussion section.

But under the leadership of Yamashita since 2007, the band program at SAS has undergone a transformation radical enough for them to garner an invitation to showcase their talents at the storied concert hall.

Instead of two-dozen students, the band program currently consists of approximately 60 members — or almost half of the school's entire enrollment. In addition, it now offers seven different classes, ranging from "concert band" to "jazz band" to "symphonic band," the group that will be traveling to New York next spring.

Yamashita points to his students' enthusiasm and hard work as the reason why the program has thrived in recent years.

Band president Estelle Rossmann, 16, agrees. She attends after-school practices and band class twice a week, and completes 110 minutes of practice for homework.

"You hear about people practicing their instruments through Skype ... They each play their parts through the computer and they help each other," she said.

Like her fellow band members, Rossmann also credits their teacher with bringing the program back to life. She says that Yamashita made the band room a fun place to be since she joined band in 7th grade, when he took over.

Before coming to Saint Anthony, Yamashita studied music in Hawaii and at Western Washington University. He then started a non-profit music awareness and education group called M.U.S.I.C. (Musically United Students in the Community), running music-themed summer camps for 7th to 12th graders for about six years.

As the band teacher at Saint Anthony, "he's really helpful. He knows how to play every instrument and he really knows his stuff," said longtime band member Keani Pacheco, 16. "And he's like one of the coolest teachers I've ever had."

Like most of the other SAS band members, Pacheco has



Members of Maui's Saint Anthony Junior Senior High School (SAS) band practice for their upcoming gig at Carnegie Hall.

never been to New York before — in fact, Yamashita estimates only three members have ever been to the East Coast.

In addition to performing at Carnegie Hall, where the band will play First Suite in E flat by Gustav Holst as well as a contemporary piece, Pacheco is "super excited" to explore the city.

After Yamashita gathered his students together during their lunch period and told them the news, "I actually couldn't believe it," says Pacheco.

The band is also scheduled to do a public performance on the U.S.S. Intrepid. For that show, they will stray from the usual symphonic band concert repertoire to showcase their local roots, playing Hawaiian music accompanied by hula dancing by the senior girls.

"This is something we definitely want to do just because it's something unique to our culture. And to take it to New York and share, especially the hula dancing part, I think it's kind of the neat twist we're doing for the trip," said Yamashita.

Out of the approximately \$125,000 needed for the trip, Yamashita estimates they have about \$100,000 left to fundraise. The band students have been selling chocolates and will host a band carnival at the end of August.

The money raised so far has also been largely thanks to the donations from alumni who started calling the school after the band's upcoming trip to Carnegie Hall was featured in

the *Maui News*.

"I think that's been one of the most surreal experiences, to have people who graduated in the fifties call the school and tell us how happy they are about us," said Yamashita.

Although Principal Rickard was skeptical at first about how the band would raise the approximately \$125,000 needed for the trip, she has no qualms now.

"Our St. Anthony 'ohana' (family) has embraced the idea and support is coming from everywhere," she said. ■

To learn more about the SAS band program and to follow their journey, go to <https://sites.google.com/site/saintanthonyband/>.

'I think that's been one of the most surreal experiences, to have people who graduated in the fifties call the school and tell us how happy they are about us.'

Everett Yamashita, teacher

JACL AND DIRECT RELIEF REPORT ON JAPAN, ONE YEAR LATER

The groups recently released an online, interactive map showing how \$3.9 million in funds have been used to help the people of Japan following last March's devastating earthquake and tsunami.

Direct Relief and JACL have released an online, interactive map detailing the expenditure of \$3.9 million on more than 250 projects that have been supported with the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund established by the organizations immediately following the devastating earthquake and tsunami last March, with a commitment that 100 percent of the funds received would be used solely for the support of people and communities affected by the tragedy.

Direct Relief and JACL have channeled the funds to nine Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing relief and recovery services working across the tsunami-affected areas on activities ranging from immediate emergency response food and shelter programs to long-term recovery and specialized rehabilitative care for seniors and persons with disabilities.

The interactive map provides both a comprehensive overview of tsunami inundation areas and specific site-level information about expenditures, activities, rationale and progress related to the work conducted by the in country nongovernmental partner or-



ganizations supported by the jointly administered Direct Relief-JACL fund.

The interactive aid map can be viewed at: <http://maps.directrelief.org/japanaid/>.

"The resilience shown by the people of Japan has been an inspiration to our young people and strengthened the pride of those of us who can trace our ancestry back to Japan," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "In my communications with Japan, there has been an outpouring of gratitude for all the progress that has been made, specifically all the work that was achieved by the thousands of people who contributed to the Direct Relief/JACL Japan Relief and Recovery Fund. The generous donations to this effort are a testament that we have not lost the value of generosity and the principles which guide us to help our neighbors in need."

"The outpouring of generosity from people and businesses following this enormous tragedy has enabled so much important work and progress for thousands of people in Japan pushing forward to rebuild their homes, lives and livelihoods," said Thomas Tighe, Direct Relief president and CEO. "The precise detailing of where, how, and why funds have been used is important to honor the generosity of each person and business who stepped forward to help and also for people in Japan for whose benefit these funds were contributed. We continue to stand with the people in Japan one year after a profoundly sad moment and will continue to do so."

The 250 projects that Direct Relief and JACL have funded cover a vast array of support services, including:

- Basic needs such as food (>75,000 meals

provided), water and temporary shelters in the early stages of the response;

- Care for elderly and people with disabilities, including mobile healthcare units;
- Emergency services in the Fukushima prefecture where more than 100,000 people were displaced around the power plant;
- Debris, mud removal and infrastructure repair;
- Support for orphanages in the region most affected by the disaster, including therapy, tutoring, rebuilding of the radiation affected playground at the orphanage;
- Mobile library services; and,
- Jobs for unemployed disaster workers, many who lost their jobs in the fishing industry which was largely wiped out in Ishinomaki, one of the hardest hit areas. ■

NATION PREPARES FOR 100TH B-DAY OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS

In 1912, Japan gifted 3,000 cherry trees to the U.S. and some 100 of the original trees are still around today.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The cherry blossom trees are turning 100 and the nation is getting ready to celebrate.

In commemoration of the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from then Mayor of Tokyo Yukio Ozaki to the city of Washington, D.C., events will be taking place across the country to celebrate not only the beautiful blooms but the long-standing U.S.-Japan bond that has been forged over the years.

One of the largest celebrations will take place in the nation's capital from March 20-April 27, a five-week celebration this year instead of the usual 16 days. It's a celebration that usually attracts one million visi-



tors to Washington, D.C.

And the weather is likely to cooperate this year, according to National Park Service chief horticulturalist Rob DeFeo who predicts that the peak bloom date will be towards the end of March where 70 percent of the blossoms on the trees will be open.

"I can assure you, you're not going to see a late bloom. It's impossible," he said.

Although the cherry blossom trees usually survive for 50 years, DeFeo says that there are still over 100 of the original 3,000 trees still alive today, which are located near the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. The other trees have been replaced over the years, most from the original trees' genetic line.

Sadly, the cherry blossoms only bloom for between 10 to 18 days and the peak bloom

date will be in early April. "Like life, the blossoms come, they bloom, they're gone. Short but sweet," DeFeo said.

The first cherry blossom festival in D.C. took place in 1927 and lasted for three days.

During the capital's National Cherry Blossom Festival, various museums will be featuring exhibits and various restaurants will also be celebrating with special dishes and events. A parade is planned for April 14.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Japan's cherry blossoms gift to the U.S., both countries have created a special commemorative stamp to mark the event.

Other cherry blossoms events planned for across the country include:

- The Brooklyn Botanic Garden will be holding a four-week *hanami*, or flower viewing, April 1-29.
- San Francisco's Japantown will be holding their 45th annual Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival April 14-15 and April 21-22.
- Fukuoka, Japan is the most popular destination for cherry blossom lovers during March and April. ■

ASIAN AMERICANS TAKE PART IN REENACTMENT OF HISTORIC 1965 SELMA VOTING RIGHTS MARCH

Blacks, Latinos and AAs march for civil rights, including the protection of immigrants rights, workers rights and public education.

By Associated Press

SELMA, Ala.—The son of civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. told hundreds of demonstrators during a six-day, 50-mile march between Selma and Montgomery that he didn't believe his father even thought there would be an effort to suppress the vote in 2012.

Martin Luther King III addressed the crowd — which included African Americans, Latinos and Asian Americans — who were marching in protest of Alabama's voter ID and toughest-in-the-nation immigration laws.

"At a time when immigrant rights, workers' rights and voting rights are being stripped away in communities across the country, this March provides an opportunity to uplift the hopes to the challenges that lay before us," said Morna Ha, executive director of the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC), who took part in the March 4 to 9 historic march.

"And for us to be here as Korean Americans is extremely profound," she said. "We reflect back to our beginnings when we were



Morna Ha, executive director of NAKASEC (left) and Hey Kyung Eum, community organizer with KRCC (right) take part in the historic march reenactment.

founded to amplify the voices of Korean Americans on a national level on major civil rights issues, and look forward to building stronger connections with Latino and black communities in our shared struggle."

Alabama's voter ID law will require voters to show photographic identification at the polls in order to vote. The immigration law requires police to determine citizenship status during traffic stops and requires government offices to verify legal residency for everyday transactions like obtaining license tags for a car, enrolling a child in school, getting a job or renewing a business license. Both were enacted last year.

The original Selma to Montgomery march led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which banned discrimination at the polls. Both organizers and demonstrators equated their struggle with Alabama's modern laws with the struggle civil rights protesters went through to end voter suppression.

"This march makes us reflect and learn from history, but also reminds us that we must not repeat the wrongs of the past and that we must not stay silent," said Sik Son, executive director of the Korean American Resource & Cultural Center (KRCC). "It is unfortunate that the fight for civil rights and immigrant rights still continues today. We

will continue to march until racial discrimination ends its plague in our communities."

Proponents of the photo ID law say its intention is not to prevent anybody from voting, but to stop fraud at the polls.

Organizers say the immigration law is a form of voter suppression in that the children of illegal immigrants born inside of the U.S. — making them citizens — are often deported along with their parents, depriving the state of a future voter pool.

Lorena Ortiz of Montevallo, Ala., attended the rally with her husband and two children. While Ortiz, 30, is in the country illegally, her children are U.S. citizens. She told the Associated Press through an interpreter that she was risking a lot by showing up at the rally, but she did so to fight for her children's future.

"More than anything, we want to stop the law, so all families can be left in peace," Ortiz said. "So our children can succeed in school without worrying about how they can hurt their parents."

Proponents of the immigration law say it is working to lower unemployment in the state while also decreasing the amount of taxpayer money paid out in benefits to illegal immigrants.

Not everybody at the rally was opposed to the voter ID and immigration laws.

Birmingham trucker Albert Brooks, 49, said he supported the state's immigration law.

"I don't see a problem with having to prove your citizenship in some cases," he said. "You could be using a stolen ID. You should have to prove who you are." ■

Pacific Citizen staff contributed to this article.

HAWAII SENATE COMMITTEE PASSES BILL TO PRESERVE HONOULIULI

The bill also provides funds to begin planning for an education center.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The state of Hawaii is now a step closer to ensuring that part of their history is preserved for future generations.

SB 2678, a bill to preserve the historic Honouliuli internment camp recently passed in the Hawaii State Senate Ways and Means Committee. The bill also provides funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to begin planning for a new Honouliuli education center.

"The WWII internment camps in Hawaii and the mainland U.S. are a sad and tragic legacy of the past which must not be forgot-

ten," said Hawaii State Sen. Will Espero, D-Kunia, who introduced the bill. "This measure continues the preservation work which many individuals are involved with."

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9006 on Feb. 19, 1942, he authorized the forced incarceration of close to 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry along the West Coast. In Hawaii close to 2,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned in five relocation centers throughout the islands. When these five centers were closed, some of the Hawaii internees were sent to the mainland. About 300 detainees were imprisoned at Honouliuli located on Oahu.

Today, some 70 years after the internment of JAs, structures and archaeological evidence still remain at the Honouliuli site. If the state of Hawaii passes SB 2678 it will provide a huge step towards the preservation of Honouliuli and will provide a mechanism to seek additional funding for an educational

resource center

"The JACL Honolulu chapter appreciates that the legislature is working to ensure Honouliuli is remembered," said Trisha Nakamura, Honolulu JACL president. "Our state has an interest and an obligation to make sure Hawaii's history is not forgotten or ignored, especially one of its most painful events — the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry and others in the name of national security. We appreciate lawmakers' support so that future generations can learn and reflect on the past and dedicate themselves to protecting the civil and human rights of all."

"Hawaii is fortunate to have the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and University of Hawaii at West Oahu, which have been leading the way to document the history," added Nakamura. "Monsanto has graciously provided access to the site. With state support, this has the potential to be a beautiful partnership between government and the community to memorialize this legacy."

In addition to Honolulu JACL, the Honouliuli preservation bill is supported by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, and the Historic Hawaii Foundation.

SB 2678 will now go before the full Senate and will then go to the Hawaii House of Representatives.

"We are extremely grateful to Senator Espero for introducing this bill and to the Senate committee members for understanding the importance and urgency of preserving the Honouliuli internment campsite," said Carole Hayashino, president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

"The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii looks forward to working with the state legislature and the community as we continue our work to preserve the Honouliuli internment site and educate the public on the World War II experience of Japanese in Hawaii." ■



FOR THE RECORD REACTIONS TO LINSANITY

By John Tateishi

Jeremy Lin burst onto the world stage in late February when he outplayed Kobe Bryant and the Lakers and continued through the next week of games boosting an

otherwise lackluster New York Knicks basketball team to new heights for the season.

Everyone was talking about Lin and his spectacular play in the NBA. His photo adorned page one of the sports section of the *New York Times* each morning as his play continued to dominate the action on the court. Last week, the *Pacific Citizen* featured Lin's story with a big spread.

"Linsanity" was seemingly everywhere. It was great to see an Asian American make it in a big man's sport and to see this Harvard-educated stereotyped nerd break out of a frozen image relegated to Asian males in America to show the world that he was better than the best.

He deserved all the attention he was getting in those first days of his arrival on the NBA scene. He was *that* good. What was there not to like about Lin? A humble, clean-cut kid, brainy, a super athlete able to compete in a game reserved for only a limited few, only the best of the very best.

All the Linsanity madness has calmed down, except perhaps in New York where his every move on the basketball court is watched with anticipation, and he doesn't disappoint.

Call me a cynic, but I kept wondering when some ignorant reporter was going to slip and make some racist comment.

And then it happened, the "Chink in the Armor" comment on ESPN.

Let me put this in perspective. For decades, there has been an understood standard on television and radio that makes the use of racially suggestive language off limits. Announcers know to avoid using even vague racial references that could be construed as negative.

In the 1980s, a very popular football analyst said during a game that one team's star player, disgruntled because he wasn't getting the ball enough, needed to be careful lest his coach "take him to the woodshed." The reference was obvious, and the announcer was fired immediately following the game, never to be seen again on television.

The bar is raised high, as well it should be, especially among sports announcers, who seem to be most often guilty of this type of trespass. So why the "Chink in the Armor" comment about Jeremy Lin on ESPN?

The suspended announcer who said it and the fired writer who wrote it both apologized and said they meant no harm and didn't intend it as a racial comment. Really? To convince me of that, they would have to convince me that they had no idea that the word "chink" is a racial slur, a derogatory word that's been around since the 1850s.

What is it that makes two white guys think they could get away with what they thought was a clever pun but was intended to be exactly what it is?

It's not just these two who are guilty. Others have transgressed in different ways, some more subtle than others. The reactions to Jeremy Lin in the sports world have revealed a lot about attitudes towards Asian Americans.

In a MSNBC interview three games into Lin being touted

as the newest sensation in the NBA, a *New York Times* sports reporter, who happens to be African American, acknowledged that Lin's incredible game against Kobe Bryant and the Lakers was impressive but just couldn't make himself say that Lin was more than just "very good."

Similarly, boxing champ Floyd Mayweather thought Lin was a one-game wonder, and Fox News' Jason Whitlock made one of the most disparaging remarks. Several other African American sports notables refused to acknowledge the legitimacy of Lin's sudden superstar status, some even seemingly offended that this young Asian American had usurped all the attention as possibly the next NBA superstar, one even suggesting that black players "owned" the NBA.

So what is this all about?

The "chink" comment is obvious. Attitudes still exist where, consciously or not, some feel it's okay to make disparaging racial comments about APAs. But what's most interesting is black America's reaction to Lin. For some odd reason, they seem to feel threatened that an Asian American, atypical of the image of a superstar athlete, suddenly becomes the sensation of a game they've dominated for over half a century. It's not that he's not black: there was Larry Bird and Bill Walton.

It's the fact that Jeremy Lin is Asian American and is able to outplay the best of the best. It's incomprehensible that a stereotyped asexual, timid, Harvard-educated, nerdy Asian male is dominating a sport reserved for big macho alpha male types.

How absurd a notion. And how great! ■

John Tateishi is a former national JACL director.

THE RIGHT PLACE LIFE OF REMEMBRANCE

By James Kumpel

Whenever the Day of Remembrance comes and goes, I wonder whether we need to treat the day of the issuance of E.O. 9066 with such respect and commemoration. Indeed, the Japanese Americans who were relegated to indignity, injustice and incarceration during WWII suffered every day for four years, not just Feb. 19. Other than in the solemn ceremonies held in certain states with sizable JA populations, most people are still unaware of the principles and lessons learned from this massive governmental overreach and intrusion into the lives of hard-working Americans.

Rather than spending an hour to mark the anniversary of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's ignominy, I prefer to practice a life of remembrance that recognizes the dignity, honor, courage and strength of those who have inspired us to overcome historic hostility and achieve great things.

First of all, much as the Jewish people promise never to forget the victims of the Holocaust, we must never shy away from reminding people of the JA experience in the 1940s. We must find avenues to broadcast the unique dedication and spirit of the 442nd Regiment, the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history. Imagine the strength of character to look past the unconstitutional actions of their own government, while sacrificing their lives to fight for the freedoms on which our country was created.

We should remember the efforts of Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui, whose efforts to legally challenge the forced relocation and incarceration of JAs ultimately set the standard for boldly standing up against institutional racism and abrogations of rights. They faced overwhelming odds and lost their individual battles, while setting

up JAs to ultimately win redress and an acknowledgement by the government of its wrongdoings.

I reflect on my grandfather who had lived for more than 30 years in the U.S. as a legal resident — unable to become a citizen due to the Japanese Exclusion Act — who was carted off to a camp by Federal officials on Dec. 8, 1941, for being a Japanese-language journalist in Hawaii. From the age of 11 to 15, my mom lost her father to remote internment camps, while her mother had to work harder to pay bills in his absence. Her brother served in various Army tours of duty to demonstrate that JAs were, indeed, Americans.

Upon returning from the camps in 1946, my grandfather never dwelt on the fundamental unfairness of his circumstances but resumed his life as a father, husband, and well-regarded leader in Hawaii's Nikkei community. His dignity and resilience is a microcosm of how JAs dusted themselves off and returned to being productive members of society after the war was over.

Every day, I remember my mother who sacrificed so much of herself for the benefit of others. She introduced me to the internment because no history book or class had ever mentioned the topic. Mom's notes to congressmen and dad's letters to the editor of *Newsday* motivated me to get involved in Redress.

Her gentle support of my academic pursuits, without the tendencies of "Tiger Mom" interference, helped me to push myself toward whatever academic or career goals I had. Her self-deprecating humor and ebullient personality showed me I did not need to be quiet and invisible just to fit into my surroundings. I cannot and will not forget the lessons she taught

me about friendships, happiness, communication and life's priorities.

My wife's family reminds me of the amazing contributions brought to our country by immigrants. They lost everything when the Communists took over Vietnam. In search of opportunity, my father-in-law built a boat that brought more than 400 people to freedom in 1979 over rough seas and amongst dangerous gun-toting pirates.

In the U.S., my in-laws worked in assembly line jobs, earned overtime, scrimped and saved, and ultimately paid for two kids to graduate college. They made the lives of multiple generations of Americans possible because they were committed to family and freedom. They came to this country legally, worked hard, played by the rules and ultimately fostered a better future for their progeny.

A day of remembrance is a lovely gesture. A life of remembrance reflects the lasting imprint of the valor, selflessness, and dedication that one is trying to honor. I hope that as the JACL pushes its youth strategy or attempts to broaden membership, our members never forget the sacrifices of our forebears or their examples in making the American Dream both tangible and meaningful. ■

James Kumpel is a JACL New York chapter board member and former JACL scholarship winner.



SNEAKER AFICIONADO SUE LEE STOMPED OUT BY 'FACE OFF' COMPETITION



PHOTOS: NICOLE WILDER/SYFY

Special effects artist **Sue Lee** was the last woman standing on "Face Off," before being eliminated recently.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

Her signature yellow high-tops sneakers may stand out on Syfy's "Face Off," but 27-year-old Sue Lee's special effects skills outshined her on-air fashion.

The Korean American native New Yorker was the last woman standing on the special effects reality show before being eliminated on March 7. Lee was one of the original crop of 14 contestants that appeared Jan. 11 on the "Face Off" premiere.

After graduating in 2011 from the Tom Savini Special Effects Program at the Douglas Education Center, Lee was scouted for the show. In 2007 she got a bachelor's degree in fine arts and pre-med from Colgate University.

Lee tried to appease her Korean American parents by studying medicine in college, but her passion for a creative career developed early in her life.

Having an older brother obsessed with Dungeons and Dragons, who also moonlighted as her babysitter when their parents were both working, influenced Lee to get into special effects makeup. She devoured sci-fi and horror movies — the type kids are often warned not to watch — while her brother was babysitting.

The judges on "Face Off" took notice of Lee's special effect abilities on the "Triple Threat" episode when she won a challenge in applying old-age makeup. But ultimately she was eliminated on the last episode before the finale, where she showed off her personal style by dressing her model in "Asian street wear."

To give back to her fans, who appreciate her sneaker obsession, Lee is giving away on her Facebook fan page a pair of Nike sneakers.

The *Pacific Citizen* caught up with Lee to chat about her sneaker passion, special effects skills and her eccentric ways.

How did you end up being a contestant on 'Face Off'?

"So basically when 'Face Off' was casting for season 2 I just *literally* got out of school — out of special effects school — and I was at a student competition for makeup. And it was there that I was scouted for the show."

Did you ever do special effects makeup as a child?

"Unfortunately I don't have a great crazy story about how I've been sculpting since I was five and I knew exactly what I wanted to do. I think it was more like I was always pressured to do these things: to become a doctor, to do something in medicine, go to school, always study and get good grades. Finally when I was on my own and the job market wasn't doing that well and I just had a boring office job, I said, 'You know what? Let me just take time off. I'll save some money. I'll go back to school and I'll just give it a shot.' I haven't looked back since."

I read that your mom owned a boutique and you attribute your strong work ethic to her. Can you tell me about your background?

"My parents are from South Korea and I'm second generation. My parents, like a lot of parents who come from another country, they worked their butts off and that hard work ethic definitely influenced me. And my mom being very tactile herself, when I was younger we used to create paper dolls and I would make all these crazy things for her using my hands."

What do your parents think now that you're on the show?

"They're [laughs] so funny. Well, a couple things. For them, being on TV is crazy because that's how they connect themselves with American culture and everything. The fact that I'm on TV is huge for them. Being typical Asian parents, they're like, 'How come you're not winning any more challenges? You only won that one.' And I'm like, 'Do you know how difficult this is?'"

If my mom saw me on a reality show she would probably critique what I was wearing on TV. You're so fashionable on the show. Did you plan your outfits out, thinking of your mom?

"I absolutely love fashion. As a Korean woman, my mom would be very upset at me if I walked out of the house without makeup and looking proper."

"My mom's a fashion designer, retired fashion designer. And that has a huge influence on me. And Asians in general — Koreans are very into fashion. I love that stuff. I love the whole ... pop rock look with all the crazy colors and all that. When I'm in New York I wear a lot of that stuff. On the show

on judging day obviously it's a nice excuse for all the people to get dressed up. On the show I was one of the few people that was wearing Nike Dunks."

You do have great high tops.

"I think on the show — you know Brea Joseph? She and I were real good buddies because we had very similar fashion tastes. We would try to wear matching clothes on the same day. We'd wear the same sneakers. It was really fun."

I'm sure a lot of fans want to know if you have a boyfriend.

"I do have a boyfriend. We've been together for a very long time. We met when we were like 18. We have a very cutesy ... relationship. He's actually Russian. He's straight from Russia. That's going to be a very interesting mix in the future."

You're probably getting weird proposals on Facebook from your male fans.

"Let me tell you some funny stories, so I get random phone calls in the middle of the night and I got a couple from random people going [breathing loudly], 'Is this Sue Lee?' And I'm like, 'yes.' They're like, 'How tall are you? What's your bra size?' Random things and then other people ask me to be a foot model."

You got to get your phone number unlisted.

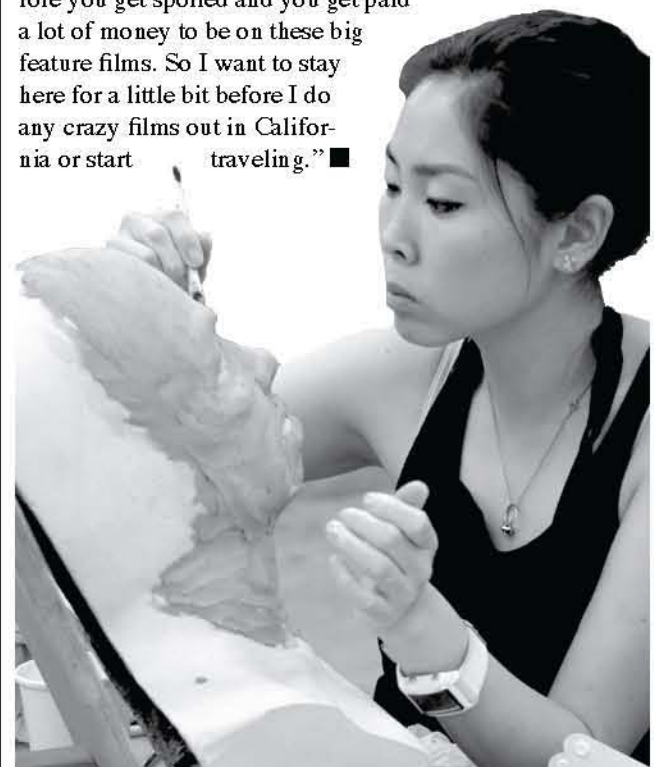
"I know! I know! There's just been really odd things. But other than that the funny thing is I've been getting a lot of private emails and Facebook friend requests from parents, telling me that their little girls at home are rooting for me and love me and watch me all the time. I was a little worried that I'd be too eccentric for the show. But it seems like America loves me."

What do you hope to do in the future after 'Face Off'?

"Well, definitely sculpting is my forte. But one thing I'm really adamant on, I don't believe in the whole I need to go out to L.A. to find work. I'm a total New Yorker."

"And I like the indie world ... that's the perfect place for someone like me in my situation where I still consider myself — I like to be very modest and humble — starting out even though this crazy thing called 'Face Off' happened to me. But I like to work with student films."

"I think that's definitely the great way to train myself before you get spoiled and you get paid a lot of money to be on these big feature films. So I want to stay here for a little bit before I do any crazy films out in California or start traveling." ■



For more information about Sue Lee's sneaker giveaway, visit www.facebook.com/pages/Sue-Lee-SFX/333112473366064

AS JEREMY LIN CONTINUES TO SHOWCASE HIS BASKETBALL SKILLS, RACIST JOKES KEEP COMING



The Knicks guard is proving he is the real deal, but sportscasters are still making racist Asian jokes.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Jeremy Lin may not have a particular problem with some of the racist Asian jokes that have accompanied his recent NBA rise to fame, but Asian American groups aren't sitting back quietly.

When the hosts of "The Nick and Artie Show" — Howard Stern Show alum Artie Lange and Nick DiPaolo — asked their listeners to call in with "the most racist Asian jokes you know" about Lin Feb. 15, the Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA) took action.

MANAA demanded an immediate apology from the hosts of the show which is produced by DirecTV Sports Group and syndicated by Premiere Radio Networks.

"We're appealing to our audience right now," said host Lange in the offensive segment. "We want the most offensive, hacky, Lin-type joke that you can think of."

"We can't do them, but you can," said DiPaolo.

Lange then went on to offer an example: "Something like ... Anthony's going to take over for Lin — not at point guard, but he's going to take over the laundry for Lin. You know, that type of awful stereotype. We want the most offensive joke."

They also criticized Woody Allen's wife Soon-Yi for not showing enough enthusiasm at Knicks games, saying if she didn't appreciate the United States, she should go back to the Philippines. Soon-Yi is actually Korean American.

Two days after the show aired, MANAA asked for and received an apology, which they believed to be less than adequate.

"Artie Lange wouldn't even come clean on what they'd done," said Aoki. "He referenced the *New York Post* headline 'Amasian' and took that as a sign it was fair game to ask his listeners to call in with other Asian puns. DiPaolo corrected him, admitting they'd actually asked for stereotypical jokes. Lange dug an even worse hole by saying: 'Right, we want bad, awful jokes that you hear like from someone at a Klan meeting at 4 in the morning after a couple of scotches

and you can make fun of him 'cos it's stupid. Uh, that's what we wanted. And we wanted to make fun of that whole situation. And if we offended anybody in that process, we're sorry about that 'cos that's not what we're about here.'"

"I was appalled and surprised that their lackluster apology included a reference to the KKK," said MANAA board member Miriam Nakamura-Quan. "They contradicted themselves in the worst kind of way. You can't get any more extreme or offensive than by invoking the spirit of the KKK. That doesn't seem like a sincere and honest apology to me."

Derek Chang, DirecTV's executive vice president of content strategy and development, acknowledged the inadequate apology and informed Aoki that the two hosts had been placed on indefinite probation. He also assured MANAA that if anything like this were to happen again he would "pull the plug" on the three-hour show.

DirecTV is now also considering issuing guidelines to producers of its original programming to prevent similar lapses in judgment in the future.

"MANAA thanks Derek Chang and DirecTV for taking decisive action and hopes it sends the message to other corporations that racist attacks against Asian Americans will not be tolerated," said Aoki. "Obviously, no disc jockeys would encourage their listeners to call in with the most racist black jokes they know. So why should it be okay to go after Asian Americans? All of this detracts from the positiveness of what Jeremy Lin has accomplished."

MANAA noted that other racial incidents have accompanied Lin's recent success. On Feb. 10, FoxSports.com writer Jason Whitlock made a sexually inappropriate comment about Lin. On Feb. 18, ESPN producer Anthony Federico wrote an online headline referring to Lin's disappointing performance — "Chink in the Armor." He was fired the next day, and ESPN anchor Max Bretos, who had used the phrase on a broadcast previously, was suspended for 30 days. ■

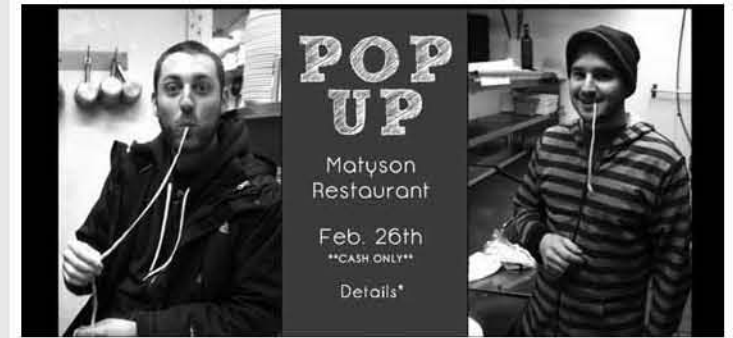
'Obviously, no disc jockeys would encourage their listeners to call in with the most racist black jokes they know. So why should it be okay to go after Asian Americans?'

Guy Aoki, MANAA

NATIONAL NEWSBYTES

By Associated Press and Pacific Citizen Staff

Philly's 'Roundeye Noodle Bar' Owners Plan Name Change



PHILADELPHIA — The owners of a pop-up restaurant specializing in Asian noodles has decided to change the name of their business after Asian Americans complained it was racist.

"Roundeye Noodle Bar" co-owners Shawn Darragh (pictured above, left) and Ben Puchowitz (above, right) announced their decision for the name change in an interview with FoxNews.com. As of March 13 the name had not yet been changed.

Both men said they had not meant to offend anyone when members of Asian Americans United criticized the use of the ethnic slur.

Alameda Looking for Former Internees for Documentary

ALAMEDA, Calif. — The Alameda Free Library is currently seeking former World War II internees for a documentary series of oral histories about Japanese Americans of Alameda.

The library recently received \$20,000 from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Fund and is now seeking about 15 interviewees who have a connection to Alameda and lived through the WWII internment. They are especially seeking former residents of Alameda's old Japantown area.

Those interested in taking part should call David Hall at 510/747-7730 or email dhall@ci.alameda.ca.us.

Lawsuit Filed in NYC Against Fashion Designer Wang

NEW YORK — A group of employees has sued designer Alexander Wang for allegedly forcing them to work 16-hour days without overtime.

The 30 workers charged that Wang violated numerous New York State labor laws at his Chinatown operation.

According to the *New York Post*, the \$50 million lawsuit claims the workers had to spend long hours in a cramped, windowless room.

The suit was filed in Queens Supreme Court.

Representatives for Wang declined to comment. They said they had not yet been served with the papers.

Wang opened a flagship store in Chinatown last year.

New York City Comptroller Liu's Campaign Treasurer Arrested

NEW YORK — New York City Comptroller John Liu, who had been widely viewed as a potential successor to Mayor Michael Bloomberg, said he will reassess whether to run for office in 2013 following the arrest of his campaign treasurer on fraud charges.

Liu has said he was "stunned" by the charges against 25-year-old Jia Hou, who was arrested on charges she was part of a scheme that used stand-in donors — many tied to the city's Chinese American business community — to funnel large, illegal contributions to his campaign. During a recent appearance, Liu said he believed his campaign had acted properly at all times.

Autism Not Diagnosed as Early in Minority Children

WASHINGTON — Early diagnosis is considered key for autism, but minority children tend to be diagnosed later than white children. Some new work is beginning to try to uncover why — and to raise awareness of the warning signs.

It's possible to detect autism as early as 14 months of age, and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that youngsters be screened for it starting at 18 months. While there's no cure, behavioral and other therapies are thought to work best when started early.

Yet on average, U.S. children aren't diagnosed until they're about 4½ years old, according to government statistics. ■

APAS IN THE NEWS N. CALIFORNIA HOLDS DOR EVENT

By Pacific Citizen Staff

NJAHS Announces Honorees, Including WWII Veterans



LAWSON SAKAI



TOM SAKAMOTO

The National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) will honor Nisei veterans **Tom Sakamoto** and **Lawson Sakai**, who, along with their fellow comrades, recently received Congressional Gold Medals for their valor, the highest civilian award given by Congress.

NJAHS will also honor classical Japanese dance instructor **Madame Michiya Hanayagi** and Japanese language news reporter **June-Ko Nakagawa**, two Shin-Issei who have served as cultural and personal bridges between Japan and America.

The theme for this year's luncheon is "Peace in the Post-War Era" and will take place March 24 at Hotel Kabuki in San Francisco. Tickets are \$150. For information, call 415/921-5007.

Mike Reynolds is Named New Superintendant of Tule Lake

Mike Reynolds has been selected as the new superintendent of Lava Beds National Monument and the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, both located in northeastern California.

Reynolds served as superintendent of the National Park of American Samoa for three and a half years. He has worked for the National Park Service for more than 15 years and has served at Big Bend, Great Smoky Mountains, Death Valley and Yellowstone National Parks.

Tule Lake was the only one of the ten War Relocation Authority camps that was converted to a high security Segregation Center. Over 18,700 Americans of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated at Tule Lake without ever being charged or convicted of a crime.

Woman Enters Race for American Samoa Governor

The sister of American Samoa's nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives is so far the only woman running for governor of the U.S. territory.

Delegate **Eni Faleomavaega's** sister **Salu Hunkin-Finau** announced her candidacy recently. The last time a woman ran for governor of American Samoa was in 2000.

She is running against Lt. Gov. **Faao Aitofele Sunia**, American Samoa Development Bank President **Lolo Moliga**, retired High Court Judge **Save Tuitele**, businessman **Tim Jones** and former territorial Attorney General **Afoa Moega Lutu**.

Hunkin-Finau is former president of the American Samoa Community College. She has a doctorate in education from the University of Hawaii and graduated from Kahuku High School on Oahu's North Shore.

White House Announces Todd Park as New Chief Technology Officer



President Barack Obama has appointed **Todd Park** as assistant to the President and U.S. Chief Technology Officer (CTO), filling a vacancy created by the recent departure of **Aneesh Chopra**, the nation's first CTO.

Park has served as CTO of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) since August 2009. Hired as the department's

"entrepreneur-in-residence," Park has been helping HHS harness the power of data, technology and innovation to improve the health of all Americans. ■



PHOTO: STAN UMEDA

Sacramento County Supervisor Illa Collin (retired) lights a candle with husband Don Collin and Furnie Shimada.

The event marks the 70th anniversary of E.O. 9066 and new challenges faced today.

By Andy Noguchi, 'My P.C.' Contributor

SACRAMENTO—Indefinite military detention of U.S. citizens — a central component of the recently authorized National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) — was on the minds of many at the Northern California Time of Remembrance event Feb. 18.

For many, the idea of indefinite detention of citizens was a frightening reminder of the incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

Lessons learned from mistakes of the past was a central message to the group of 200 people who attended the remembrance event. Several JACL members took part and helped organize the event including the Florin, Lodi, Placer County and Sacramento chapters.

The California premiere of the film "Prisoners and Patriots" — a documentary about the Santa Fe, New Mexico and other Department of Justice (DOJ) camps — by filmmaker Neil Simon highlighted the event. Unlike the War Relocation Authority concentration

camps, the DOJ camps were first used to imprison 17,000 Japanese American community leaders shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The film also touched on the stories of the camp dissenters, including the Tule Lake "No-No Boys," repatriates to Japan and Nisei Draft Resisters who justly protested their imprisonment.

The California State Museum of History, Women and the Arts shared their award-winning exhibit "Up-rooted — the Japanese American Experience." The museum has taken part in the Northern California DOR for the past 10 years.

In addition to the museum, the Elk Grove Unified School District has also taken part in the DOR event the past 30 years. Originally led by the late Mary Tsukamoto, Elk Grove began its annual education project for 5th grade students based on the JA experience.

This year the Mary Tsukamoto Daruma Awards were given to Georgiana White, former CSU-Sacramento archivist for special collections, and Kelly Bitz, the California State Museum community relations manager. The two women were instrumental in developing the CSUS JA collection and bringing it to the museum for the expanded student education program.

A unity candle lighting ceremony featured stories from behind barbed wire and the audience also observed a moment of silence for the late WWII resister Gordon Hirabayashi. ■

SILICON VALLEY JACL DONATES \$2,200 TO NAT'L JACL

By 'My P.C.' Contributor

In an effort to help national JACL's current fiscal woes, the Silicon Valley JACL chapter recently donated \$2,200 to the national organization. The check was presented at the recent national board meeting Feb. 11 in San Francisco.

The Silicon Valley chapter held its annual basketball fundraiser during Labor Day weekend where proceeds go to the chapter's scholarship program. But the chapter board felt that donating a portion of these funds to boost national JACL's budget was a high priority.

The idea to donate to national JACL came just after last year's national convention in Los Angeles. Current National V.P. of Operations Gail Sueki and Sonoma JACL delegate Carol Kawase came up with the idea of chapters holding fundraisers to "Help Jumpstart National JACL."

Sueki and Kawase brought this idea before the NC-WNP district meeting and the various chapters decided to pitch in to help national JACL. ■



Jeffrey Yoshioka (left), Silicon Valley JACL chapter president, presents a \$2,200 check to National JACL President David Kawamoto.

JA DELEGATION MEETS WITH JAPANESE P.M. NODA



Members of the 2012 Japanese American Leadership Delegation enjoy a rare meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda (pictured front row, center) during their recent trip to Japan.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

In a rare meeting with the highest-ranking government official in Japan, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda met with the Japanese American Leadership Delegation (JALD) during their recent visit March 7.

Noda expressed gratitude for the Japanese American community's assistance during the March earthquake and tsunami disaster last year. He also expressed his appreciation for the delegation's contributions to U.S.-Japan relations.

"Through its relief efforts, the council found that the March 11 disasters served as a catalyst in the emergence and strengthening of the civil society sector of Japan," said President Irene Hirano Inouye, who has led each delegation since the program's inception. "Many Japanese NPOs responded

to a natural disaster in their home country for the first time and seek support from the government and business sectors going forward."

The delegation also visited the Tohoku region where they toured with representatives from JEN, a Japanese NGO involved in the recovery efforts. The delegates delivered "Genki Notes" or messages of hope from American children to Japanese still living in temporary housing.

The group took part in a symposium in Sendai titled "Empowering Civil Society for the Future of Japan," sponsored by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and the U.S.-Japan Council (USJC). The delegation also met with Foreign Minister Koichiro Gamba, members of the Japanese parliament and business entities including Keidanren, Keizai Doyukai and Forum 21.

The JALD is an official trip sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and co-organized by the U.S.-Japan Council, a non-profit organization led by Japanese Americans working to strengthen U.S.-Japan relations.

USJC is now in its twelfth year. The JALD provides an opportunity for JA leaders to deepen their understanding of Japan by participating in intimate discussions with Japanese government, business and civil society leaders.

The 2012 JALD includes: Michael Bosack (Colorado Springs, CO), Barbara Hibino (San Francisco, CA), Shannon Hori (Miami, FL), Neil Horikoshi (Washington, DC), Janet Ikeda (Lexington, VA), Mark Mitsui (Seattle, WA), Susan J. Onuma (New York, NY), Barry Taniguchi (Hilo, Hawaii), Michael Tanimura (Chicago, IL) and Paul Watanabe (Boston, MA). ■

JAVA PRESENTS WWII BOOKS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The donation is part of a continuing effort to preserve the legacy of the Nisei vets.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

In a continuing effort to preserve the legacy of the World War II Nisei veterans, the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) recently donated books on the internment to the Montgomery County, Maryland Public Schools.

In a ceremony March 1, Gerald Yamada, JAVA president, presented two books on the WWII internment to Maria Tarasuk, PreK-12 program supervisor, social studies, for Montgomery County Public Schools, at the Shady Grove Middle School library in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The books — "Hello Maggie," which is designed for elemen-

tary schools and "A Boy of Heart Mountain," which is designed for middle and high schools — were both written by Shigeru Yabu and illustrated by Willie Ito. JAVA donated copies of the books for all public schools within the Montgomery County Public Schools system.

"Providing student-friendly, engaging resources about this critical period of American history will help to ensure that the experiences and sacrifices of the Japanese Americans during WWII will not be forgotten," wrote Dr. Joshua P. Starr, superintendent of schools of MCPS, in a letter to JAVA. "Thank you for your dedication to educating the students of Montgomery County and ensuring that high quality resources are made available for all students."

Attending the ceremony were Edward Owusu, principal of Shady Grove Middle School (SGMS), Mary Bautista, SGMS media spe-

cialist, Betty Taira, JAVA book project manager, and Terry Shima, JAVA executive director.

JAVA purchased the books for MCPS with donated funds from JAVA members and friends.

Yabu was a nine-year-old boy in San Francisco when he was interned at Heart Mountain. One day he brought home a wounded magpie, whom he named Maggie. Maggie would mimic people talking and gave the people of Heart Mountain a healthy diversion to life in an internment camp. When Yabu grew up he served in the U.S. Navy for four years, including the Korean War.

Ito spent his war years at the Topaz, Utah internment camp. When he grew up he was employed as a cartoonist for Walt Disney Studios and Warner Brothers Cartoons. After 45 years in the animation industry, he is now retired and illustrates children's books. ■

NEW MEXICO SYMPOSIUM TO EXPLORE WWII INTERNMENT

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A two-day public New Mexico Centennial Symposium will take place in April that will explore the World War II experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry imprisoned in Department of Justice camps, particularly those at Santa Fe and Lordsburg.

"From Inside and Outside the Barbed Wire: New Mexico's Multicultural World War II Internment Stories," will take place April 21 to 22 at the New Mexico History Museum/Palace of the Governors.

The event will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the Santa Fe Internment Camp (SFIC) Historical Marker in Santa Fe's Frank S. Ortiz Park, and raise public awareness of the internment experience in New Mexico. It is being organized by the Committee to Preserve New Mexico's Internment History.

"The historic symposium will be a rare chance for the community, scholars, and internee descendants to learn who the civilian detainees and internees were, how they passed their time, and how they were treated during wartime," said Nancy Bartlit, event co-chair.

The program will explore the experiences of Japanese immigrants and American citizens detained in Department of Justice internment camps in New Mexico during WWII, focusing especially on the SFIC, which held 4,555 men over the course of the war.

It will also examine the impressions such camps had on visitors and communities surrounding them.

"In other words," said Dr. Gail Okawa, one of the conference organizers, "this symposium will seek performance."

Presenters include co-chairs Bartlit and Okawa, Dr. Richard A. Melzer, Brian Minami, Dr. Nikki N. Louis, Colonel Joe Ando (USAF ret.), Bill Nishimura, Mollie Pressler and Kermit Hill. Nishimura is a survivor of the SFIC and several presenters are descendants of SFIC internees.

A New Mexico Centennial year event, the symposium is co-sponsored by The New Mexico History Museum, The Historical Society of New Mexico, and The New Mexico Centennial Board, with a grant from the New Mexico Humanities Council. The New Mexico Community Foundation serves as the committee's fiscal agent. ■

"From Inside and Outside the Barbed Wire: New Mexico's Multicultural World War II Internment Stories"

Date and Time: April 21, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and April 22, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Where: New Mexico History Museum/Palace of the Governors, 113 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe

Cost: \$15 with a limited number of discounted tickets for students available only at the box office

Tickets: Lensic Theater Box Office, 505/988-1234 or www.ticketssantafe.org/tsf/content/about_tsf

HOHRI HONORED BY CHICAGO



The City of Chicago recently presented the family of the late William Hohri with a resolution recognizing Hohri for the instrumental role he played in getting restitution for Japanese Americans for their unjust incarceration in United States concentration camps during World War II and also for being the first generation of computer programmers.

Above, wife Yuriko Hohri holds the resolution signed by Rahm Emanuel, mayor of Chicago and former White House chief of staff in President Barack Obama's administration.

OUCHIDA

>>continued from pg. 4

imprinted in my mind, I went trick-or-treating with my mother when I was four and we were going around the block.

"I went all the way around the block and I was to the second to the last house before I got home and I rang the doorbell and this older white woman answered the door and she said to me, 'I don't give no candy to no damn Japs!' And so I heard my mother saying, she said, 'I know how you feel about us, but you shouldn't take it out on the child. You know no matter how you feel you shouldn't take it out on the child.' So the woman went back and she threw these rotten walnuts in my bag.

"That was probably the defining moment for me and probably set inside me a feeling of a need for civil justice."

What are some of the causes that JACL supports which are most important to you?

"Hate crimes is something that really resonates with me. In 1978 when my husband and I moved into our house [in Sacramento] all the Asian houses on the block — they were brand new houses — every Asian house had their mailboxes burned. They were spray painted 'F--- you Jap!' There were all of these racists comments spray painted on people's garages."

What is your position on some of the more controversial issues JACL is involved with such as same-sex marriage and immigrant issues?

"I can't think about marriage restrictions without thinking of interracial marriages, the prohibition against interracial marriages.

"That's why I talk about always being on the leading edge. It may be uncomfortable for us, but as an organization we always have to be there."

What do you hope to accomplish first as the new national director?

"I'd like to bring financial stability to the organization. Without that we cannot continue to do the programs that we do. So to stabilize the organization financially to ensure our longevity, I think that's my number one priority."

At the last JACL national board meeting board members took an informal survey to rank the programs that should take priority for budget cuts. What are your thoughts on that?

"When you have a budget deficit, much like the state of California, you have to do two things you have to make cuts and you have to generate revenues. And so they're both part of creating a balanced budget.

"That's going to be a decision of the national board and the national council."

I know they voted on the programs that should take priority and the Pacific Citizen was one of the top five. Do you agree with that?

"That was sort of more a survey. I don't think it reflects a board action. But there will be some national board discussion in April on the budget. At that point you may see further discussion on it."

There was a suggestion made to have the programs raise their own revenues. Would you support that?

"I don't think I would exactly phrase it that way. I think some programs are easier to get grants for, for example youth leadership programs. Corporations love to fund that kind of program."

Are there any particularly programs, like the P.C., which you think should take priority for budget cuts?

"For me personally I'd rather see them, the national council and the national board, make decisions on what programs to fund and fund those programs rather than bleed across the board, so that no program is effective.

"If you're going to ask about the *Pacific Citizen* that's not under the national director. The national board has jurisdiction over the *Pacific Citizen*. And the national board and the national council are the ones ultimately who determine the final budget, not the national director."

What's your ultimate vision for the future of the JACL?

"I would like to see the organization go on to the next generation and the generation after that.

"Sort of the way we deliver services, how we think about programs, has to reflect the Yonsei and the Gosei to an increasing degree."

Have you been actively involved in JACL since you first joined?

"No. I think I didn't take over the Sacramento chapter presidency until the 1980s.

"Then I went to serve on the board and then in the early 90s I was national v.p. of general operations. Most recently I've been back on the board for the Sacramento chapter again."

Did you retire from the legislature?

"I retired in 2008. I wanted to go back to school and get my master's. So I thought at some point I'd like to teach."

Will it be difficult to transition from retirement to your new position as the national director?

"It's not that. I retired in 2008. In 2010 I took over a campaign. I was back to working 70 to 80 hours a week again. I didn't have any problem with that transition. I actually have a hard time slowing down." ■

'I'd like to bring financial stability to the organization. Without that we cannot continue to do the programs that we do.'



New JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida is pictured here at JACL national headquarters. She plans to move to Washington, D.C. in May.

ACA and California's Underserved and Uninsured

Increasing Access to Medi-Cal

For the first time, Americans who earn less than 133% of the federal poverty level (approximately \$14,000 for an individual and \$29,000 for a family of four), as well as childless adults, will be eligible to enroll in Medi-Cal in 2014. The majority of California counties are expanding coverage now to a portion of those persons into new Low Income Health Programs. California will receive 100% federal funding for the first three years to support expanded Medi-Cal coverage, phasing to 90% federal funding in subsequent years.

How many will benefit: Currently 7 million Californians are enrolled in Medi-Cal, but that number is expected to grow between 9 and 10 million in 2014.

Increasing Medi-Cal Payments for Primary Care Doctors

California will pay primary care doctors who serve Medi-Cal patients no less than 100% of Medicare payment rates in 2013 and 2014 for those services. The increase is fully funded by the federal government.

Rollout date: Jan. 1, 2013



Establishing Affordable Insurance Exchanges

People who don't get health insurance from their employers, in 2014 will be able to buy it directly from the Health Benefits Exchange that offers a choice of affordable health care plans.

People whose income falls between 100 and 400 percent of the federal poverty line (in 2010, that was about \$43,000 for an individual, or \$89,000 for a family of four), and who are not eligible for other affordable coverage, can get a tax credit for the cost of their insurance.

Rollout date: Jan. 1, 2014
How many will benefit: Approximately 3 million.

proximately 3 million.

Eliminating Health Disparities

All ongoing and new federal health programs are required to collect and report racial, ethnic and language data to help identify and close gaps in health care.

Rollout date: March 2012

How many will benefit: Everyone benefits from more data about public health.

To learn more about the Affordable Care Act, go to www.healthcare.gov.

Paid for by The California Endowment.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*



Bainbridge Island Day of Remembrance
BAINBRIDGE, WA
 March 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Bainbridge Island Historical Museum
 215 Erikson Ave., NE
 The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association will host nine events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. Museum admission will be free.
 Info: Call 206/855-9038 or visit www.bainbridgемemorial.org

>>NATIONAL

The 43rd Annual JACL National Convention
BELLEVUE, WA
 July 5-8
 Hyatt Regency
 900 Bellevue Way NE

The Seattle JACL is currently working on getting additional information to the *Pacific Citizen* and JACL chapters. More information will be published once it is available.

>>EAST

New York Day of Remembrance
NEW YORK, NY
 March 24, 1 to 4 p.m.
 Japanese American United Church
 255 7th Ave.

This event commemorates the 70th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. The program will feature the presentation "From Minidoka

to Minnesota" by Fred Hagstrom, a professor of Art at Carleton College.
 Info: Call 212/242-9444 or visit www.jauo.org

The Spirit of Asian American Gala
NEW YORK, NY
 May 3, 6:30 p.m.
 The Pierre
 Two E. 61st St.

Cost: \$500/Individual tickets
 The Spirit of Asian American Gala celebrates outstanding individuals who have made a substantive impact on the community.

Info: Contact Anne Wang
 212/344-5878 Ext. 227 or email anne.wang@aafederation.org

Tomo: Friendship Through Fiction Program
BOSTON, MA
 March 23, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 Children's Museum
 308 Congress St.
Cost: \$1/General admission

This is a bilingual evening of storytelling for Boston teens, which will support youth in Japan who were impacted by last year's earthquake and tsunami. The book "Tomo" which includes short stories and artwork, will be featured in the program. Secret Asian Man creator Tak Toyoshima will be in attendance.
 RSVP: www.japansocietyboston.org/tomo or call 617/522-0740

Philadelphia JACL Annual Installation
VILLANOVA, PA
 March 31, 12 noon to 3 p.m.

Azie on Main Restaurant
 789 E. Lancaster Ave.
Cost: \$40/Members; \$45/Non-members; \$20/Children
 Paul Watanabe will speak about the one-year anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan.
 Info: Contact Cliff Akiyama at oliffakiyama@yahoo.com

Bando Kotoji's Kabuki Dance
TOWSON, MD
 April 1, 5:30 p.m.
 Towson University Marriott Conference Hotel
 10 W. Burke Ave.

Cost: \$50/Prime seating and private meet-and-greet
 Famed master dancer Bando Kotoji and his six musicians will perform kabuki dance. Kotoji's North American tour is co-produced by Japan Society and the Japan Foundation.

Info: Call 410/704-2787 or visit www.tuboxoffice.com

>>NCWNP

Nor Cal Gold Medal Tribute
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
 April 22, 11:30 a.m.
 Japanese Cultural Center of Northern California
 1840 Sutter St.

A regional tribute is planned to honor veterans of the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT and the MIS who were unable to attend last year's Congressional Gold Medal ceremony.
 Info: Call 415/921-5007 or visit www.njhs.org

Elizabeth Humbarger Tolerance

Garden Dedication
STOCKTON, CA
 April 14, 10 a.m.
 Elizabeth Humbarger Tolerance Garden at San Joaquin Delta College
 5151 Pacific Ave.

The ceremony will include a keynote presentation including a historical display on Elizabeth Humbarger, an educator of the Stockton area Japanese American students. The ceremony is sponsored by the San Joaquin Delta College and Stockton JACL.
 Info: Aeko Yoshikawa at 209/470-5578

J-Sei Presents 'The Internet and Social Media'
OAKLAND, CA
 March 24, 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.
 Lake Park United Methodist Church
 281 Santa Clara Ave.

This is a free discussion regarding the internet and social media. Speakers like Berkeley police officer Tracie Lui and Kelly Adachi, J-Sei social media intern. There will also be computer lab groups.
 Info: Call 510/848-3560

>>PSW

Kristi Yamaguchi Book Reading
LOS ANGELES, CA
 March 18, 2 p.m.
 Japanese American National Museum
 369 E. First St.
 Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi will read from her latest children's book "It's a Big World, Little Pig!"
 Info: Call 213/625-0414 or visit www.janm.org

The Asia Society Southern California's 2012 Annual Gala Dinner
LOS ANGELES, CA
 March 28, 6 p.m.
 Millennium Biltmore Hotel
 506 S. Grand Ave.
 The dinner will feature a keynote address from Sidney Rittenberg, the recipient of the 2012 Visionary of the Year award. Also honored will be C.L. Max Nikias, president of the University of Southern California and Y.H. Cho, chair-

man and CEO of Korean Air.
 RSVP: Email noonner@asiasociety.org or 213/821-2116

Pacific Asia Museum's Fusion Fridays
PASADENA, CA
 June 15, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.
 Pacific Asia Museum
 46 North Los Robles Ave.
Cost: \$9/General admission; \$7/Students and seniors

The Pacific Asia Museum is holding its third season of Fusion Fridays, which includes live performances, food and art.
 Info: Call 626/449-2742 or visit www.pacificasiamuseum.org

>>IDC

Heart Mountain Pilgrimage
POWELL, WY
 Aug. 10 & 11
 Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation
 1539 Road 19
 Plans are underway for the 2012 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage with a focus on bringing in the younger generations to help preserve the efforts of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.
 Info: Visit www.heartmountain.org

>>MDC

Nikkei WWII Veterans Tribute
CHICAGO, IL
 April 22, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.
 International Union of Operating Engineers Hall
 2260 S. Grove St.
 Reservations are \$25 for the program that will include a reception with refreshments. Parking is free.
 Info: Call JACL at 773/728-7170

APAIGS Day of Dialogue
NEW ORLEANS, LA
 March 31, 12 noon
 Loyola University
 6363 Saint Charles Ave.
 The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies is hosting a Day of Dialogue community forum, addressing APAs and the political landscape in New Orleans.
 Info: Call 202/296-9200 or visit www.apaig.org



The Health Care Law and You

What's Available to Older Americans

Medicare Prescription Drug Plan
Who will benefit?

People 65 or older and the disabled on Medicare Part D (prescription drug plan) will get financial relief when they fall into the prescription drug coverage gap, or the so-called "donut hole." They will get a 50 percent discount on brand name drugs and pay less for generics. The donut hole will close completely in 2020.

How many will benefit: 4.6 million Californians
Rollout date: January 2011

Preventive care -- Who will benefit?

Seniors on Medicare, as well as people with insurance between the ages of 50 and 64, are eligible for a free annual physical, providing them an opportunity to discuss ongoing health needs with their doctor.

They can also receive free screenings for such conditions as colorectal cancer, breast cancer, diabetes and HIV, without a co-pay or deductible fee.

How many will benefit?

An estimated 4.6 million Californians on Medicare, as well as 5.2 million in the 50 to 64 age group.

Rollout date: September 2010

Secured coverage -- Who will benefit?

Health insurers can no longer cancel plans of those between 50 and 64 who get sick or make a mistake on an insurance application.

Additionally, the new health care reform law now prevents insurers from covering less than \$1.25 million in medical treatment in 2011, and that amount will go up to \$2 million beginning September 23, 2012. Starting January 1, 2014, insurers will not be able to limit how much they can cover at all.

How many will benefit?

5.2 million Californians between the ages of 50 and 64.

Medi-Cal expansion -- Who will benefit?

The Affordable Care Act will make uninsured adults between 50 and 64 who are at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level (currently, \$14,520 a year for an individual) eligible for Medi-Cal, regardless of whether they have a disability or fit into a previous eligibility category.

How many will benefit: To early to know
Rollout date: January 1, 2014.

Paid for by The California Endowment

In Memoriam

Adachi, Isamu, 88, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 18; predeceased by beloved wife, Nobuko Adachi; survived by his beloved daughter, Sharon Noriko Adachi; sister-in-law & brother-in-law, Isamu (Suzy) Kinjo, Mildred Kinjo, Tae Kinjo and Satoko Adachi; also survived by nephews and other relatives.

Endo, Hichiro, 85, Gardena, CA; Feb. 23; preceded in death by daughter, Suzy (Ben) Shimogaki; survived by loving wife, Helen, and children, Cathy (Stuart) Chuck, David (Debbie) Endo, Margaret (Ken) Shimada, Bill (Wendy) Endo, Jennifer (Doug) Kawaguchi, and Andy Endo; 13 gc.

Furuya, Harry, 95, Los Angeles,



CA; Feb. 20; a Washington-born Nisei and former internee of Manzanar Relocation Camp; survived by his beloved wife, Yayeko Furuya; children, Harry J. (Joyce) Furuya and Janie (Machi) Nakata; sisters, Kiyoko Fujita, Masumi Masuda, Mitsue Furuya and Seiko Foster; also survived by many other relatives; 3 gc.

Gillow, Akiko, 86, Riverside, CA; Feb. 7; she is survived by her husband, Donald Gillow; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Hamade, Dorothy Katsuko, 83, Laguna Hills, CA; Feb. 6; survived by her children, Timothy (Charlotte) Hamade and Jane Hisa (Stan) Roberts; siblings, Toshiko Mary (Dave) Kawagoye and Shig "Herb" (Therese) Nakagawa; sisters-in-law, May Kaneshiro and Toyoko (Noriyuki) Marumoto; brother-in-law, Joe Hamade; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 7 gc; 3 ggc.

Hayashida, Amy Setsuko, 79, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 7; predeceased by her husband Woodrow Minoru Hayashida and her son Darryl Nobuo Hayashida; mother of Jeannette Y. Hayashida; mother-in-law of Carrie Hayashida; sister of Jessie Doi-Cunha and William Doi; also survived by many nieces and nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

Horiba, Michiko, 85, Whittier, CA; Feb. 17; predeceased by her

husband, Tak Horiba; survived by her daughters, Carol Horiba and Barbara Babinski; brother, Eichi Uyemura; sister, Fumi (Sam) Tsuchiya and brother-in-law Sabe (Sets) Horiba; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

Imai, Kikue, 96, Long Beach, CA; Feb. 8; survived by her children, John Imai, Gail Tanouye, June Fukuhara and Linda (Jason) Yaka; sister, Harue Ohama; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc; 2 ggc.

Kariya, Harumasa, 73, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 20; survived by his wife, Yoshiko Kariya; children, Emily Kumiko Kariya, Ena Misaki (Jeff) Cohen and Janet Waka Kariya; siblings, Yoshihisa (Sawako), Isao (Fusako) and Mitsuhiro (Sayoko) Kariya, Ikuko Sarai, and Masako (Yoshiji) Ohmae; many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 1 gc.

Kono, Tom Tsutomu, 89, Gardena, CA; Feb. 20; survived by his wife, Irene Yaeko Kono; daughters, Grace (Vernon) Kono-Wells and Deborah (Anthony) Hsu; many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law of HI; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives in US and Japan; 1 gc.

Komatsu, George Aike, 87, Gardena, CA; Feb. 26; survived by daughter, Karen Aiko (Darren) Shiorama; brother, Nagato Komatsu; sister, Koko (Shig) Fukutomi and Tori McCoy; also survived by other family members.

Kuwahara, George Nobumasa, 89, Gardena, CA; Feb. 18; husband of Alice Chieko Kuwahara; father of Virginia (Hussein) Panjvani, Norman (Fumi) and Clyde (Natalie) Kuwahara, Donna (Juan) Lopez; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 7 gc.

Morinaka, T. Ted, 89, Ontario, OR; Feb. 23; condolences to the family may be made at www.lienkaemper-thomason.com.

Nakamura, Kimiko, 96, Glendale, CA; Feb. 19; survived by her sons, Robert A. (Karen L. Ishizuka) and Norman N. Nakamura; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc; 2 ggc.

Nakamura, Theodore Ross, 58,



Beaverton, OR; Feb. 9; he was born in 1953 in Ontario, Ore., to Masae (Kobayashi) Nakamura and Theodore Terue Nakamura; Ted was a teacher at Lake Grove Elementary School, Lake Oswego, Ore., for 25 years; survived by his wife, Peggy; and sisters Sheryl Isobe and Janet Roberts.

Nitta, Yeriko, 88, San Pedro, CA; Feb. 23; survived by sons Norman and Dale (Diane) Nitta; daughter, Cynthia (Keith) Dote; sister, Ritsuko Nitta of Missouri; 1 gc.

Ogata, Kenje, 92, Sterling, IL; Jan. 18; he was one of five Nisei known to have served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII; in 1941 he met his future wife Wilma Reiff; he graduated from the University of Illinois College of Dentistry in Chicago in 1953; survived by wife, Wilma; daughter, Kenjalin Ogata.

Onishi, Masato, 88, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 15; survived by his wife; Mitsune Onishi; children, Peggy Miyagishima and Randy (Susan) Onishi; sister-in-law, Fumiye Higashiyama; brother-in-law, Hank Yumikura; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 7 gc; 2 ggc. ■

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K. Willian Sasagawa

August 1, 1917 - January 17, 2012

K. Willian Sasagawa, 93 aka "Colonel Bill". Born in San Francisco, on August 1, 1917. After a long illness he passed away peacefully at home in Ridgemark, Hollister, Calif., a golf community, on January 17, 2011. Survived by his beloved wife, Susan Sasagawa, two daughters, Pam Sasagawa of Kensington and Susan Sasagawa Sanone, (Mike) of Gilroy, pre-deceased sister Bessie Ushiro. Survived by sister Katherine Uyeno, and brother, Frank Jay Sasagawa (Susie). Bill & Susan enjoyed the golf community where they spent their retirement years. He was a member of the Philadelphia and Sequoia JACL, EDC Chairman of JACL, and 1000 Club member. A dedicated sports fan (SF 49ers, SF Giants, USC Trojans).

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COMMENTARY

HOW I CHALLENGED TUCSON'S REMOVAL OF ETHNIC BOOKS

By Leslie Tamura

The Japanese American story is not as cut-and-dry as the United States government yielding to racial tensions, and the majority of the Issei and Nisei quietly following orders — *shikatanai*. I know that my history is not the truncated version contained in my high school textbooks.

There were those — the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service — who fought for a country that had turned its back on its citizens. There were those that escaped the camps to the Midwest and East Coast to continue their education, professions and to establish new lives.

But there were also those who rocked the boat: the No-No boys and those who surrendered their U.S. citizenship in favor of the alien country of Japan. There were those who challenged the government, who were imprisoned for years after the camps shut down. There were those who even challenged the JACL.

I only learned of the Nisei rebels (or pioneers, depending on your perspective) from a book assigned for my college Asian American Studies class. Otherwise, I doubt this part of my history would've been brought to my attention. I wouldn't have gone searching for it. I wouldn't have known where to look.

What would have happened if my college professor hadn't assigned this book? What if I had never taken that Asian American Studies course? What if I didn't even have access to this information, to this knowledge?

It happens. Banning or at least challenging books is not a

new concept.

When the Tucson Unified School District shuttered its Mexican American Studies program earlier this year amidst political and racial unease, the books assigned as part of the program's curriculum were transferred out of classrooms and into storage facilities. Apparently, the TUSD Mexican American Studies program may have violated specific legislation (HB 2281), which would've denied the school district millions of dollars in state education funding.

According to TUSD officials, these books are not banned, but there have been reports that former Mexican American Studies teachers cannot use these texts in the classroom.

"The decision to prohibit teachers from using the texts has resulted in a de facto ban on these books, which also raises the specter of free speech violations," the Arizona Ethnic Studies Network, a grassroots organization of educators, reported in a statement.

I've always considered books some of my most enlightening friends. Like any real-world friend, the written word — whether in the form of a novel, memoir or poem — has taught me something about life, has made me laugh and allowed me to escape. Sometimes it has compelled me to grow, learn, question and engage. This is especially true of the books read during my Asian American Studies course.

So with 38 other people, including activists from the Arizona Ethnic Studies Network, students, local authors and Arizona state representatives, I gathered outside of the state

capitol in late February to read aloud from the challenged books.

I don't know enough about the politics of my new, adopted state to form an opinion, but I do know how books have affected my life and my understanding of my story.

Some of the books once assigned to the former TUSD Mexican American Studies program include:

- "A Different Mirror" by Ronald Takaki
- "Occupied America" by Rodolfo Acuña
- "Lone Ranger and Tonto" by Sherman Alexie
- "So Far From God" by Anna Castillo
- "Woman Hollering Creek" by Sandra Cisneros
- "Feminism is for Everybody" by Bell Hooks
- "I am Joaquín" by Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales
- "The Fire Next Time" by James Baldwin
- "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros
- "Pedagogy of the Oppressed" by Paulo Freire
- "Nobody's Son" by Luis Alberto Urrea. ■

Leslie Tamura is a first-year medical student at Midwestern University's Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine in Glendale, Ariz. Raised in Fresno, Calif., she has a bachelor's degree in English from Wellesley College, a master's in journalism from Northwestern University and a master's in medical sciences from Loyola University Chicago. She was the Mike M. Masaoka Fellow in 2008 and is currently a member of the Arizona JACL chapter.

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