



pg 4

Poston documentary to look at
moms and kids in WWII camps.

PHOTO: DARK SEVER



pg 5

Los Angeles marks 20 years
since the infamous riots.

PHOTO: MICHAEL BECKER/FOX

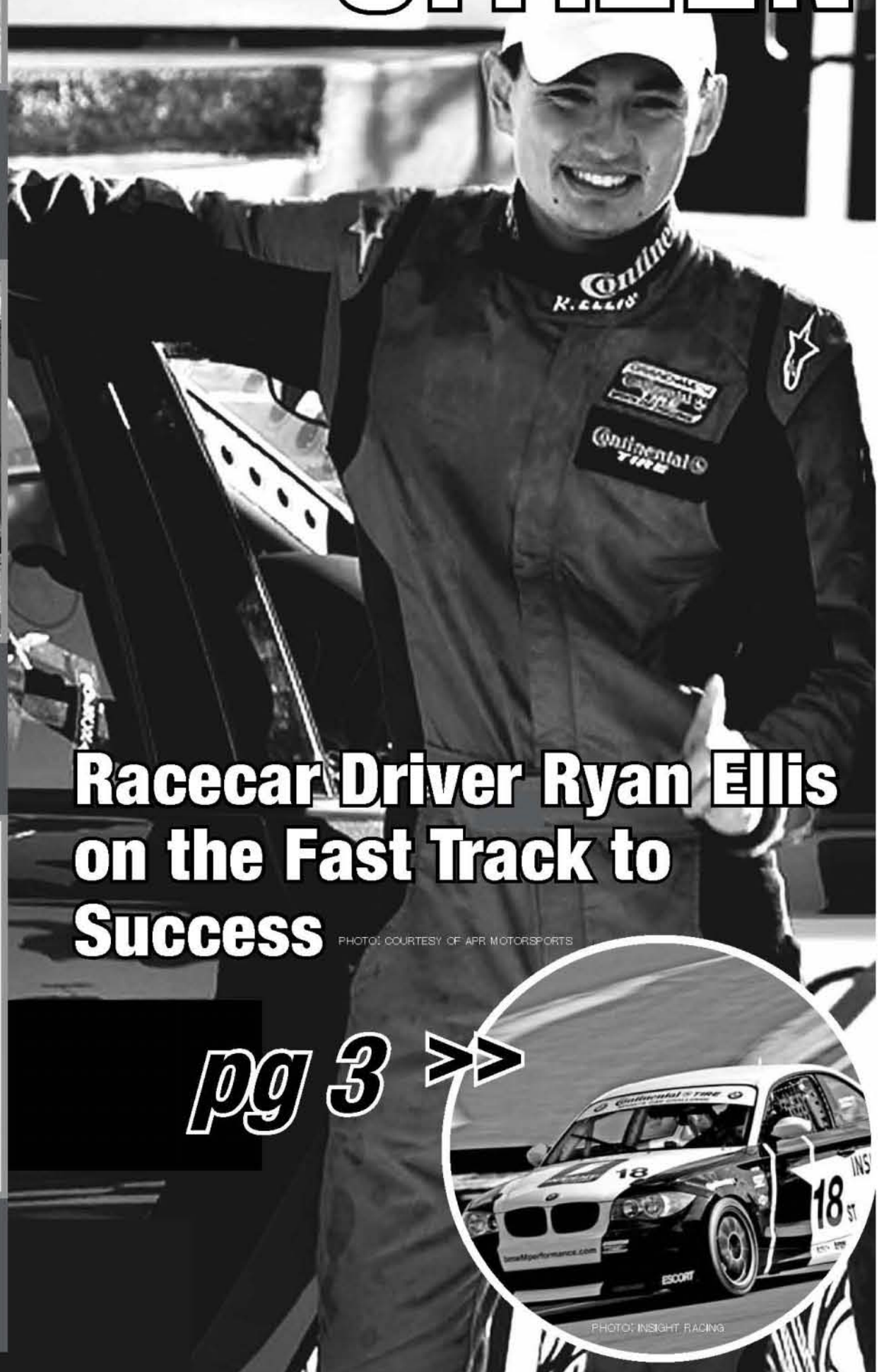


pg 9

'American Idol' Heejun Han
talks fame with his usual humor.



PACIFIC CITIZEN



Racecar Driver Ryan Ellis
on the Fast Track to
Success

PHOTO: COURTESY OF APR MOTORSPORTS

pg 3 >>



PHOTO: INSIGHT RACING

Letters to the Editor

POWER OF WORDS POLL

I understand the Power of Words, in particular what to call the War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps, will be one of the workshops at the 2012 National JACL Convention. At this workshop, I suggest taking a poll of everyone who lived in one of the WRA camps on what they think the camps should be called. They would be given a piece of paper with the choices. The results would be tabulated and reported at the convention. The choices could be: A. Concentration camp; B. Incarceration camp; C. Internment camp; D. Relocation center; and E. Other.

My own choice is internment camp because to intern means to detain and confine; and while the dictionaries usually mention enemy aliens in the definition, they also add etc., and in the etc. category are native-born citizens, as we all know too well from our own experience.

Concentration camp is far too harsh a word to use in our situation because it conjures up images of the Nazi death camps, and our camps were nothing like that. Most of the internees whom I talked to like Issei women (Issei men are not the kind to express their feelings and emotions), teens and kids at the time all had more positive feelings about the camps.

The reason I think only WRA internees should participate in this poll is that they lived it and therefore should know what it was like. I have talked to some Sansei who never lived the camp experience, and many seem to think it was a miserable and unhappy existence, and it wasn't like that at all. Therefore, they could skew the results if they took the poll.

Ed Suguro
Seattle, Wash.

A THANK YOU TO THE NISEI VETS



This is about an incredible, unexpected revelation of the 442nd Regiment's Japanese American WWII soldiers from Hawaii. I as a speech/language pathologist and the only Asian on an educational tour with a group of teachers in the early 1980s, stopped for a few minutes in a speakeasy in a small town in France because the major-

ity of us had never heard of a speakeasy. Then, unexpectedly, a middle-aged man stared at me and in perfect English asked if I was a Japanese American from Hawaii. I replied affirmatively. Then, he proceeded to tell me that this town loved the Japanese American 442nd soldiers from Hawaii because they treated the townspeople kindly and even babysat for the townspeople. I was taken aback and speechless. That revelation gave me immense pride and warmth toward the 442nd Regiment from Hawaii. I thought I should reveal this to the soldiers someday.

I am very regretful that it has taken so long to share this revelation when so many of the 442nd soldiers have left us. They would have loved to hear that this French townspeople appreciated them immensely (I unfortunately do not remember the name of the town). After hearing this revelation, I remembered the soldiers' mothers came to our neighborhood with a red thread and needle so we could sew a stitch into a white scarf to be worn by their sons in combat. I knew they were grief stricken and worried but they, courageously, never showed their emotions. These mothers would have been so proud to know that they have raised such compassionate and valiant sons.

My tears well up each time I think of this short stopover in the small town in France. My humble respect to the 442nd soldiers.

Kuniko Ikemori Okamoto
Raised on Maui, '49 grad BHS
Via email

SPRING CAMPAIGN WHO CARES ABOUT PACIFIC CITIZEN? THE JACL MEMBERSHIP DOES

By Hugh Burleson



Hanging in there. That's about what the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper's status is.

For several years now, the steady decline in national JACL finances, specifically membership, has inevitably meant a steady decline in national JACL's ability to support this paper.

In turn, the *Pacific Citizen* staff has had to exert ever more effort on the annual Spring

>>See BURLESON pg. 16

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 43RD JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

By David H. Kawamoto



I recently traveled to Seattle, Fife and Bellevue, Washington to attend the Pacific Northwest District meeting and to tour the Hyatt Regency-Bellevue, the site of JACL's 2012 National Convention. Convention Chair Elaine Akagi was nice enough to give my wife Carol and I a grand tour of the hotel and the adjacent shopping center.

The Hyatt Regency is a beautiful modern facility with ample space for all of JACL's meetings and activities. There are dozens of restaurants within blocks of the hotel. We ate at several of the adjacent restaurants during our stay in the area. We had a "light" lunch at Cheesecake Factory. We were going to have some barbecue for dinner but decided to actually have something lighter. We had some delicious

>>See KAWAMOTO and registration form pg. 6

JULY 5-8

10
weeks

JACL SEATTLE, WA
NATIONAL CONVENTION
Inform. Transform. Perform.

HYATT REGENCY BELLEVUE, WA
RESERVATIONS: 1 (888) 421-1442

WWW.JACL.ORG/2012

2012 PACIFIC CITIZEN SPRING CAMPAIGN

Donate \$150 or more to become a
WALL OF FAME; \$200 or more get
a free entry into a drawing for a
Mexican cruise!

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

☐ \$150 ☐ \$200

Your **STORIES**. Your **LEGACY**. Find them here at the *Pacific Citizen*.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

Pacific Citizen
250 E. First St., Suite 301
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mexican cruise prize donated by the
NATIONAL JACL CREDIT UNION

DONATE ONLINE > WWW.PACIFICCITIZEN.ORG

HOW TO REACH US

E-mail: pc@pacificcitizen.org
Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
Tel: (213) 620-1767
Fax: (213) 620-1768
Mail: 250 E. First Street, Suite 301
Los Angeles, CA 90012

STAFF

Executive Editor
Caroline Y. Aoyagi-Stom

Assistant Editor
Lynda Lin

Reporter
Nalea J. Ko

Business Manager
Staci Hisayasu

Circulation
Eva Lau-Ting

The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 250 E. 1st Street, Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA. POSTMASTER: send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

JACL President: David Kawamoto
National Director: Floyd Mori

P.C. EDITORIAL BOARD

Judith Aono, chairperson; Paul Niwa, EDC; Kevin Miyazaki, MDC; Roberta Barton, CCDC; Mark Kobayashi, NCWNPDC; Hugh Burleson, PNWDC; Gil Asakawa, IDC; Cindi Harbottle, PSWDC; Sonya Kuki, Youth

SUBSCRIBE

Get a one-year subscription of the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper at: www.pacificcitizen.org or call (800) 966-6157

ADVERTISE

To advertise in the *Pacific Citizen*, call (800) 966-6157 or e-mail: pc@pacificcitizen.org

LEGAL

No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express permission of the *Pacific Citizen*. Editorials, news and the opinions expressed by columnists other than the national JACL president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Events and products advertised in the *Pacific Citizen* do not carry the implicit endorsement of the JACL or this publication. We reserve the right to edit articles. © 2012

Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif and mailing office.

JACL MEMBERS Change of Address

If you've moved, please send new information to:
National JACL
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in delivery, please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)

HAPA RACECAR DRIVER RYAN ELLIS IS ON THE FAST TRACK



Professional racecar driver Ryan Ellis is on the fast track to making a name for himself in the competitive Grand Am scene.

Ryan Ellis has been racing since the age of 4 and is now one of several drivers racing in the 2012 Grand-Am Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge with the Insight Racing team.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

Before he could walk Ryan Ellis would crawl to his Power Wheels motorcycle and maneuver it with the skill of a professional, driving it so often he wore the wheels thin.

The Hapa racecar driver was so fixated with his toy cars and motorcycles that he gave each a name. It was a prophetic sign of his racecar career to come.

"My parents used to always buy me stuffed animals, but I never really liked stuffed animals. I was always running around with little mini motorcycles or mini match box cars," said Ryan. "I'd always end up sleeping with them and wake up with motorcycle or car prints on my face instead of a stuffed animal like a normal kid."

A third generation racecar driver, the 22-year-old's prowess on the track at a young age was fitting since racing runs in his blood.

Ryan's two biological grandfathers both were lured to the racetrack in their lifetime. His maternal grandfather, Fred Isamu, used to work for Toyota Motors after moving with his wife, Aiko, to California from Japan in 1951.

"He died before Ryan raced," said Aiko Hayashi, Ryan's grandmother, about her late husband.

On his father's side, Ryan's paternal grandfather began his racecar career in the 1940s. Midget racing was Vic Ellis' forte, and in 1952 he won the Badger Midget Championship. He eventually moved on to drive the CAPCO Sprint Car. Ryan's paternal grandfather, however, died in a racetrack accident in 1958.

Both grandfathers did not live to see Ryan race.

"I think there's a family spirit there that's lasted through the generations and I think call it what you want, but I think he's probably watched over me during my years and watch-

ing over Ryan in his career," said Jim Ellis, who also raced professionally, about his late father.

After moving from California to Virginia, Ryan nearly won his first Quarter Midgets race, the QMA Dirt National Championship, when he entered at about the age of 4. For seven years Ryan raced Quarter Midgets and earned the title of all-time AMA leader in the state.

Now Ryan is making a name for himself in the Grand Am scene. The Hapa driver won the Grand Am ST Rookie of the Year in 2011.

"Ryan is a diverse driver," said Brandon Dickson, Insight Racing team manager. "If he keeps his head on straight and he takes advantage of his teammates around him who have years and years of experience I think Ryan's career can go really far."

This year Ryan is set to burn up the racetrack on April 27-29 at the Homestead-Miami Speedway where he'll be driving for Insight Racing. He will do so with the spirit of his grandfathers by his side. All three grandfathers — his two biological grandfathers and step-grandfather — names are marked on his helmet.

But despite having the skill to drive with the pros, Ryan says the financial expense of motorsports is weighing on his family.

Also a college student at George Mason University, Ryan is studying marketing and hopes to use his education to learn more about the sponsorship side of motorsports.

"As far as financially, it's been really taxing on our family because it's really hard for us to find the money to really be doing it each season," Ryan said, who works as an after-school instructor for elementary students to pay bills. "But I've been lucky enough the last couple years to find race teams that really will give me a chance even with a low budget to prove what I can do and see if I can be a permanent part of their organization."

The cost to race for a weekend with Ryan's schedule can run, he says, anywhere from \$8,000 to \$15,000. Ryan is hoping to find more sponsorship to subsidize his career and/or eventually become a paid driver. In motorsports each driver finds creative ways to fund their racing career.

"Some people come from money. Some people have their family money to back them up," Dickson said. "Some peo-

ple go out and hit the street and they find sponsors."

Ryan's parents say they try not to think about the total amount they have invested in their son's racing career. The potential hazards on the track are enough to keep Ryan's mother occupied in the stands.

"My daughter always says she tries to stay away from me because I accidentally punch people if something scary is about to happen," said Jane Ellis, Ryan's mother.

"I think my daughter is scared more. She screamed lots of times," said Hayashi about Ryan's mother.

Their concerns about Ryan's safety are not unfounded. Last year his car caught fire twice — in two different incidents — on the track. His mother was watching for one of the races.

But not every Ellis is nervous to watch him race.

"I don't get nervous so much as I get anxious just because I know this is a fleeting opportunity that will come and go if we don't capitalize on it," Jim said. "I had an opportunity to pursue professional racing. I had a couple different opportunities, but I just didn't have the financial backing that Ryan enjoys at that point in my life."

To cut costs, Ryan and his father are driving to races when they can since they pay out of pocket for their travel expenses. Ryan will be racing nearly every other weekend from late April until the end of September.

"We're hoping that he's getting enough of a reputation on the circuit," said Jane. "As well as he's doing, I hate to pull the plug on him at this point."

For now as long as Ryan can finance his racing on the weekends, he'll be happy.

"I could work at an ice cream shop on the weekdays and still be able to race, I'd be happy," Ryan said. ■

For more information about Ryan Ellis and his racing schedule, visit www.ryanellismotorsports.com.

'I could work at an ice cream shop on the weekdays and still be able to race, I'd be happy.'

NEW DOCUMENTARY TO FOCUS ON MOTHERS OF POSTON



At Poston (left), Misako Shigekawa had two children Marlene (baby on lap) and brother Gerald. Now Marlene (right, center), with her daughter Quincy Godin and Misako, is producing a new documentary about mothers raising children in camp.

Stories of Japanese American women's struggles to raise children in the World War II desert prison give importance to preservation efforts.

By Christine McFadden, Correspondent

As a child, Marlene Shigekawa did not know the true nature of her birthplace.

"When I was younger, I would ask where I was born, and my mom would say, 'Poston,'" said Shigekawa. "But it was like some mysterious place."

Her mother, Misako, gave birth to two children while incarcerated in Poston, the largest of the WWII Japanese American camps near Parker, Ariz. Separated by three sites each 1-3 miles apart, Poston once incarcerated over 18,000.

"Other friends could point to the hospital where they were born," she said. "Poston was like some mystery in Arizona."

Now Shigekawa spends time trying to find connections at Poston.

A Poston Community Alliance board member, Shigekawa is producing a documentary on Poston's mothers and babies focused on the perspective of women who gave birth and raised children in camp.

"Specifically, mothers and babies from Poston are significant because they represent the very transition of a generation and it meant that the internment 'stamp' was indelibly being left on two generations instead of just one," said Daryl Brown, another Poston Community Alliance board member. His mother was born in Camp 1.

Kodomo no tame ni

The subject of the Poston documentary is a unique one, born from personal experiences.

Shigekawa and Dr. Ruth Okimoto, a Poston Community Alliance board member who spent three years in Camp 3 as a child, came up with the idea together.

"We talked about how we couldn't imagine how it was to have raised a child and also give birth [in camp]," said Shigekawa.

What kept everyone together in camp? What provided hope?

Many Japanese Americans adopted the expression *Kodomo no tame ni* or "For the sake of the children" while incarcerated during WWII, especially the mothers in the camps.

Misako, now 103, who was five months pregnant with a baby boy when she was uprooted from her home and forced into Poston, will be featured in the documentary.

Misako gave birth in Poston Camp 1.

"She told me how when she got off the train, she was so thirsty," said Shigekawa about her mother. "My father gave her water, but it was full of mud because they had just begun to transfer water from the Colorado River."

Another time a milk truck, crucial to mothers raising young children, was hijacked.

Not only was it difficult to give birth and raise children in camp due to adverse climate and health conditions, but there was little to no privacy as well.

"She told me of another woman who was giving birth, and there were no curtains," said Shigekawa.

While trying to maintain a sense of normalcy, Poston mothers faced additional stress in the face of "this oppressive environment, being in prison, and being violated in terms of not having civil rights," she added.

Dianne Kiyomoto, also a Poston Community Alliance board member, has been providing historical information for the film. There was a stark contrast between how Parker residents perceived the quality of life in the camp and what JAs experienced, she said.

"Having the documentary made will help to dispel the rumors of the 'pampered' living conditions thought by some," said Kiyomoto.

So far, three mothers have been found to include in the documentary. The filmmakers are searching for additional mothers or (now grown) babies of Poston. Production has just begun with a target completion date of June 2013.

The film is directed by Joe Fox and James Nubile, who previously directed the documentary "Passing Poston: An American Story" in 2008. Shigekawa hopes that the film's "universal theme" will help to "shed light on the camp experience," through film festivals and public television.

"The whole internment experience occupies far too small a piece of our educational curriculum in America, and efforts like this documentary and other initiatives at the Poston Community Alliance are working to create historical infrastructure so that the generation of my children and grandchildren will benefit from the knowledge surrounding this important piece of our country's past," said Brown.

Bringing Back the Barrack

Preservationists are also working to enhance Poston's historical infrastructure by returning an original barrack to

Camp 1. The site currently contains a monument and adobe classrooms built by the JAs in the camp. An original auditorium, which was previously standing, was vandalized and burnt down.

Okimoto spearheaded the Poston Restoration Project that set aside 80 acres of reservation land for restoration. A National Park Service grant was successfully acquired in 2011 for preservation efforts.

A few years ago, a local resident donated an original barrack. The two-tiered roofed barrack, which belonged to Virginia Ramsey, is considered a historic structure. While some former barracks were remodeled to look like homes, Ramsey used the structure mostly for storage and kept it close to its original state.

The Alliance is hoping to return the barrack to Camp 1 with future plans to build a visitor's center and a museum.

The barrack is located in the town of Parker, Arizona, about 15 miles away, so moving has proven to be a difficult task. Required by the National Park Service to hire a consultant to help develop a moving plan, the barrack first needs to be physically stabilized before the move can begin.

An additional \$10,000 is needed to stabilize the barrack.

"It's one step in a larger effort to begin developing a master plan for a whole site," Shigekawa said. The site has been recommended to be a National Historic Landmark and is currently awaiting approval from the Secretary of the Interior.

The deadline for raising the funds to return the barrack to Poston is May 15 due to the grant's constraints.

"We hope that the families are interested in our project and want to help us to ensure that future generations will be able to see the 'remaining' structures of Poston that were constructed by the hands and labor of their Japanese ancestors," said Kiyomoto. "We cannot let this important evidence of the camps be neglected and destroyed by erosion and time." ■

Poston Mothers and Children

The Poston Community Alliance is searching for former internees who were mothers during their time of incarceration at Poston and also their children to participate in this new documentary film.

Contact: Marlene Shigekawa, producer, marshige@comcast.net

Save Poston

To help move the original barrack back to Poston Camp 1, please send tax-deductible donations to: Marlene Shigekawa, Treasurer, Poston Community Alliance, 956 Hawthorne Dr., Lafayette, CA 94549.

LOS ANGELES RIOTS: A COMMUNITY REVISITED 20 YEARS LATER



Korean American storeowners (left) barricade one of their businesses as the riots rage on in 1992. For six days Los Angeles burned with property damage reaching \$1 billion.

The 20th anniversary of the Los Angeles riots is being commemorated by events across the country.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

It was 20 years ago that images of a city aflame in chaos were aired across the country following the verdict in the now infamous Rodney King case.

King led California Highway Patrol on March 3, 1991, on a high-speed chase. Grainy video footage captured by nearby resident George Holliday was aired across the country, showing King being apprehended and excessively beaten by police officers.

A jury of ten whites, one Latino and one Filipino American about a year later acquitted four of the police officers charged in the beating of King.

The verdict enraged the African American community and ignited the April 29, 1992, uprisings in Los Angeles, Calif. The six days of rebellion ended with over 50 people killed and over 1,000 businesses destroyed.

When the riots ended on May 4 the price tag for the property damage reached over \$1 billion.

The anniversary comes as many Los Angeles residents say there has been progress in race relations since the 1992 riots and they feel safer in the city compared to 20 years ago.

A new study released by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles shows that 38 percent of those polled feel safer in the city since the riots broke out 20 years ago.

Phone surveys of Los Angeles residents were conducted in 1997, 2002, 2007 and 2012. This year about 400 white, 400 African American, 400 Latino and 400 Korean Americans were polled via telephone to get their views on the state of Los Angeles since the 1992 uprisings.

When asked about the progress made in race relations in Los Angeles since 1992, most said there has been "some

progress." Others — 28 percent of African Americans, 19 percent of Asian Americans, 17 percent of whites and 23 percent of Latinos — said there has been "little progress."

"I think most citizens in L.A. say they feel safer since 1992," said Hunt, a professor of sociology and director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA. "But African Americans in particular seem to be a little bit more cynical about the degree to which they feel safer in L.A. and the degree to which things have gotten better. So it's kind of a mixed bag."

High profile cases like the Trayvon Martin case, Hunt says, which is making headlines nationwide is an example of the continuing frustrations people have about the criminal justice system.

Hunt co-edited a special commemorative issue of the *Amerasia Journal* with fellow University of California, Los Angeles professor David K. Yoo. The issue is a chance to discuss the lessons learned from 1992 and the underlying societal factors that could create racial tensions or societal unrest today.

"I think that many of the tensions from 1992 have been ameliorated thanks to the efforts of various community based organizations like KIWA or KYCC or NAKASEC or different church groups but the gross economic inequalities that plagued the inner city remain intact," said Jean-Paul de Guzman, a San Fernando JACler who also contributed to the *Amerasia Journal* special issue. "L.A. has changed dramatically with increasing Latino and Asian migration. This has bred new issues regarding race in L.A. around questions of immigrant and labor rights in the face of rising nativism."

Community groups nationwide are commemorating the 20th anniversary of the riots by reflecting on the state of race relations in the country and Los Angeles today. For Korean Americans the day when the Los Angeles uprisings began is remembered as Sa-I-Gu, meaning April 29.

"I was born in '88. But because I grew up in the suburbs out in Rowland Heights I didn't experience the riots personally either," said Esther Park, 4.29 community outreach coordinator at the Korean American Coalition, or KACLA. "I think on a really sort of larger scale that younger people,

at least our generation, we don't think as much in terms of racial boundaries as we used to. But as far as L.A. as a community is concerned it's really easy to sort of set our history aside in favor of the day-to-day troubles that face us."

KACLA is commemorating the 20th anniversary of the 1992 uprisings by holding an essay contest on diversity, which is open to Los Angeles students from the seventh to 12th grades. A total of \$10,000 in cash scholarships will be given out when the winners are announced at an awards luncheon on April 29.

Some Korean American community groups see the 20th anniversary of the L.A. riots as an opportunity to educate younger generations.

"I think this is a perfect opportunity for younger generations to learn about what happened 20 years ago and hopefully have some impact on their future lives," said Edward Chang, the director of the Young Oak Kim Center, or YOK Center, at the University of Riverside.

The YOK Center received a grant of \$20,000 from the Korea Foundation to hold an April 28 symposium reflecting on the 20th anniversary of the 1992 uprisings.

While two decades have passed since the L.A. uprisings, many say there are still improvements to be made.

"We certainly haven't dealt with all of the problems," said Hunt. "A lot of the underlying tensions that I argued contributed to 1992 like the frustration that people have about their position in the economy, their status in the criminal justice system and whether or not there's fairness and equity — a lot of those questions remain particularly for racial minorities." ■

'I think this a perfect opportunity for younger generations to learn about what happened 20 years ago and hopefully have some impact on their future lives.'

FORMER MAYOR BARRY APOLOGIZES FOR COMMENT ON ASIAN BUSINESSES

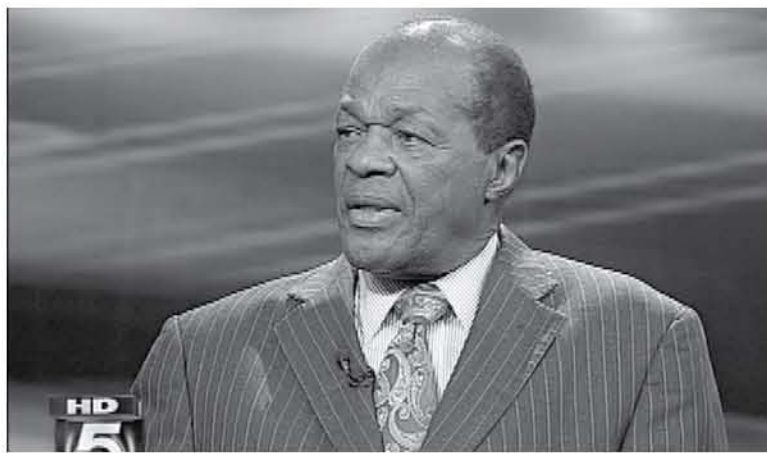
Asian American groups, including JACL, continue to press for further dialogue.

By Associated Press
and P.C. Staff

WASHINGTON—Just after yet another decisive electoral victory, D.C. Councilman Marion Barry is once again embroiled in controversy, this time for remarks disparaging Asian-owned businesses in his poor, majority-black ward.

At his primary election victory party recently, Barry said: "We got to do something about these Asians coming in and opening up businesses and dirty shops. ... They ought to go. I'm going to say that right now. But we need African American businesspeople to be able to take their places, too." His comments were first reported by WRC-TV. Barry apologized two days later for the comments.

"I want to express my deep apology for offending some members of the Asian community and the D.C. community," Barry said in



an interview with The Associated Press. "I have a solid record of relationships with the Asian community."

The former mayor won the Democratic primary for his Ward 8 council seat with 73 percent of the vote, all but assuring him of another four-year term.

Along with many of his colleagues, Asian American lawmakers in Maryland and various Asian American organizations condemned his remarks.

"D.C. Councilman Barry needs a lesson in community healing rather than fueling the fire of racial divide," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori. "While business development has no color lines, the process in the 8th Ward

requires a sensitive merging of the needs of all who are participating. Barry's comments were insensitive and disappointing from a man who sees himself as a civil rights leader. He needs to do as he says rather than condemn others who are struggling to make their way in a difficult economic atmosphere."

JACL is calling on Barry to establish a "productive and racially-sensitive community dialogue that focuses on solutions, rather than vilifying Asian-owned businesses."

"I am deeply disappointed in Marion Barry's remarks which singled out Asian American owned businesses to be driven from the community," said Congresswoman Judy Chu, CA-32, and chair of

the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. "His language is inexcusable, especially in a city as diverse as our nation's capital. Councilman Barry's comments are unbecoming of an elected official, and I urge him to pursue a more inclusive approach that appreciates the contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community."

Barry, 76, served four terms as mayor, a tenure interrupted by his six-month term in federal prison on a drug charge.

Since his return to the council in 2004, he has developed a reputation for racially charged statements. During a recent radio appearance, he said he didn't like the architectural firm recommended to build a new public high school because it was "all-white." And with Mayor Vincent Gray and Kwame Brown under federal investigation for possible campaign misdeeds, he has suggested that black politicians are more heavily scrutinized than their white counterparts.

Washington has long been a majority-black city, but the white and Asian populations are growing. African Americans made up just 50 percent of the district's popula-

>>See MAYOR BARRY pg. 15

KAWAMOTO

>>continued from pg. 2

ramen noodles at the "Best Japanese restaurant in Seattle," Boom Noodles. Unfortunately, we didn't have the time to wait in line to eat at the obviously popular dim sum establishment nearby.

The shopping mall which is connected to the hotel has several "anchor" department stores and numerous other shops and eateries. Also connected by a skybridge is Lincoln Center where there is a multi-cinema playing the latest movies, a bowling alley with a large video game room, and a billiards parlor.

For the JACLers arriving early, there is a park a couple of blocks from the hotel which will have 4th of July fireworks. Carol and I plan to be at the park to watch the fireworks display.

As you can tell, I was very impressed with the hotel, the local food and the other facilities. There will be plenty of things to do for all the "boosters" who will be accompanying the delegates to this year's national convention.

Please plan to attend the 43rd National JACL Convention in Bellevue, Washington July 5 to 8. You can register now at www.jacl.org/2012. I look forward to seeing everyone there. ■

REGISTRATION FORM

Online: To register online visit <http://www.jacl.org/2012>

By Mail: A separate form must be completed for each individual registration. Additional registration forms are available online, or by email at info@jaclseattle.org, or by calling (206) 623-5088. Convention Package \$250 (\$300 after June 1st) Youth/Student Package (for ages 25 and under) \$200 (\$250 after June 1st)

Both packages include the Welcome Mixer, Awards Luncheon, Youth Luncheon, Workshops, Continental Breakfast, Sayonara Banquet & Dance. These events can also be purchased individually (see below).

Last, First _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

E-mail _____

JACL Chapter _____

Vegetarian Meals: Yes _____ No _____

Special Requests _____

Please select which workshop(s) you are most interested in:

- ☐ Health Disparities
- ☐ The Power of Words
- ☐ Serving Nikkei Seniors
- ☐ The Jubilee Project
- ☐ Identity is not a Math Equation
- ☐ Environmental Justice
- ☐ Breaking the Silence
- ☐ Youth Council
- ☐ JACL Membership
- ☐ Preserving Community Treasures
- ☐ Legal System & Civil Rights
- ☐ Health & Wellness Fair
- ☐ JACL Priorities

* Notice: For workshop descriptions, please check www.jacl.org/2012.

Convention Package	Early Bird	After June 1 st
(incl Conference).....	\$250	\$300
Youth Convention Package	Early Bird	After June 1 st
(incl Conference).....	\$200	\$250
Individual Events	Early Bird	After June 1 st
Welcome Mixer.....	\$40	\$55
(Youth/Student).....	\$35*	\$50*
Awards Luncheon.....	\$75	\$90
(Youth/Student).....	\$60*	\$75*
Youth Mixer.....	\$75	\$90
(Youth/Student).....	\$60*	\$75*
(Youth Member).....	\$55**	\$60**
Sayonara Banquet/Dance.....	\$150	\$175
(Youth/Student).....	\$100*	\$125*
Workshops.....	\$25	\$40
(Youth/Student).....	\$25*	\$40*

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be received by June 1, 2012 for a 100% refund. Cancellations received between June 2, 2012 and July 2, 2012 will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be issued for cancellations after July 2, 2012.



METHOD OF PAYMENT

Payment and this form due by May 1, 2012 to:

JACL National Convention
Attn: Registration

3213 W. Wheeler St. #2
Seattle, WA 98199
206-623-5088
registration@jacl.org

Credit Card

- ☐ Mastercard ☐ AmEx
☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Security Code _____

Expiration Date (mo/yr) _____

Cardholder Signature _____

FORENSIC ANALYSIS COULD SAVE ICONIC HEART MOUNTAIN SMOKESTACK

The stack dates back to 1942 when the Heart Mountain Internment Camp first opened.

*By Martin Kidston,
The Billings Gazette*

HEART MOUNTAIN, Wyo.—They're here to cut, drill and dig their way through time. More precisely, they're here to get a better understanding of what time has done to an iconic smokestack.

Over the past 70 years, the Wyoming wind has battered the stack, which dates to 1942 when the Heart Mountain Internment Camp held thousands of Americans of Japanese ancestry behind barbed wire.

The summer sun has baked the stack's smooth, red brick. Deep winter freezes have opened cracks in the mortar. Time is taking a toll on the historic structure, and the race is on to save it from collapse.

"That chimney, it bends," said Steve Leger, director of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center. "They're doing a real scientific investigation of what's going on and what we need to do to keep it from falling down."

The stack stands 75 feet above the high Wyoming desert. It weighs 185 tons. Like the Leaning Tower of Pisa, it's listing sharply to the east, the direction of the area's prevailing winds.

Larry Graham of WJE, an engineering and materials science firm based in Connecticut, stepped away from the stack one day recently and looked into the Wyoming sky.

He noted the stack's curve, which begins about halfway up the structure and continues until it's 18 inches off plumb at the top.

"We're trying to figure out what's causing it to do that," Graham said with a tone of cu-



The iconic Heart Mountain smokestack is in desperate need of repair.

riosity. "We're conducting a forensic analysis to determine what's causing the stack to bend."

Graham and his forensic coworker, Jaret Lynch, are hard at work. Lynch squats in the belly of the stack, cutting a sample of brick, which they'll take back to their East Coast lab and analyze in detail.

"We'll test the strength of the brick," Lynch said, emerging from the hole covered in a fine, red dust. "We'll look at what the mortar is made of and what the brick is made of."

Inserted on the stack's exterior, an instrument resembling a telephone jack is read-

ing moisture levels in the mortar. WJE has already taken core samples of the concrete foundation, along with earth samples from the ground surrounding the structure.

More devices have been wedged in cracks in the brick. One crack runs horizontally, the other vertically. The instruments, called potentiometers, measure movement within the structure.

"It's moving with the wind gusts, but not very much," said Lynch, scratching his head for a number. "It's like 1,000th of an inch right now. We think the horizontal crack moves a little more in the wind."

Seventy years ago, the Heart Mountain In-

ternment Camp became Wyoming's fourth-largest city. At its height, it housed more than 10,000 Japanese Americans in cramped and difficult living conditions.

The stack stood above the camp, as it stands today above the smattering of buildings that remain. The old boiler house is there, covered in tarpaper and connected to the stack by a small, rusting flue.

The coal chute is still visible, as are the windows that opened onto the boiler. It's easy to imagine workers shoveling coal, heating the boilers that in turn heated the camp's hospital.

The smokestack and boiler house, and the empty foundations surrounding it, look bleak and abandoned. But the National Park Service has called this the most intact hospital complex remaining at any of the 10 relocation camps built in the U.S. in the 1940s.

The stack's significance hasn't been overlooked by local, state and federal officials. When the stack first became threatened in the 1970s, local citizens rallied to save the structure from demolition.

In the '90s, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation formed, looking to preserve the former camp as a historic site. Starting in 2002, state and federal agencies pitched in by funding studies aimed at developing a long-term preservation plan.

Some of that work took place recently when WJE arrived to conduct the forensic analysis. Once the company's report is filed, funding will be sought to help preserve the stack and keep it from falling down.

The work may include foundation repairs, repointing the brick so the stack stands vertical, and lining the chimney's interior to help strengthen the overall structure.

"It's become something of an icon for the area — a landmark," Leger said. "Next spring, stabilization and restoration work may begin, based upon the findings of these tests." ■

GOVERNOR SIGNS CEDED LANDS SETTLEMENT APPROVED BY LEGISLATURE

By Associated Press

HONOLULU—Gov. Neil Abercrombie put his signature on a historic \$200 million settlement between the state and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs on April 11.

The signing ceremony at Washington Place, the former home of Hawaii's last reigning monarch Queen Liliuokalani, ended a decades-long dispute between the state and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The Hawaii legislature approved the settlement March 30.

Since 1978, OHA has been trying to get its share of revenue from state lands once owned by the former Hawaiian monarchy and now part of the public land trust.

A \$200 million Kakaako Makai real estate transfer settles all back payments and will allow OHA to move forward in its mission to elevate the status of Native Hawaiians.

"We want a place that will represent our cultural well-being here. We want to be the



The historic signing took place at Washington Place, former home of the queen.

first nation or the first people of this land," said OHA Chairwoman Collette Machado, after the settlement survived its final vote in the Legislature unamended.

OHA has been holding public meetings with stakeholders since the tentative settlement agreement was announced in November. However, there's no formal plan for the land yet because, as Machado put

it, OHA didn't want to count its chickens before they hatched.

She said a solid plan will be in place by the end of June, taking into account input from OHA's Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, as well as the tenants and other stakeholders in the Kakaako waterfront property the agency will be taking over.

"We don't want to leave anyone out. It

would be really insensitive, not because we won today, but because we need to be sensitive to work with those who have put heart and soul into managing an area they feel is their home, too," Machado said.

Gov. Neil Abercrombie was emotional after the historic vote March 30. "Today we've taken a great step forward," he said in the Capitol rotunda. "We're in the shadow of Queen Liliuokalani, whose statue gazes at us as we speak now."

"We've established a foundation for the future, not just of Native Hawaiians, but all of Hawaii," Abercrombie said.

The governor believes the land's value will increase soon. The area will then have stewardship that is both respectful and visionary, he explained.

"We're going to have a third city there. This is going to be the core of urban Honolulu," Abercrombie described. "This is going to be the rejuvenation of Native Hawaiians in terms of having a central role in determining their own destiny." ■



FOR THE RECORD LESSONS LEARNED

By John Tateishi

In the Spring of 2010, a Chicago high school senior named Remy Hidak worked for a month as an intern at the JACL's Mid-

west office researching hate crime incidents and compiling a report for the "Network Update," the JACL's publication on the organization's hate crimes program.

Under the guidance of Christine Munteanu, the very talented Ford Program Fellow in the JACL's Chicago office, Remy's internship was a community service project in which seniors at her school found work outside the school and defined the goals they sought to achieve during their internship. She describes two friends who chose dance and medicine. Remy chose to examine racial discrimination.

My guess is that she approached Bill Yoshino about the JACL's work and Bill assigned her to work with Christine on putting together the "Network Update," which is published courtesy of the Ford Fund's annual grant that supports the JACL's Tolerance Program, under which our hate crimes watch is maintained.

It was in May 2010 that Remy did her internship, and there was something about her report in the "Update" that made me want to save it. I re-read her article the other day and was struck with the same reaction I must have had when I first read it. I'm touched by her raw honesty and innocence, and saddened by her realization that there is so much hate out

there against Asian Americans.

Hers is a sad commentary on learning one of life's harsh lessons if you're not white in America: there are those in society who, by virtue of nothing more than the color of their skin, think they are somehow superior to those with darker skin coloring.

At its extreme and by definition, anyone who thinks thus is a white supremacist. "I'm white, I'm superior." It's a twisted logic. The part of that syllogism that's missing is, "Therefore I'm stupid."

Short of that extreme, it describes someone who's a racist. But then, racists come in all kinds of colors.

Racism has no special boundaries. We all know that Japanese Americans and Asian Pacific Americans and other people of color can be racist as well. But as Remy learned, those who are intent on doing us harm are too often white racists.

For some, it's part of being human, this need to think of one's self as better than others. It's part of a defense mechanism that, for some reason, is the only way some people can compensate for their own failings or inadequacies. It's what makes them whole. It's a sad commentary on the human race.

We're all aware that it exists, this flaw of the human heart, and we know that too often, it's directed at Asian Americans. Racism is, after all, one of the constant battles the JACL fights against and is one of its *raison d'être*. We have an entire program — our signature centerpiece as a civil rights organization — built around the idea of racists out there who dislike Asians, and Remy landed right in the heart of that particular beast.

I remember when I first read her article in the "Update." I was struck by how significantly her world had changed by the experience of scanning the news and reading about incidents here and there around the country targeting Asians as objects of hate. She described it as "horrifying to read about people committing hate crimes" and the experience of doing so a "wake up call."

I wondered if parts of her world were shattered from learning that some people just don't like us for no other reason than that we're Asian.

Innocence lost; lessons learned.

I wish Remy could have continued to live in the world she knew before she did that internship. But life isn't like that. We learn, we change, we move on. Most of us never encounter hate in the dimensions she read about in her research. I have, but that's only because in much of my life's work I've had to deal with racists and, at times, supremacists.

But American society is changing and there is generally a greater acceptance of APAs today than there was even as few as ten years ago.

Racism still exists, of course. It always will, especially in a society as diverse as ours. There will always be those who believe in their own racial superiority at the exclusion of others.

And there will always be the Remy's of the world who, hopefully, will only encounter racism and its extremes in the abstract. After all, why dwell in the muck if you don't have to? ■

John Tateishi is a former JACL national director.

THE RIGHT PLACE THE CYNICAL POLITICS OF OUTRAGE

By James Kumpel

It does not take a rocket scientist to recognize crude cynicism in the politics of outrage practiced in this presidential election year. Liberals are still smarting from the raucous town hall meetings in 2009 that spooked huge Democratic majorities in Congress to just barely pass a healthcare law that greatly diverged from their single payer ideal. They tarred Tea Party activists — worried about the \$5 trillion in additional debt added by the current administration — as racists, hell-bent on starving the poor.

In this very slow growth economic recovery, the ranks of the unemployed, underemployed and discouraged workers (who have stopped looking for jobs) have remained stubbornly high with an official unemployment rate above that of late 2008. The "Occupy" phenomenon that emerged last September was egged on by Democratic politicians aiming at a grassroots movement to counter the Tea Party. By targeting the top 1 percent earners in this country, protesters hope to motivate the masses of new graduates who face an increasingly challenging job market, as well as other progressive interest groups with diverse and divergent purposes. If "hope and change" does not resonate after three plus years of the Obama Administration, at least pick an easy target, then divide and conquer.

That said, this year has featured a particularly odious brand

of polarization. In an attempt to drive a gender gap wedge issue, the Obama Administration mandated that all employer-provided healthcare plans include contraceptive and abortion drug coverage, even when such a policy clearly violated basic tenets of self-insured religious organizations. That overreach opened the door for Republicans to claim a Democratic "War on Religion" that demonstrated an Executive Branch hostility to Catholics. Then, Rush Limbaugh decided to up the ante by engaging in horribly misogynistic ad hominem attacks on a female Georgetown law student testifying before a Democratic congressional group. Thus started Democrats' cries that Republicans were really waging a "War on Women". In trying to fire up their bases, both parties demonstrated the cynical nature of self-righteous indignation.

Then, in March, news broke about the killing of a 17-year old African American in Florida by a neighborhood watch-coordinator. This was a genuine tragedy for the family and for the community. The circumstances of the case, however, exposed some of the worst tendencies of the media and various demagogues. Clearly, the Sanford Police Department mishandled the case by releasing the gunman on the basis of his own testimony. However, there has been a dangerous tabloid mentality that has heightened racial tensions. The

killing of this young man has been used as a tool for some

MSNBC hosts to exploit for their own personal and political gains. Meanwhile, vigilantism and copycat crimes have been committed in the wake of this media maelstrom.

The politics of outrage is in full force this presidential election year to rally voter blocs, by gender, race, religion and ethnicity. It is against this depressing backdrop that I express my appreciation to the JACL and Asian American leaders for their forceful and timely responses to Rep. Pete Hoekstra's misguided and racially tinged Super Bowl advertisement and former D.C. Mayor Marion Barry's bizarre anti-Asian remarks.

The JACL did not take the bait to ratchet up racial tensions, but effectively attacked ignorance, provided context, and won in the court of public opinion. Given the current environment, it would be nice if the media, politicians, and other public figures acted in a similarly responsible manner. ■

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



HEEJUN HAN ON LIFE AFTER 'AMERICAN IDOL'

After his elimination, Heejun Han said he'd watch the rival NBC show "The Voice" in an exit interview that will go down in "American Idol" history.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

He was eliminated from "American Idol" and chastised by a judge for not taking the competition seriously, but weeks after his elimination Heejun Han still hasn't lost his sense of humor.

Now back in his home state of New York, the 22-year-old Korean American is spending time with his family and fans of FOX's "American Idol" will get another dose of Han's zany antics on the show's summer tour.

Throughout Season 11, Han showcased his comic wit. During the auditions he poked fun at the cowboy-hat-wearing contestant Richie Lawson who he aptly called "cowboy." Judge Steven Tyler, however, grew tired of Han's jokey attitude after the Korean American ripped off his shirt on stage during his Billy Joel performance. Tyler told Han he "took the piss out" of the song.

But Han didn't just provide comic relief to the singing competition. He proved to be a smooth crooner and made it to the top nine in the competition. Despite his singing prowess, Han was eliminated on March 29. In true Han fashion, in his "American Idol" exit interview he cracked jokes and promoted the rival NBC show "The Voice."

Han phoned the *Pacific Citizen* from New York to talk about his experience on "American Idol" and address Internet rumors that he'll now star in a sitcom.

Now that you're back in New York have you been able to visit your family and slow down a bit?

I've been just catching up with my family and I've been doing a lot of local press and I've been doing a lot of phone interviews, but it was easier than when I was in L.A. So, I'm just kind of relaxing.

Is your mother more doing now?

Oh, my gosh! Tell me about it. I mean like now, now they're treating me like I'm their asset. Like they're trying to give me all of the good food.

You'd probably rather be on "American Idol," but I bet you're happy to be home.

Well, of course. But you know it's one of those things where I came here and they actually had a big, big, big press conference just for me in New York. I actually invited them all to the organization that I work at and it gives them great exposure. So those moments are great.

There's probably no better publicity for the nonprofit Mital Mission than "American Idol." That's why you auditioned, right?

Right. And then it worked out perfectly. Ninth place, second place it doesn't really matter as long as I can give them great exposure. I feel like I did enough for that. So I'm happy [laughs].

Have you been following "American Idol"

since you were eliminated?

I was going to follow it, but it's just that I fell asleep every time right before. So I just couldn't watch it. But I'll try watching it this week.

Who will you root for? Will you root for Philip?

I don't root for anyone since I'm out of the competition.

Really?

No, No. I was kidding. I root for everyone actually. Everyone's so talented. But if someone has to win I hope it's a girl this time. I mean guys have been winning, dominating for a couple of years now. So I just say: why not a girl?

Do people recognize you in your hometown now?

People who actually come up to you are really brave. But they just look at you like you're a monkey for like 20 minutes.

There are rumors online that you're getting a sitcom. Is there any truth to that?

People have been saying a lot of stuff. All the professionals in this industry actually said that to me, to be in a sitcom, and that's something that I just can't deny because they've been doing this for a while and they can call which one ... is right for this industry. And I feel like I should definitely take that into consideration.

Steven Tyler had issue with your jokey personality. Are you a jokester in your day-to-day life?

I'm just a guy who's trying to do my own thing. I'm not even trying to be funny. If you put some ordinary, normal guy on that show he would do the same thing. It's just that they took it the wrong way because they never had a person like me on that show. They always had someone who's so serious about singing, someone who's been wanting to do this for their life as a singer, people who are really passionate singers.

But I'm not even trying to be funny. I'm just trying to be myself. But I think it came out wrong.

You say you're a 'normal guy' but you handled the press and live performances like a professional. Others might have been overwhelmed.

It's because when you're so serious about it and when you're thinking too much about it saying, "Oh, my God if I say something like this, what would they say?" or "If I sing something like this, what would they say?"

But for me it was all about just having fun and enjoying the moment because ... the spot that I was in was something more than I totally deserved. So, might as well have fun with it and enjoy every moment of it.

I read that before "American Idol" you tried to have a career in South Korea. Is that right?

But that didn't go well. I tried out for like two years on my own and it didn't work well. And that's when I caught up with my depression.

How severe was your depression?

Well, the thing is when you are in Korea you have to serve [in the] military for two years mandatory, if you're a male. And then before you go into that you just have to have yourself checked with doctors before. While I was doing my mental check they told me that I have depression.

Do you still get depressed?

No, not right now. I'm fine [laughs]. I'm like the happiest person in this world right now.

What do you do in your free time now?

Yesterday I went out to watch movies with my friend. And couple of days ago I went to Atlantic City and I won like \$500. I think I'm going to go back. I think this should be my career.

You haven't ditched your old friends for famous friends?

What?!? I don't have any famous friends.

What movie did you see?

I went to "Hunger Games." But it was so funny because "Hunger Games" was the same thing as "American Idol" except for the killing, and parachute and J-Lo — everything is the same.

Do you get your sense of humor from your parents?

No. They're not funny. I think I was really, really huge and fat a couple of years ago and no one wanted to talk to me. So without even me noticing it I kind of developed my humor skills so people would at least talk to me.

You were heavy?

Yeah. A long time ago I was like the biggest kid in the whole world.

Do you have any advice for young Asian Americans who want to be singers?

Study your butt off and it'll pay off. I was kidding. Entertaining people is the hardest thing you could ever do in your life. But first you have to entertain yourself. You have to be happy with yourself in order for you to make them happy.

Are we going to see on tour a serious Heejun or a jokey Heejun?

Oh, my God. On tour it's going to be the craziest, craziest Heejun you've ever seen in your life. We're going to have a dinosaur, lion, elephant and fireworks and everything. ■



JUNICHI SUZUKI'S NEW DOCUMENTARY TELLS UNTOLD MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE STORY



Brigadier General Frank D. Merrill with two of his Nisei interpreters, Technical Sergeant Herbert Miyasaki (left) and Technical Sergeant Akiji Yoshimura.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A new documentary chronicles the story of Japanese Americans who served in the Military Intelligence Service, a story that was untold for many years because of the secrecy of their work.

Director Junichi Suzuki's film "MIS: Human Secret Weapon" features historical black and white footage, documents and firsthand accounts from the Japanese Americans who conducted highly classified intelligence work during World War II.

"This film will give them a lot of historical and educational information that people have never heard or seen," said Suzuki. "MIS, Military Intelligence Service, were unknown to people, even to Nikkeijin. Japanese people don't know how much Nikkeijin contributed to the fact that they could get over defeat and rebuild the foundation of the nation in such a short period of time."

Suzuki also directed the documentaries "442: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity" and "Toyo's Camera." This newest film "MIS: Human Secret Weapon" will open in select theaters in New York, Hawaii and California throughout April and May.

The documentary begins with actress Tamlyn Tomita describing through her tears the heroics of the MIS.

Beginning with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, "MIS: Human Secret Weapon" tells the story of the unjust incarceration of some 120,000 people of Japanese descent through interviews with MIS veterans like Grant Ichikawa, 92, who was with his family at Gila River when military recruiters arrived.

Veterans also recalled in the documentary the discrimination they faced in the military such as seeing almost all of their fellow white soldiers graduate from MIS language school to become officers, unlike the Nisei.

Other interviews in the film include U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono, former Hawaii Gov. George Ariyoshi, U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, and ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro, among others.

Some 6,000 Japanese American soldiers served in the MIS, many did so while their families were unjustly incarcerated behind barbed-wired fences.

The MIS served in small groups or were attached as individuals to U.S. or allied units. They translated Japanese documents, inter-

cepted radio transmission and interrogated prisoners of war, among other things. Following the end of WWII the occupational forces in Japan were assisted by the MIS in the post-WWII reconstruction of Japan to a democratic form of government.

The film recreates the journey of the MIS, including firsthand accounts from veterans like Thomas Sakamoto, 83, of the devastation in Japan following the dropping of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima.

Due to the sensitive nature of their wartime operations, the MIS were unable to discuss their WWII work until the passage in 1974 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The "MIS: Human Secret Weapon" filmmaker says he hopes to introduce to Japan and America the story of the MIS, which went untold for so many years due to their highly classified wartime work.

"Japan is thriving as a nation today, but this is greatly owed to the effort of Nikkeijin," Suzuki said. "I want to introduce the history of MIS to Japanese people, also, to American audience because the history of Nikkeijin is nothing but the history of America."

For more information about "MIS: Human Secret Weapon," visit <http://mis-film.com>. ■

SILVER STAR GIVEN TO FAMILY OF HAWAII SOLDIER

Tech. Sgt. Robert Ozaki was honored posthumously.

By Associated Press

HONOLULU —The military's third highest combat award for valor has been presented to the family of a Japanese American soldier

from Hawaii.

U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye presented the Silver Star to Tech. Sgt. Robert Ozaki's family on April 10. Ozaki led a bayonet charge against German forces in Italy in 1943.

The 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team of mainly Japanese American soldiers are well-known as the most decorated units from World War II for their size and length of service.

The *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* reports Inouye apologized on behalf of Congress for taking this long to recognize Ozaki's contributions.

Ozaki grew up in Kaimuki as a boxer and athlete who graduated from Iolani School. He fought in the war while his brother was interned in American detention camps. ■

NATIONAL NEWSBYTES

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

School District Passes Fred Korematsu Day Resolution



PASADENA, Calif. — The Pasadena Unified School District Board passed a resolution March 27 to commemorate Fred Korematsu Day every year.

The school district is the latest in a growing number of local government bodies that have passed such resolutions since California established Jan. 30 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties.

The Pasadena City Council passed a resolution last year.

The civil rights icon, who challenged the constitutionality of the World War II internment, was born Jan. 30, 1919.

Construction Starts on Asian American Resource Center

AUSTIN, Texas — City officials broke ground March 29 on construction of its new Asian American Resource Center to cater to the city's growing Asian Pacific American community.

In 2006, voters approved \$5 million in bonds to build the center, which also received a \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Economic Development.

The center will have a lobby, exhibition hall, assembly hall, classrooms and a meditation garden.

APAs make up 6.3 percent of the city's population.

Yale Faculty Uphold Rights at Singapore Campus

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut — Yale University professors have passed a resolution urging a planned joint campus with the National University of Singapore to protect human rights and political freedom.

The resolution expresses concern about what it calls a history of lacking respect for civil and political rights in Singapore.

Yale-NUS College will open next year with a class of about 150 students and eventually expand to 1,000 with degrees awarded by NUS. It's the first campus outside New Haven that Yale has developed.

NUS expressed disappointment with the resolution and views expressed before the vote. The university said issues of academic freedom and non-discrimination had been extensively discussed with Yale previously, and an agreement was reached to the satisfaction of both Yale and NUS.

"The college is committed to uphold the principles of academic freedom and open inquiry," NUS said in a statement. "The college's policies and judgments concerning the admission, education, and employment of individuals on their qualifications and abilities will be consistent with NUS' and Yale's policies on non-discrimination."

Lawsuit Claims BP Racism

NEW ORLEANS — A new class action lawsuit has been filed claiming that BP prohibited companies overseeing the Gulf Coast oil spill clean-up from hiring Vietnamese and Cambodian Americans.

The fishermen say in their complaint that BP's co-defendants limited the number of Vietnamese and Cambodian Americans that they hired.

Forty-one named Vietnamese and Cambodian American plaintiffs filed the class action in New Orleans.

The class claims that "the oil spill devastated the commercial fishing industry in the Gulf of Mexico, causing suffering and financial burdens to hundreds of thousands of people, especially to commercial fishermen. Over half of all active commercial fishermen affected by the BP oil spill were Asians of the Vietnamese and Cambodian origin." ■

APAS IN THE NEWS

By Pacific Citizen Staff

U.S.-Japan Council Announces New Senior Vice President

The U.S.-Japan Council has selected **Kaz Maniwa** to serve as the new senior vice president.

To take on the new position, Maniwa has closed his law practice after 36 years of operating in San Francisco.

Since 2009 Maniwa has been a board member with the U.S.-Japan Council. For the new position Maniwa will live and work in San Francisco. Maniwa will work on developing programs in education, leadership training, business, clean technology and women's issues, among other things.

The organization's mission is to strengthen U.S.-Japan relations.

JAVA's National Director to Retire



TERRY SHIMA

Terry Shima has announced his retirement as executive director of the Japanese American Veterans Association, according to an April 15 statement.

Shima, 89, will remain a member of JAVA's executive council and chair the education committee to help with the organization's NARA digitalization project.

Shima will remain executive director until June 30.

He was recently appointed to the Maryland Veterans Home Commission, becoming the first Asian American to be named to the five-year term position.

Asian Pacific American to Take Nevada Federal Bench

The U.S. Senate has confirmed the nomination of the first Asian Pacific American to serve on a federal court bench in Nevada.

Miranda Du won confirmation to the U.S. District Court bench in Nevada on March 28 on a 59-39 roll call vote.

The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Asian American Justice Center and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association praised the decision.

Senators Campaign Akaka's Induction Into State Order

U.S. Senator **Daniel K. Akaka** could be the next inductee into the Aloha Order of Merit.

A resolution introduced by nearly the entire Senate approves Akaka's selection to the order because of his statesmanship and his tireless work to improve Hawaii. A committee heard the resolution on March 30.

The Aloha Order of Merit was established in 1993 to honor individuals who have achieved national or international recognition in their fields and have provided extraordinary service or brought honor to Hawaii.

Akaka served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1976 to 1990, when he became the first Native Hawaiian elected to the U.S. Senate.

Rose Ochi Awarded Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award



ROSE OCHI

The Manzanar Committee has awarded a long-time pro bono legal counselor for the 2012 recipient of the **Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award**.

Rose Ochi, who was a key figure in the establishment of the Manzanar National Historic Site, was announced on April 2 as the award recipient. A native Los Angeles resident, Ochi was sent to Rohwer during World War II. The

award will be presented at the 43rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 28.

The award was named in honor of the late chair of the Manzanar Committee who was also a founder of the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage. ■

MINIDOKA PILGRIMAGE WILL TAKE PLACE JUNE 21-24 IN BOISE AND TWIN FALLS, IDAHO



Minidoka pilgrimage attendees take part in the annual event.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

This year the annual Minidoka Pilgrimage will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a Civil Liberties Symposium and various pilgrimage events from June 21-24.

The pilgrimage begins at Boise State University June 21 with a two-day Civil Liberties Symposium. Once the symposium concludes, the pilgrimage will head to Twin Falls, Idaho. Various pilgrimage events are scheduled including a guided tour of the Minidoka Internment National Monument by National Park Service staff. There will also be access to a barrack

building and mess hall which are now safe to enter.

The new collections storage building at Hagerman Fossil Beds is now complete and houses various Minidoka items that will be on display during the pilgrimage. There will also be a barbeque dinner hosted by the city of Eden and a commemorative closing ceremony at the Minidoka camp.

During World War II close to 13,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry, many of them U.S. citizens, were unjustly incarcerated at the Minidoka incarceration camp near Twin Falls, Idaho.

For more information about the Civil Liberties Symposium or to

register for the first day, contact Hanako Wakatsuki at info@minidoka.org. For information about the Minidoka pilgrimage go to www.minidokapilgrimage.org.

This year a special senior scholarship is being offered for pilgrimage attendees who are 80 years of age or older and were imprisoned in any of the WWII incarceration camps. Application forms are available at www.minidokapilgrimage.org.

For other questions or concerns, send emails to minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com

For those who do not have email or internet access, call Ann Fujii Lindwall at 206/367-8749. ■

VENICE JAPANESE MEMORIAL MARKER COMMITTEE TO COMMEMORATE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWII INTERNMENT

The event marks the anniversary when hundreds of JAs were sent to Manzanar from various local areas.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

In late April of 1942, about 1,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry from various Southern California cities like Venice, Santa Monica and Malibu formed a line so they could be bused to the Manzanar incarceration camp in Inyo County during World War II.

To commemorate the event that took place over several days in April of 1942, the Venice Japanese Memorial Marker (VJAMM) Committee will commemorate the 70th anniversary of that historic

trip on April 25 at 10 a.m. on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards.

The VJAMM Committee will install a permanent monument to remind present and future generations "to be forever vigilant about defending our Constitutional rights, so that the powers of government shall never again perpetrate an injustice against any group based solely on ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, race, or religion."

In June of 1942, Manzanar became the first relocation center operated by the War Relocation Authority. The barracks had been constructed in March of that year by Japanese American volunteers from Los Angeles who were escorted by the military to Manzanar. The volunteers used their own cars and paid for their own gas.

These volunteer builders were joined by their families in April. Other Manzanar internees came

from Bainbridge Island, Washington and from Stockton, California, but about 90 percent of them came from the Santa Monica Bay area, Sawtelle in West Los Angeles, and Burbank and Glendale in the San Fernando Valley.

So far the VJAMM Committee has raised almost \$25,000 for the monument and recently received word that they had been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program for the construction and installation of the monument.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl will emcee the April 25 70th anniversary commemoration event.

"I recently made the pilgrimage to Manzanar, and it was a very spiritual journey for me," said Rosendahl. "We have a unique connection to this part of American

>>See VENICE pg. 15



COMMENTARY

LET'S NOT REWRITE HISTORY

By Paul H. Kusuda

This is a delayed response to the article in the Feb. 3-15, 2012, issue of the *Pacific Citizen* titled "JACL Announces Power of Words Committee." I went to the Manzanar Relocation Camp with my parents and siblings. The number assigned to me was 3390-a. I was 19 and designated as head of the family.

I was an engineering student at Los Angeles City College and was keenly aware of my status as an American citizen. I was aware of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. I was aware that this country was based on the rule of law and not the whims of people. I had even bet some of my Caucasian friends that I could not be incarcerated in a desolate facility without a fair trial. I was more than dismayed to lose my bet.

Within a couple of weeks of my incarceration, my anger and bitterness wore off as I and other Nisei became involved with providing educational opportunities to elementary and secondary students who had to leave school mid-year and were in danger of losing their academic credit for not completing their school year.

Now after decades have passed, I can view my experiences objectively to emphasize that the U.S. erred in forcing evacuation of a group of persons because of their race. The U.S. violated my constitutional rights.

The move to rewrite history via the JACL Power of

Words should not be applauded, it should not be supported. The methods used falsely to incarcerate persons, including U.S. citizens, cannot be used as a precedent to support any governmental decision to take similar action. JACL's role in the repeal of the Emergency Detention Act of 1950 must not be forgotten. It took much political work on the part of JACL members and others.

Further, JACL's role in the Redress Movement should be better recognized by the general public. Rather than rail about euphemisms, JACL joined with others to take direct action. As a result, each living former internee received an apology and redress payment.

In 1942, about 120,000 Japanese aliens and U.S. citizens were sent to ten War Relocation Centers. Now, the move is to eliminate euphemisms that were used. The euphemisms are now obnoxious, but why should anyone pretend that things were worse than they actually were? I'm certain that I can't be the only one who accepts past actions as having occurred the way they did and that euphemisms were used to soften the public image of wrongful federal action.

I cannot accept terming War Relocation Centers as concentration camps. At Manzanar and the other nine Centers housing was worse than poor. However, we were treated well. On entry, we all received typhoid shots and had

access to medical services. We were provided food, Army-surplus clothing, and small monthly clothing allowances. We were not mistreated or tortured. Those who wanted to work found employment and were paid minimally.

Efforts should be directed not to rewrite history by deriding or getting rid of euphemisms but by explaining to the general public what happened, why it happened, and how wrong it was. That's what I continue to do by speaking at high schools, middle schools, and at senior housing facilities.

I firmly believe we must continue to get information out about the forced evacuation and the injustice that occurred. Efforts should be in that direction rather than to rewrite history. ■

Paul H. Kusuda is a member of the Wisconsin JACL chapter.

'I firmly believe we must continue to get information out about the forced evacuation and the injustice that occurred.'



COMMENTARY

REVIEW: 'PRISONERS AND PATRIOTS' MISSES HISTORICAL MARK

By Barbara Takei

A recent film on Santa Fe, "Prisoners and Patriots: The Untold Story of Japanese Internment in Santa Fe," according to the film's writer/director/producer Neil H. Simon, is the first film to tell the story of the WWII era internment camp run by the Department of Justice (DOJ) in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The film (which was shown at Day of Remembrance events in Northern California and scheduled at The Japanese American National Museum in April) assembles a rich collage of material related to Santa Fe's history as a DOJ internment camp where so-called "enemy aliens" of Japanese descent were interned during WWII. However, the film suffers several significant flaws.

One of those flaws is that "Prisoners and Patriots" is incoherent and disorganized. Watching the 90-minute film is a chore, evidenced by the number of heads nodding off in the Northern California showing.

What made Santa Fe different from the WRA concentration camps, and what was the role of the Geneva Conventions in ensuring the humane treatment of internees in Santa Fe? It was never made clear that "enemy aliens" received greater protection than the prisoners in the WRA concentration camps because the Geneva Conventions governed internment at the Santa Fe DOJ camp.

Nor was it explained that the WRA camps were unprotected by the Geneva Conventions and that the U.S. Constitution did not protect the rights of incarcerated Japanese Americans. Without that understanding, the audience was left puzzled by descriptions of "good" treatment and the pleasures of recreational and cultural activities by the men

interned at Santa Fe.

Santa Fe's historical narrative is confused, conflating two very different stories, that of the Issei and that of the Tule Lake dissidents. The Issei were innocent of any crime but arrested in the days and weeks after Pearl Harbor, and imprisoned without due process because of their prominence within the Nikkei community.

The later group interned at Santa Fe were dissident American citizens, Nisei and Kibei imprisoned at Tule Lake, whose crime was being critical of the country that removed and imprisoned them in concentration camps. Viewed as "troublemakers" by their keepers, these American citizens were manipulated into giving up their citizenship, enabling the government to legally deport them to Japan as dangerous "enemy aliens."

The film uncritically echoes the racist biases of the war years, demonizing Santa Fe internees as "low as you could go" and "the worst of the worst." Rather than explaining the absence of due process and the assumption of guilt of the innocent, the narrator instead characterizes Santa Fe as a place reserved for so-called "dangerous enemy aliens" and "the most pro-Japan men in the Western hemisphere."

Adding to the confusion, several times the film incorrectly asserts that the No-Nos — those who refused to give unqualified "yes" answers on the 1943 loyalty questions — were interned at Santa Fe. The No-Nos were segregated at Tule Lake segregation center. Several thousand of the young male dissident leaders who renounced their U.S. citizenship, many of them teenagers, were segregated from Tule Lake and interned as "enemy aliens" at Santa Fe and Ft. Lincoln

in Bismarck, ND.

In concluding the film, the incarceration in concentration camps and internment at the Santa Fe DOJ camp are presented in positive terms, as "a huge adventure." The filmmaker offers this perception in a New Mexico publication, explaining his Nisei interviewee's response: "He looked forward to the internment experience, because it was something new."

The filmmaker uses footage of a subject who says, "I like the idea that Japanese Americans are spread all over the country. That's a good outcome." Such material is presented without explanation or context, with the filmmaker apparently unaware of the psychological trauma and cultural background that would cause a Nikkei survivor to describe the government-created tsunami that destroyed Nikkei communities in such a benign way.

Oblivious to the psychological coping strategies commonly adopted by Nikkei survivors, especially dissidents who have been marginalized for their wartime protest, the filmmaker asks the question, "Are you bitter?" expecting a tirade about the government's abusive treatment.

"I went into this project thinking every interview would be the same — denigrating the U.S. government and parallels to 9/11," Mr. Simon stated. "And to a man, it was the opposite."

"Prisoners and Patriots" tells some facts of the Santa Fe DOJ internment camp and may be the first film on the topic, but it will take another filmmaker to tell Santa Fe's story with greater understanding and depth. ■

Barbara Takei, a writer and researcher based in Sacramento, Calif., is a board member of the Tule Lake Committee.

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CELEBRATION TO HONOR GOLD MEDAL AWARDEES



The event will take place June 9 at the Go For Broke Monument in Little Tokyo.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

More than five months after Nisei WWII veterans received the Congressional Gold Medal in a D.C. ceremony, regional celebrations are still being held to honor their heroics, especially for those who were unable to attend the Capitol ceremony in person.

Los Angeles will hold their regional Congressional Gold Medal celebration June 9 at the Go For Broke Monument in Little Tokyo from 9 to 11 a.m. Any veteran, widow or next of kin who have yet to receive their Gold Medals are encouraged to attend.

Organizers are expecting a large turnout so all veterans, widows and next of kin of those Killed in Action wishing to attend are asked to register. Registrants along with one guest will receive complimentary admission tickets. Each honoree may also purchase up to five general admission tickets for family members at \$20 per person.

Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, each veteran, widow or next of kin who has yet to receive their Gold Medal replicas will finally receive one. Also, each veteran fam-

ily will also receive a copy of Senate Bill S. 1055 that awarded the Gold Medal to the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service.

The Los Angeles Gold Medal Ceremony is being sponsored by: Go For Broke National Education Center, the 100th/442nd Veterans Association, the MIS Veterans of Southern California, the 100th Infantry Battalion (Mainland), the Japanese American National Museum, JACL-Pacific Southwest District, the Japanese American Bar Association and the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center.

Individuals can register at www.goforbroke.org/lacgm.html or by sending an email to chris@goforbroke.org. The deadline to register is May 25.

The committee is also encouraging family members to submit photos of their veterans for a commemorative program booklet and slideshow. Instructions on how to submit photos are available at www.goforbroke.org/lacgm.html or by sending an email to chris@goforbroke.org. The deadline to submit photos is May 11.

The Go For Broke Monument is located at 160 No. Central Ave., Los Angeles in Little Tokyo, adjacent to The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA.

For information, contact Chris Ohama at 310/503-8120 or chris@goforbroke.org. ■

FRENCH CAMP JACL HONORS WWII NISEI VETS

Sarah Asano is this year's winner of the chapter's Dorothy Ota Memorial Scholarship

By Pacific Citizen Staff

With various regional celebrations taking place to honor the Nisei veterans who recently received the Congressional Gold Medal, the French Camp JACL chapter did their part by honoring their own heroes: Tom Miyasaki, MIS; Katy Komure, Army Cadet Nurse; and Fred Fukano, MIS. All three received certificates of appreciation.

Also honored at the French Camp JACL's 64th Annual Installation Luncheon in downtown Stockton on March 4 was Sarah Keiko Asano who is this year's winner of

the Dorothy Ota Memorial Chapter Scholarship. Asano is a senior at Fremont High with a 4.7 GPA and is a National Merit Commended student. Asano plans to study mechanical engineering at either Santa Clara University or UC Berkeley. She is the daughter of Toshio and Susan Asano and the granddaughter of Hidenori and Fumiko Asano.

Phillip Ozaki, national JACL membership coordinator, installed the French Camp JACL's new board: President Kent Higashiyama; 1st Vice President Dave Furukawa; 2nd Vice President David Morinaka; Treasurer Karen Nakamura; Recording Secretary Helen Honda; Corresponding Secretary Jeannie Matsumoto; and Delegate Alan Nishi.

The next French Camp JACL event will be its annual picnic with Lodi JACL on June 3 at Micke, Grove Park. ■



TWIN CITIES JACL HOSTS SPEAKER TRAINING WORKSHOP

The Twin Cities JACL Education Committee hosted an all-day workshop March 24 at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. designed to train the next generations on how to give presentations on the Japanese American World War II experience.

"If the education is going to continue, it is more and more important that JACL presents programs like this," said participant Karen Tanaka Lucas, whose Nisei father served in the MIS during WWII.

Janet Maeda Carlson led a discussion about the parallels between the WWII JA experience and Sept. 11th. Using a power point presentation from the chapter's Day

of Remembrance program, attendees took on the roles of the narrator of scripted excerpts of stories told by JAs.

A video of a presentation given by former internee Sally Sudo was shown and Matt Walters facilitated a panel discussion. Mary Yoshida and Lucy Kirihaara also led a breakout session on giving presentations to elementary and middle school students. Ken and Akimi Oyanagi led a session on doing the same for high school and adult groups.

The workshop was funded by a grant from the Ishida-Winifred Foundation of Illinois. ■



YAMATO TRAVEL BUREAU®
C.S.T. 1019309-10



PROPOSED ESCORTED TOURS & CRUISES SCHEDULED FOR 2012

June 4-14	Yamato Summer Tour to Japan - 11 days/9 nights visiting Tokyo, Takayama, Hiroshima, Miyajima and Kyoto.	Peggy Mikuni
June 11-20	Yamato Cinque Terre, Tuscany & Florence - 10 days visiting Florence, Pisa and towns & dities of the Cinque Terre.	Philippe Theriault
June 28-July 8	Yamato Highlights of Japan Tour - 11 days visiting Tokyo, Hakone, Shizuoka, Kyoto & Hiroshima	Peggy Mikuni
July 2-12	Yamato Paris, London & Rome with possible Amsterdam extension - 11 days	Philippe Theriault
July 11-20	Yamato Amsterdam, Bruges and Paris by High Speed Rail - 10 days	Philippe Theriault
August 14-23	Yamato Canadian Rockies Tour - 10 days visiting Victoria, Campbell River, Port Hardy, Prince Rupert, Inside Passage, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff.	Philippe Theriault
Sep. 9-17	Yamato Dubrovnik, the Dalmation Coast & Montenegro - 9 days	Philippe Theriault
Sep. 17-27	Yamato Eastern Europe & Octoberfest Tour - 11 days visiting Munich, the Alps, Vienna, Salzburg & Prague.	Philippe Theriault
Sep. 24 - Oct. 2	Backroads of New England with AFC Vacations - 9 days/8 nights visiting Boston, Williams town, Lake Placid, Stowe, North Conway, Kennebunkport, Salem.	Steve Nakamoto
October 1-10	Yamato Best Fall Foliage/Eastern Canada Tour - 10 days visiting Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia & Cape Breton.	Philippe Theriault
October 15-24	Yamato Korean UNESCO Heritage Tour - 10 days/8 nights visiting Seoul, Jeju Island, Busan, Gyeongju, Daegu, Andong, Sorak, Suwon return to Seoul	Grace Sakamoto
October 15-29	Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - 15 days/13 nights visiting Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto & Tokyo.	Peggy Mikuni
November 7-16	Relections of Italy with Collette Vacations - 10 days/8 nights visiting Rome, Assisi, Perugia, Siena, Florence, Venice, Murano Island, Lugano (Switzerland), Como, Milan.	Sharon Seto
November 15-21	Yamato Discover India Tour - 7 day deluxe introductory to India, visiting New Delhi, Agra & Taj Mahal.	Philippe Theriault
November 15-23	Yamato Passage to India Tour - 9 days deluxe tour visiting New Delhi, Agra & Varanasi.	Philippe Theriault
December 1-10	Yamato Christmas Markets in Europe - 10 days visiting Prague, Vienna, Salzburg.	Philippe Theriault

Please visit our website at www.yamatotravel.com for tour itineraries and other travel specials

YAMATO TRAVEL BUREAU®
250 East First Street, Suite 1112, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 680-0333 or (800) 334-4982 Email: groups@yamatotravel.com

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*



Film Screening of 'Valor With Honor'
SAN JOSE, CA
 April 29, 2 p.m.
 San Jose State University, Martin Luther King Library
 150 E. San Fernando St.
 Director Burt Takeuchi's film "Valor With Honor" features veterans of the 100th, the 442nd PCT and MIS who share their WWII experiences. Admission to the screening is free. There will be DVDs available for purchase.
RSVP: Contact Dr. Jonathan Roth 408/924-6606 or email jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu

>>NATIONAL

The 43rd Annual JACL National Convention
BELLEVUE, WA
 July 5-8
 Hyatt Regency
 900 Bellevue Way NE
Info: Hyatt Reservations: 888/421-1442
Convention website: www.jacl.org/2012

>>EAST

Isamu Noguchi Museum Tour
LONG ISLAND CITY, NY
 June 2, 11:30 a.m.
 Isamu Noguchi Museum
 9-01 33rd Road
 The New England JACL chapter is planning a trip and tour of the Isamu Noguchi Museum. Noguchi was one of the 20th Century's most important and critically acclaimed sculptors. More details and registration forms will be sent later in April.
Info: Visit www.nejacl.org

The APA Heritage Month
WASHINGTON, D.C.
 May 8, 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium
 East Capitol St., NE
 The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus will host the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with featured remarks by Congresswoman Judy Chu, U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Congressman Mike Honda.
Info: Call 202/226-8000 or visit http://bit.ly/2012APAHM

>>NCWNP

Berkeley JACL Scholarship Luncheon
BERKELEY, CA
 May 6, 11:30 a.m.
 Berkeley City Club
 2315 Durant Ave.
 The Berkeley JACL will honor four scholarship recipients: Andrew Kwan, Ashley La Rosa, Josue Vasquez and Colin Wong. Two applicants will be selected as recipients of the Bea Kono and Terry Yamashita memorial

scholarships. Bill Fujita will posthumously receive the 2012 Berkeley JACL Pioneer Award.
Info: Email Berkeley@JACL.org or visit www.berkeleyjacl.org

The Eden Township Annual Bazaar Fundraiser
SAN LORENZO, CA
 June 9, 3 to 8 p.m. and June 10, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Eden Japanese Community Center
 710 Egin Street
 The Eden Township Annual Bazaar Fundraiser will feature Eden Aoba Taiko on both days. A raffle drawing will be held at 7:00 on June 10. Chicken and rib combination dinners, yakisoba, shaved ice, pastries, spam musubi and more will be sold. There will be games for children, bingo for adults, and a silent auction benefitting the Eden Athletic Club.
Info: Contact Ron Sakae at 510/276-0762, or Ed Oda at 510/638-6380.

Japanese American National Library Community Forum
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
 May 6, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
 Japantown Union Bank's Hospitality Room
 1676 Post Street
 The Japanese American National Library is organizing this community forum that features the life, accomplishments and perspectives of Samuel Ichiye Hayakawa, who is the subject of the book "In Thought and Action." The two authors of the book, Gerald W. Haslam and Janice E. Haslam, will speak at the event.
Info: Call 415/667-6006 or visit www.janlib.org

College of San Mateo Asian Pacific American Film Festival
SAN MATEO, CA
 May 6, 1 p.m.
 College of San Mateo, Campus Main Theater
 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.
Cost: \$5/Suggested donation
 The 3rd Annual College of San Mateo Asian Pacific American Film Festival will kick off with films like "Only

the Brave" and "Lost Battalion" which focus on the Japanese American WWII experience. The event is being held thanks to a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program.
Info: Visit www.collegeofsanmateo.edu

Contra Costa JACL Senior Appreciation/Scholarship Awards Luncheon
EL CERRITO, CA
 May 12, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
 East Bay Free Methodist Church
 6396 Potrero Ave.
 The Contra Costa JACL chapter will host its annual potluck luncheon to recognize World War II Nisei soldiers, senior citizens and scholarship recipients. There are three scholarship award recipients.
Info: Call 510/232-6410 or visit www.ebmo.org

The 43rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage
OWENS VALLEY, CA
 April 28, noon to 8 p.m.
 Manzanar National Historic Site
 U.S. Highway 395
Cost: \$40/Bus transportation
 The pilgrimage commemorates the 70th anniversary of the unjust incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans. The keynote speaker is Mitchell T. Maki. Bus reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. The bus from downtown L.A. will depart at 7 a.m. arriving at 11:30 a.m. The bus will arrive back in L.A. at 8:30 p.m.
RSVP: By April 23 email 43rdpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org or call 323/662-5102

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's Keiki Fun Fest
HONOLULU, HI
 April 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
 2454 South Beretania St.
Cost: \$60/Keiki kimono dressing for JGCH members; \$75/Non-members
 The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii is celebrating Children's Day with the Kodomo no Hi: Keiki Fun Fest, featuring a cultural carnival or kids,

live interactive martial arts, taiko, and hands-on cultural demonstrations. There will also be keiki kimono dressing.
Info: Visit www.jooh.com or call 808/946-7633

>>PNW

The 66th Annual Japanese American Graduation Banquet
PORTLAND, OR
 May 6
 Multnomah Athletic Club
 1849 Southwest Salmon St.
 This 65-year-old event celebrates all Nikkei graduating high school seniors. Tickets to the banquet are currently on sale. All graduating high school seniors of Japanese American descent in the Portland area are invited to attend. Circuit Court of Appeals judge Lynn Nakamoto will be the keynote speaker.
Info: Call Kay Endo at 503/654-3521 or email kayendo@earthlink.net

>>PSW

API Heritage Month Presentation on Angel Island
RIVERSIDE, CA
 May 19, 1:30 p.m.
 Arlington Branch of Riverside Public Library
 9656 Magnolia Ave.
Cost: \$6/Parking for non-permit holders
 Judy Yung, professor emerita in American Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, will present "Angel Island, Immigrant Gateway to America." Angel Island served as the U.S. entry point for one million immigrants between 1910 to 1940.
Info: Contact Judy Lee at 951/827-5486

The Little Tokyo Benefit Concert for Japan
LOS ANGELES, CA
 April 21, 2 p.m.
 Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple
 606 E. Third Street
 The Little Tokyo benefit Concert for Japan 2012 benefits the victims of the Japan

tsunami and earthquake. Performers include Cheonho Yoon, Modu 18, Noriko Hirao, Hideki Ikeura, Satsuki Innami, Yuri Inoo, Hitoshi Suzuki, Nacko Takada and Otani Gakuen.
Info: Call 213/626-4200

The 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the Venice Memorial
VENICE, CA
 April 26, 10 a.m.
 Lincoln and Venice Boulevards
 The Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker Committee is commemorating the 70th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. A permanent marker will soon be installed at Lincoln and Venice Boulevards where people of Japanese descent gathered before leaving to Manzanar.
Info: Visit www.venicejamm.org

Pacific Asia Museum's New Exhibit By Artist Gajin Fujita
PASADENA, CA
 Thru Oct. 7
 Pacific Asia Museum
 46 North Los Robles Ave.
 The exhibit "Ukiyo-e in Contemporary Painting" will feature art by Gajin Fujita, a Japanese American artist who combines elements of traditional and contemporary Japanese art.
Info: Call 626/449-2742 or visit www.pacificasiamuseum.org

>>MDC

Japanese American Incarceration at Poston Lecture
CHAP EL HILL, NC
 April 24, 6 p.m.
 Wilson Special Collections Library
 200 S. Road
 This lecture will feature speaker Joanne Iritani, who was unjustly interned at Poston. Eric L. Muller, a professor at the University of North Carolina. Members of professor Heidi Kim's first-year English class will also speak and present historical documents.
Info: Call 919/962-1172 or visit www.jlib.uno.edu/wilson

In Memoriam

Bing, Wu, 77, Los Angeles, CA; she was known and revered as the "mother of Asian/Chinese American literary studies in China; she founded the Chinese American Literature Research Center at the Beijing Foreign Affairs University; she served as co-writer and editor for many award-winning textbooks on English writing and style published in China.

Kobata, Edward Hideo, 84,



Gardena, CA; April 2; husband of Lorraine Tomiye Kobata; father of Nelson M. (Colleen Laney) Kobata and Daryn K. Kobata; brother of Harold (Reiko) Kobata; brother-in-law of Rose and Sumi Kobata; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

Fujii, Miyo, 90, Meridian, Idaho; March 27; she was an active member of the Oregon/Idaho Buddhist Temple; survived by her sister, Toshi Higashi; brother, Kunio Yamada; her son, Kenneth T. Fujii; numerous nieces and nephews; 2 gc. A memorial service for Miyo Fujii will be at the Oregon/Idaho Buddhist Temple at 4 p.m. April 22.

Fujimura, Henry, 86, Gardena, CA; March 29; survived by his wife, Ann Y. Fujimura; brother, Tosh (Peggy) Fujimura; mother-in-law, Frances Nakatsuka; sister-in-law, Melba Murakami; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Furukawa, Tom Tamio, 89, Monrovia, CA; April 4; a El Centro, California-born Nisei resident; he was a former internee of Gila River Relocation Camp; survived by his wife, Clara Furukawa; son, Derek Furukawa; daughter, Arleen (Jim) Taniwaki; also survived by many other relatives.

Maetani, Gladys Yaeko, 81,



Harbor City, CA; March 30; predeceased by her daughters, Shelley Maetani and Erin Miyoshi; she is survived by her husband, Myron Masao Maetani; sons, Kyle (Judy), Wade, and Kerry (Julie) Maetani; and many other relatives; 6 gc.

Morimoto, Mitsuye, 80, Gardena, CA; April 1; survived by her loving daughters, Sandie S. (Gary Ching) Morimoto-Ching and Joanne M. Morimoto; loving son, John Y. Morimoto; sisters, Kazue Okamoto, Kinue Fujita, Hamae (Fred) Shoga and Kaoru (Takashi) Okamoto; also survived by many nephews, nieces and relatives; 3 gc.

Takata, George Yukio, 77, Gardena, CA; March 22; survived by his wife, Noriko Takata; children, Robert and Richard (Katherine) Takata and Julie (Shawn) Stafford; siblings, Paul Hamasaka, Howard (Helen) Takata, and Barbara (Yosh) Ishida; sister-in-law, Miye (Jim) Nishimoto; brother-in-law, Jim (Michi) Nozaki.

Takemoto, Sam Isamu, 88, Torrance, CA; April 7; predeceased by his sister, Suzuye Fukuzaki; survived by his wife, Eileen Fusaye Takemoto; children, Dr. Ronald

(Jo Ann) Takemoto, Linda (Rex) Hayashi, and Dr. Mary Ann (Tony) Kwan; sisters, Ayako Nakatani, Mitzi Okazaki, and Fusako (James) Morita; sister-in-law, Mickey (Bill) Yamaguchi; brother-in-law, Roy Vaughn; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.



Tawa, Yuriko, 91, San Pedro, CA; April 9; predeceased by husband, Moto; survived by her children, Mike (Janet) Tawa and Mike's children, Brian, Jennifer (Mike) Cerna and Ryan; grandchildren, Jasmine, Ryan, Jr., Kylie, Bailey, Nevaeh and Zoe, and Glenn (Diane) Tawa, and children, Shane (Selena) Gragas, Kenneth (Sheena) Tawa and Candice Tawa; Glenn's grandchildren, Kayne, Kayli, Kayleb, Kalani and Kaylin, also survived by niece Judy and children Brandon and Danielle, nephew David Takeda.

Tokeshi, Caroyln Keiko, 72, Gardena, CA; April 6; survived by husband Fred Tokeshi; son, Steve (Lynn) Tokeshi and daughter Lisa (Ken) Ito; brother Gary (Linda) Yamauchi, uncle Tom (Fujiye) Fukuoka, brother-in-law George (Ayako) Tokeshi; 3 gc.

Yasutake, Rosie, 56, Oxnard, CA; April 8; preceded in death by her parents Ida and Yas Yasutake and daughter, Tricia Lynn Conger; survived by daughter, Trina (Cesar) Velasquez; son, C.W. Touchette; her brothers, Alan Yasutake (Pam), Richard Yasutake (Bonnie), and David Yasutake (Tammy); and

MAYOR BARRY

>>continued from pg. 6

tion during the 2010 Census. The city is 34.8 percent white and 3.5 percent Asian.

Barry told AP that he was wrong to single out Asians but said he was referring to merchants who don't sell healthy food and don't engage with the community or hire local residents.

"We need businesspeople who'll be a part of the community, not exploit the community, give jobs to those of us in the community, and to contribute to the well-being of our community, have fresh vegetables and fruits and et cetera," Barry said.

Barry, however, did not back away from his claim that some Asian-owned convenience stores and carryout restaurants don't "respect" the residents in his ward.

"Ward 8 residents are spending their hard-earned dollars in these stores because they are the only stores in the immediate neighborhoods; my constituents want respect, too," he said in a statement. "It is to these less-than-stellar Asian American businessmen in Ward 8 that my remarks were directed."

Barry noted that during his time as mayor, he created the city's Office of Asian-Pacific Islander Affairs and established a sister-city relationship with Beijing.

Soo Hyun "Julie" Koo, the director of that office, said she was glad that Barry had apologized.

"Marion Barry has been very supportive of our community, so I was very surprised by his statement," she said. ■

VENICE MEMORIAL

>>continued from pg. 11

history, and to feel what many from the Westside Japanese [American] community had to endure was a remarkable experience. The trip helped me to have a new appreciation for their struggle and how they overcame adversity with class."

In May 2009, Councilmember Rosendahl invited Venice High School New Media Academy students who had emailed him to request his support for the concept of the VJAMM, to make a presentation before the Los Angeles City Council. In July 2010, he introduced a successful City Council motion to pledge support of the VJAMM concept. He also personally contributed \$5,000 towards the construction and installation of the VJAMM.

Other scheduled speakers for April 25 event include Linda Lucks, president of the Venice Neighborhood Council; Reverend John Iwohara of the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple; Usman Madha of the King Fahad Mosque in Culver City; Phyllis Hayashibara, former teacher at Venice High School; Arnold Maeda, former Manzanar internee; Brian Maeda, Manzanar Committee; and Esther Chaing of Hama Sushi in Venice.

Chaing will host three fundraisers at Hama Sushi on April 25. She will donate to the VJAMM Committee all profits from a special \$20 bento box lunch that must be pre-ordered by contacting Phyllis Hayashibara at 310/390-1576 or phyllishayashibara@earthlink.net. ■

For more information about the Venice Japanese American Memorial Marker, visit www.venicejamm.org.

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis.

Tributes, which honor the memory of your loved ones with original copy and photos, appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.

For more info:

Email pc@pacificcitizen.org

福井 FUKUI MORTUARY
Five Generations of Experience
FD #808

707 East Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Ph. 213/626-0441
Fax 213/617-2781

Gerald Fukui
President

KUBOTA NIKKEI MORTUARY
久保田日系葬儀社
日本語でも親切にお世話をさせていただきます。

T 213-749-1449
F 213-749-0265
911 Venice Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90015
www.kubotanikkeimortuary.com

The PACIFIC NORTHWEST'S
ASIAN GROCERY & GIFT MARKET

UWAJIMAYA
A Tradition of Good Taste Since 1928

seattle 206.624.6248 | bellevue 425.747.9012
renton 425.277.1635 | heaverly 803.643.4512
www.uwajimaya.com

REVERSE MORTGAGE

Call for a free information package

If you are 62 or older and own your house, a Reverse Mortgage may benefit you!

- Turn Home Equity into Tax Free Cash
- You keep title to your home
- No Monthly Mortgage Payments
- FHA Program Designed for Seniors

SECURITY LENDING

"I pledge to provide excellent customer service with the highest standard of ethics"

25+ Years Experience as a Financial Professional

David C. Miyagawa Chee

Certified Public Accountant

CA Dept. of Real Estate - Real Estate Broker #01391106

NMLS ID 263222

1-800-967-3575

MAN CHARGED IN SHOOTING SPREE TALKS TO TV STATION

Shooter One Goh says he's sorry for killing seven people at the Oakland University.

By Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—A man charged with killing seven people at a tiny college has told a San Francisco television station that he's deeply sorry about the shooting.

In an exclusive jailhouse interview with KPIX-TV, One Goh also said he realizes the victims' relatives are "so angry with me." He acknowledged in the interview that his lawyer told him not to discuss the case.

During the interview April 11 with reporter Juliette Goodrich, Goh added "(But) if I tell them sorry, it doesn't bring anybody back."

Goodrich reported that as they spoke, Goh kept his head down. His eyes were bloodshot and at one point he started to cry, she said.

"I only remember parts of that day and it is too hard to talk about," Goh reportedly told Goodrich.

But he did not appear to make any effort to dispute allegations by authorities that he was the gunman on April 2 at Oikos University in Oakland.

Goh, 43, a native of South Korea and former student at the school, has been charged with seven counts of murder and three counts of attempted murder in the deadliest U.S. campus attack since the shooting at Virginia Tech in 2007. He has not yet entered a plea.

Police have said Goh was targeting an administrator who had been involved in his financial dispute with the school. When he learned she wasn't there, police say, he began shooting in classrooms. Police are also investigating



whether Goh might have been seeking multiple targets.

Meanwhile, the director of the nursing program at the California Christian college where Goh allegedly went on his rampage said her students don't want to return to the classroom building where the shootings took place.

Ellen Cervellon said April 11 that nursing students at Oikos University are still traumatized by the April 2 shooting and are looking for a new space off campus to hold classes. Instructors say they are not sure when classes will resume.

During a memorial held April 10, Cervellon — who believed she was the intended target of the attack — praised the victims she called the "loved seven."

Doris Chibuko, 40, of San Leandro, Judith Seymour, 53, of San Jose, Grace EunHea Kim, 23, Lydia Sim, 21, Bhutia Tshering, 38, Sonam Choedon, 33, and secretary Katleen Ping, 24 were killed in the attack.

"They came in July, a year ago. They came with hope ... to work as a nurse, to care for people," Cervellon said about the victims.

Jeong Gwan Lee, the Korean Consul General in San Francisco, told mourners the incident is an appropriate time for the Korean community to pause for reflection. ■

BURLESON

>>>continued from pg. 2

Campaign — now very much a lifeline helping this paper to continue as the voice of the JACL. Although national JACL currently funds three positions — executive editor, assistant editor and office manager — the generous Spring Campaign donors now help to pay for our reporter position and our part-time circulation position.

In Chicago two years ago at the national JACL convention, our national council voted overwhelmingly to continue the *Pacific Citizen* print edition, even while Executive Editor Caroline Aoyagi-Stom and her dedicated crew expands the *Pacific Citizen's* reach into new digital modes and social media to boost the *Pacific Citizen's* role as our voice and source of relevant Japanese American and Asian American Pacific Islander news. Last year in Hollywood at JACL's first annual national convention, we reconfirmed that Chicago vote.

Now with a further cut in the newspaper's funds from national JACL all but inevitable this year, too, we need to put our own money where our vote has been to keep the *Pacific Citizen* functioning and the staff there adequately backed up by us JACL members.

So, please dig a little deeper. Give more this Spring — even a lot more — to show that we really do care about our *Pacific Citizen*. And, that we fully support that staff, whose efforts and dedication have been heroic in keeping this class-A paper alive and its standards high.

Now, please get out your checkbook and check a recent copy for the address. It's our paper and needs your support. Show that we all care, deeply. ■

Hugh Burleson is with the Lake Washington JACL chapter and is a Pacific Citizen Editorial Board member for the PNW district. With his Shin-Issei wife Kimie, he has been a Pacific Citizen reader since the mid-1950s. They kept up their JACL membership even during almost 25 years of overseas service with the U.S. Information Agency.



Join the National JACL Credit Union to support your

Next Generation

For all your banking needs, join your National JACL Credit Union where you will find everything for your finances at your fingertips.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • VISA Debit & Credit Cards | • CDs |
| • HELOC Loans | • Money Market Accounts |
| • FREE Checking | • SBA Loans |
| • Bill Pay | • Mortgage Loans |
| • Auto Loans | • Savings Accounts |

(800) 544-8828 • www.jaclcu.com


JOIN YOUR CREDIT UNION TODAY!



Promo Code: 32124

National JACL CREDIT UNION

Authorized Broker

blue  of california

Blue Shield of California
An Independent Member of the Blue Shield Association



Health Plans for California JACL Members

Call the JACL Insurance Services & Administrators at

1.800.400.6633

or visit www.jaclhealth.org

