EXTRAORDINARY & INSPIRING

When we first came up with the idea to do an Extraordinary APA issue we never imagined that it would become our most popular issue last year. Piggybacking on that dubious beginning we bring you our 2nd Annual Extraordinary APAs issue.

This year we honor 17 extraordinary individuals including a two-time Superbowl winner, a California supreme court judge, and our Congressional Gold Medal winners. We also selected a deserving honoree from each of the JACL districts.

This special recognition honors community leaders who have positively impacted the Asian Pacific American community and whose stories were reported in the Pacific Citizen.

In January, the Pacific Citizen editorial board met for their annual meeting where this year’s Extraordinary APA winners were selected. We had a larger pool of nominees this year and we thank the board for considering each of our nominees.

We hope you enjoy this special issue. Share your comments with us in print or at www.pacificcitizen.org.

Caroline Aoyagi-Storn
Executive Editor

SPRING CAMPAIGN
SUPPORT FOR THE P.C. IS NEEDED BEYOND THE SPRING CAMPAIGN

By Gil Asakawa

The Pacific Citizen needs your help more than ever this year.

You’ve shown your support year after year during the Pacific Citizen’s Spring Campaign. In the beginning, when I was the chair of the P.C.’s editorial board, the Spring Campaign aimed for $10,000, which went toward upgrading computer equipment and cameras.

Last year, you stepped up and donated an amazing $85,000 during the Spring Campaign. That money paid for Nalea J. Ko, the excellent reporter, and a advertising salesperson, as well as equipment, website improvements and digital archiving.

We need your help once again, and this year, in addition to donations to the Spring Campaign, we need your vocal support.

A national JACL budget has been proposed — and passed recently by JACL’s national board — that cuts the critical position of assistant editor from the P.C. budget starting in 2014. It’s a budget cut that would be a terrible blow to the P.C.’s operations, and I urge you to share your concerns with your chapter, districts and board representatives.

I believe this is a decision made of haste with good intentions, to

>>See ASAKAWA pg. 17

COMMENTARY
RETURNING TO SEATTLE

By Priscilla Ouchida

My first image of Seattle was on a postcard of the Space Needle that I received from my father — I made a beeline to the icon when I attended my first Seattle Convention. After a few days, I discovered that Seattle is a "many-splendored" place, and I can’t wait to return to Seattle for the 2012 National Convention. The convention will run from July 5-8 at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue, Washington, just across Lake Washington from Seattle.

I invite delegates to bring the family along. At the risk of sounding like a tour guide, there is something for everyone at and around the convention — from the flying fish at Pike Place Market to Mount Rainier. Our hosts are planning a tour of Seattle’s Nihonmachi that includes a trip to Uwajimaya, the largest Asian grocer in the Pacific Northwest, owned by the Moriguchi family that is featured in a Bank of America commercial.

Other booster activities include a ferry ride across the Puget Sound to visit the new National Parks Service memorial on Bainbridge Island, and a golf tournament sponsored by the National JACL Credit Union that will be held on July 8. The Sayonara Banquet will feature music by the Minidoka Swing Band, the Japanese American version of the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

Sponsorships from State Farm Insurance, AT&T, Union Bank, Eli Lilly and Southwest, the official airline for the convention, promise a wonderful meeting. An exciting component of this year’s convention is a Wellness Fair sponsored by the Seattle JACL and Nana’s Concerns that will be held on July 7. Kelli Kuehne, LPGA player and national spokesperson for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, will be

>>See OUCHIDA and registration form pg. 6

JULY 5-8 2012
8 WEEKS
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How Willie Ito Found the Happiest Place on Earth

Willie Ito and Shig Yabu have collaborated to release the books "Hello Maggie" and "A Boy of Heart Mountain." By Nalena J. Ko, Reporter

For Walt Disney it all started with a mouse, Mickey Mouse, that is. But for Japanese American animator Willie Ito Jr., it all started with Dopey, the clumsiest of Snow White’s seven dwarfs. As a 5-year-old child the native San Franciscan’s love of cartoons blossomed after watching Disney’s "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," which originally premiered in 1937, at the local theater with his father. For some reason Snow White was so mesmerizing and then the seven dwarfs — and of course Dopey, said Ito in his home office, which is brimming with cartoon memorabilia. "He was my favorite cartoon." The 77-year-old now has a stockpile of Disney and other cartoon collectibles in his Monterey Park, Calif. home. His wife jokes that she has learned to love their Disney collection. "I was oblivious to it until one day, I realized it was all over the house," said Rosemary, about her husband’s collection.

Tucked in a display case in his living room among shelves and shelves of Disney figurines is a collectible that has a special place in Ito’s heart. "I remember the day we had to go to camp because this sat on my dresser," said Ito, taking a 73-year-old Dopey bank from its display case. "And then three years later when we returned, I ran upstairs to my old bedroom and it was still sitting there. I remember I had a few pennies in there and that was no longer in them."

The Dopey bank was a childhood toy of Ito’s, but it was left behind when his family was forcibly removed from their home in San Francisco and arguably incarcerated at Topaz in Utah during World War II. Some 120,000 people of Japanese descent were incarcerated during WWII after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Ito occupied some of his time in camp drawing on Sears, Roebuck & Co. and Montgomery Ward & Co. catalogues and animating them by flipping the pages.

After the war Ito’s family returned to their former Bay Area home, which a Chinese American family was watching. "In 1948 at a youth club at the YMCA Ito met Shig Yabu, who had moved to the Bay Area with his family after they were incarcerated at Heart Mountain. The two friends also participated in the Boy Scout Troup 12, where they printed a newsletter using a gelatin kit. "We printed our newsletter in Willie Ito’s parents’ garage, and we were impressed with Willie Ito’s cartoons," said Yabu. "We even got business cards to place advertisements, but we could not make many prints because the gelatin would turn into Jell-O.""

Years later the two friends created the publishing company, Yabilton Books, and released the books "Hello Maggie" and “A Boy of Heart Mountain,” which drew on their experiences of being incarcerated during WWII.

Yabu said he recalls Ito being “quite an animator” when they were growing up in San Francisco. But the friends soon went their separate ways. They would reconnect again throughout the years at Barons club reunions. Yabu joined the United States Navy in 1951 and Ito went to Hollywood to pursue a career in animation. Ito’s parents were supportive of his desire to pursue a career in animation, but his father, Willie Sr., wasn’t convinced a cartoonist could make a decent living.

“He was a barber in San Francisco, and so he always felt that maybe I should go to barber college, get a license and then have something to fall back on,” Ito said of his father who was a musician before WWII.

When Ito first stepped foot in Disney Studios at the age of 19, he was attending the Chouinard’s Art Institute. Disney didn’t hire Ito on the spot. Instead Ito received two weeks later a Western Union telegram recruiting him as an animator. That began his 45-year animation career.

"The first day that I went to Disney Studios with my portfolio, not seriously looking for employment, I just wanted to see the inside of the studio and I figured since I had my student’s portfolio with me it was a good ticket to make an appointment, go in, see the studio," said Ito who met on that first day his Disney mentor Iwao Takamoto, who was also a Japanese American animator.

Ito’s first task at Disney was to work on the animated film "Lady and the Tramp." "I wasn’t particularly into cartoons. However, Willie was working on ‘Lady and the Tramp’ and eventually when the film was released, I saw it and really loved it," said Ito’s wife of the animated film.

After a year and a half at Disney, Ito moved on to Warner Bros where he worked for six years. He later worked with Bob Clampett for a year, Hanna Barbera for 14 years and afterwards at Sanrio, before he returned to Disney where he retired in 1999.

Before retiring, Ito got a chance to show his father firsthand his success. "Just before he passed away he came down here and visited me at Sanrio, " Ito said of his father. "Sanrio was fun for him because of all the Japanese artists that were there also."

After 45 years of working in animation, Ito says he can see his artist touch in countless animated Disney, Warner Bros and Hanna Barbera cartoons. "Oh, yeah," Ito said flipping through a Hanna Barbera comic book. “I guess throughout the years you could just kind of go through these and say, ‘Oh, yeah. I was responsible for that one.’"

Retiring from a successful career in animation has left Ito with a few perks.

"We have what we call a silver pass. That will admit four on your silver pass," Ito said of his special Disney pass. "But I still have my regular ID pass that will admit me anytime I want to go there." With four adult children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren, that Disney pass comes in handy.

Now retired, Ito continues to work on illustrating books for Yabilton Books. After 45 years of being an animator, Ito says he still enjoys sitting at his drawing table and working.

And with a house full of cartoon memorabilia, Ito now has his hands full with cleaning tasks. "I’m due for the six-months dusting," said Ito with a smile looking at the display cases filled with Disney memorabilia.
Hines Ward, 36, retired from the NFL after 14 years, but he is not slowing down or disappearing from the public arena any time soon.

The long-time Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver announced his retirement March 20. The Steelers released Ward, who was set to earn $4 million next season, in a salary-cap maneuver three weeks before he retired. He leaves the NFL after achieving nearly every franchise record: an all-time leader in receptions, yards and touchdowns, a four-time Pro Bowler and a MVP of the 2006 Super Bowl, among other accomplishments.

As if he didn’t have enough awards and accolades, Ward also took the mirrorball trophy in season 12 of ABC’s “Dancing With the Stars.”

But fans will perhaps remember Ward best for his wide, infectious smile that shone from behind his Steelers helmet.

Ward also devotes his time to giving back to those in need. His Helping Hands Foundation in the United States is dedicated to promoting literacy among children. With a $1 million donation Ward, who was born to an African American father and Korean mother,
The founders of the Jubilee Project just wrapped up a college tour where they premiered their medium-length film "Dear Daniel."

By Nae J. Ko, Reporter

The founders of the Jubilee Project are setting out to encourage others to do good one video at a time, and with nearly four million video views on their YouTube channel, they’re getting close to accomplishing their mission.

The three friends — Jason Y. Lee, Eddie Lee and Eric Lu — created the Jubilee Project in 2010 with a simple objective: to make doing good contagious.

The Jubilee Project creators have been making monthly videos to encourage others to do good too. The videos also help raise funds for various nonprofits. Through making videos about nonprofits like Project Red Balloon or American Society For Deaf Children, among others, the Jubilee Project founders have raised over $30,000.

Their latest project "Dear Daniel" is a medium-length coming-of-age film, which they premiered on their recent college tour. The Jubilee friends took off about a week from their full-time jobs — Lu is a medical student, Eddie Lee works on the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders and Jason Lee works in business — to create the film that is aimed at raising awareness about depression. The film is set, Dreamers and Jason Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders and Jason Lee works in business.

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FROM HEALTH TO POWER OF WORDS, WORKSHOPS OFFER DIVERSE TOPICS

By National JA CL Convention Planning Committee

For those planning to attend the July 5-8 National JA CL Convention in Bellevue, Wash., there will be an opportunity to take part in a diverse and informative array of workshops on July 7 at the Convention Center. Some are vital to your good health and others will inspire you to continue your life-long dedication to social justice.

Some of the scheduled workshops include:

• “Buying Your Dream Car and How to Maximize Your Dollars” - Leslie Moe-Kaiser of State Farm.
• “Thinking Outside the Box About the Structure of JA CL Membership” - speaker not confirmed.
• “Inside and Outside the Barbed Wire: Untold Stories from Santa Fe’s Department of Justice Camp” - Nikki Nojima & Frank Kitamoto, Herb Tsutsuji and Gail Okawa.
• “Environmental Justice” - Millie Plaza, Wash. State Department of Ecology, Pierce County Assigned Counsel and former public defender.
• “Preserving Community Treasures” - Ken Mochizuki, book author of “Baseball Saved Me” and “Meet Me at Higo” and JACL Membership (Youth/Student).
• “The Power of Words: What You Mean, Mean What You Say - Why It Matters When We Talk About the Camps” - Lane Ryo Hirabayashi, UCLA Dept. of Asian American Studies, Barbara Takei, CFO of the Tule Lake Committee and author of “Tule Lake Revisited: A Brief History and Guide to the Tule Lake Concentration Camp Site” and Kaila Yoshitomi, sophomore at the University of Washington and secretary of the National Youth/Student Council.
• “The Power of Words: Now is the Time to Spread the Word - How Change Starts with YOU.” (Workshop attendees are encouraged to attend both POW sessions).
• “The Future of Tule Lake: A New Unit of the National Park System” - Anna Hosticka Tamura, landscape architect of the National Park Service.
• “Unseen Justice” - Russ Aoki, attorney, Michael Kawamura, director of Pierce County Assigned Counsel and Brian Tsutsuji, federal magistrate and former public defender.
• “Preserving Community Treasures” - Ken Mochizuki, author of “Baseball Saved Me” and “Meet Me at Higo” and JA CL Membership (Youth/Student).
• Notice: For workshop descriptions, please check www.jacl.org/2012.

See WORKSHOPS pg. 17

IMPORTANT CONVENTION DEADLINES COMING UP

By Gail Sueki

A major deadline date is coming up on May 7.

Constitution and Bylaws: Constitution amendments are due May 7. Only bylaw amendments without notice can be made at the convention following the outlined requirements. There have been items submitted that will be put up for a vote.

Resolutions: Due May 7 but emergency resolutions can be made following the outlined requirements.

Credentials: Due May 7, 990s and proxies if applicable are due May 7. If not resolved, the chapter will not be eligible to vote.

Awards and Recognition: JA CLer of the Biennium and the Inagaki Chapter Award nomination forms are due May 7.

Program For Action/Strategic Planning Committee: The Committee will present the 2013-2014 plan for national council approval. A workshop, “JA CL Priorities”, will be led by Chair Gary Mayeda. This is an opportunity to voice your opinion on the direction and priorities of the JA CL.

Nominations: Interested persons for any office may run for office at the convention following outlined requirements. Potential candidates may file until July 5.

Convention committees will be meeting in the afternoon on July 5 prior to the delegate orientation.

Detailed information and forms can be found on the JA CL.org website. Click on the convention link and go to “About” then “Convention Business.”

Gail Sueki is the national v.p. of general operations.
Michael Lin Makes an Impact

The chair of the 1882 Project helped garner an expression of regret from the Senate for the Chinese Exclusion Laws.

For more than 30 years biomedical scientist Michael Lin was a program director for the National Institutes of Health where he worked on cutting edge research in the cardiovascular field. His work has even contributed to a Nobel Prize.

But his name also rings a familiar bell when it comes to civil rights and the Asian American community. He is a former president and national executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans or OCA, an organization he has been a member of for over 20 years.

It was his experiences at OCA that led him to his current involvement with the 1882 Project where he chairs the effort to educate lawmakers and the public on the Chinese Exclusion Laws and the impact such legislation had on the history of Chinese Americans. Last year the Senate passed a resolution expressing regret for the anti-Asian laws.

"Michael has been an inspiration in the APA community who demonstrates the dedication and vision to support the Asian community goals and needs," said Ken Lee OCA national president. "Many colleagues including myself have benefitted from his mentoring and wisdom."

Michael C. Lin, Ph.D., 73
First generation Taiwanese American
Polomac, Maryland
Retired Biomedical Scientist
from National Institutes of Health

How did you celebrate when the Senate passed a resolution apologizing for the Chinese Exclusion Act?

When the resolution was passed on Oct 6, 2011, it was more a relief than excitement to many of us. After a few days, we finally realized the enormity of its historic significance. Yes, we organized a celebratory reception at the U.S. Capitol Building in November attended by our stakeholders across the country with Sen. Scott Brown and Congresswoman Judy Chu attending, both of whom introduced the resolution in the Senate and House respectively.

What sparked the fire in you to become a champion of this cause?

I have always believed in social justice and protection of our fundamental rights as Americans. In order to contribute to these causes, I have been a member of OCA (Organization of Chinese Americans) more than 20 years. My long lasting relationship with my colleagues provides unique opportunities to continue serving the community outside of my professional biomedical career.

Nearly two years ago one such opportunity emerged when several major Asian American organizations realized that we need to put a closure to the Chinese Exclusion Laws, first enacted in 1882. Shortly after, the 1882 Project was formed and is currently spearheaded by a Steering Committee consisting of C.A.C.A. (represented by Ted Gong), Committee of 100 (Frank Wu), JACL (Floyd Mori), NCCA (Haipai Shue) and OCA (myself).

The goals of the project are two-fold: 1) to seek congressional resolutions acknowledging the injustice of the Chinese Exclusion Laws and reaffirming the commitment to protecting the civil rights of all persons and 2) to sustain an effort to educate the public and the future generation about the history and consequences of the Chinese Exclusion Laws.

Why is there a need for a statement of regret from Congress for an injustice over a century old?

Although Chinese Exclusion Laws were repealed in 1943 during WWII for military and political reasons, Congress has never expressed regret and acknowledged the injustice of these laws. The last generation of Chinese immigrants

Judging Liu

Good things come to those who wait.

Last May, Liu told President Barack Obama that he was withdrawing his nomination for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit after a protracted confirmation process. Two months later, Calif. Gov. Jerry Brown nominated him for a seat on the California Supreme Court.

"The thought that this skinny kid with a funny name could one day become a judge is a healthy sign of the times," Liu said at a joint dinner of the Pan Asian and Filipino American lawyers in San Diego earlier this year.

Liu’s presence alongside Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakaiyue and Associate Justices Ming W. Chin and Joyce L. Kennard gives the California Supreme Court its first Asian Pacific American majority.

Some of Liu’s biggest fans are from high places, including Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the law school at the University of California, Irvine, who has been quoted as saying he can easily envision Liu occupying a seat on the nation’s highest court. Liu also serves on the boards of the National Women’s Law Center, and the Alliance for Excellent Education.

The Yale Law School graduate and a former associate dean at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law says progress still needs to be made for APAs in the field of law.

"I am delighted to receive this honor," Liu told the Pacific Citizen about his Extraordinary APA title, "and look forward to increasing numbers of Asian Americans joining the bench and bar."

OCA National Center Congratulates Michael Lin for being honored with Pacific Citizen’s Extraordinary APAs.
Congressional Gold Medals Latest Honor for WWII Nisei Vets

After an official ceremony last November, these Japanese American World War II heroes continue to be honored in regional celebrations across the country.

The Japanese American community has long been a group that honors its heroes and the Nisei World War II veterans are often at the top of that list.

Last November in the Capitol, hundreds gathered to honor in person the legacy of these soldiers with the bestowment of the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor given by Congress.

It was a moment that brought tears of joy to many and another chapter in the legacy of these men and women who fought for their country even as many of their family members were incarcerated in various WWII incarceration camps.

To this day, the combined forces of the 442nd Regiment and the 100th Battalion are the most decorated of any unit for its length of service in the history of the U.S. military. The Military Intelligence Service, whose accomplishments were long kept secret until recently, have been credited with helping to shorten the length of WWII.

For these reasons and many more, the Congressional Gold Medal winners are this year’s “Extraordinary APAs” in the military category.

The Pacific Citizen posed one simple question to these heroes: “For you personally, what does the Congressional Gold Medal mean to you?” This is what some of those Nisei heroes had to say:

Jimmie Kanaya
442nd Medal, Calif. USA Ret.
Gig Harbor, WA

“The award of the Congressional Gold Medal was the culmination of the Nisei efforts and sacrifices from being labeled ‘enemy alien’ in 1942 to true Patriots in 2011. In spite of humiliating name-calling and families being unjustifiably incarcerated behind barbed wire, Nisei came forward to bear arms against our country’s enemy. Some 800 men gave their all for the cause. This medal was accepted in their honor and memory.

“We did not compose to win the Congressional Gold Medal. It was awarded to us for our participation during WWII in spite of being considered disloyal and a threat to the country of our birth. We were but a few among over 11 million men and women in uniform during that war, and yet, we had an additional purpose. We wanted to prove our loyalty by offering our services. In the process many gave their all. The heroism of the 442nd and MIS has been well documented. The Nisei deserve the honor and recognition of the Congressional Gold Medal.”

Yelliohi (Kelly) Kuwayama
442nd Medal, Co. E.
Washington, D.C.

“The receipt of the Congressional Gold Medal by the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, etc., believed though it was, is recognition of Japanese Americans as Americans by Congress and that they should be treated as Americans without any mental reservations.”

JAVA Honors
Congressional Gold Medal Recipients
and
All Asian Pacific Americans
Who Are and Have Served

>See MILITARY pg. 16

THE MIS VETERANS CLUB HAWAII celebrates the extraordinary bravery of WWII Nisei veterans.
Shin Fujiyama Dreams Big

The 28-year-old co-founded and now heads the non-profit Students Helping Honduras, which builds schools for underprivileged Honduran kids and their families.

Shin Fujiyama is a big believer in the power of youth. That’s because he’s witnessed it firsthand.

Fujiyama is the executive director of Students Helping Honduras (SHH), a non-profit he co-founded with his sister Cosmos in 2007. From an idea that sprouted after a brief trip to Honduras in 2005, Fujiyama took what he developed in his dorm room at the University of Mary Washington and transformed it into a non-profit that has raised over $1 million.

In 2012, Fujiyama’s non-profit is working to build its tenth school for underprivileged students in Honduras. His non-profit has already built a village for 500 people. Today, SHH has a dedicated staff, two offices and four vehicles. Each year a thousand student volunteers travel to Honduras to continue helping Fujiyama and his non-profit brings to life his dream of building 1,000 schools by 2020.

Fujiyama dreams big and he’s made much of it a reality. For all his work with his non-profit, he honored Fujiyama with this year’s “Extraordinary APA” award in the category of non-profits.

You were also named a CNN hero and recognized by Larry King. How do you think you’ve earned these honors and distinctions?

People sometimes think that we’ve been successful overnight, but it’s actually been the accumulation of hard work and long hours for many years that have allowed us to produce the results that are being recognized. I also have incredible staff members that make everything possible.

How much closer are you to building 1,000 schools in Honduras by 2020?

We are working on our 10th school, so we have just 99 percent left to go. We need to accelerate our pace and get more volunteers to come down to Honduras!

Why is it so important for you to help the children of Honduras?

Because in today’s age, you can advance in your own life and career AND follow your passion. It wasn’t like that a few decades ago but with technology and the Internet, anything is possible. For example, even if I am physically in Honduras helping the kids, I can continue to teach Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu online even if there is no gym here, educate myself through online courses or reading on my Amazon Kindle. Best of all, the experience of running a non-profit organization is teaching me more than any $200,000 MBA degree ever could.

My job has taught me marketing skills, how to build websites, basic computer skills, how to make videos, how to speak in front of thousands of people, how to manage a team, how to write persuasively, how to organize large events, speak fluent Spanish, how to manage my personal time, basic accounting skills, how to create a movement, how to run a children’s home, how to run a school, and so much more.

What are your typical 24-hour traits?

I love to exercise, like running, playing soccer, and practicing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. I need to exercise at least five times a week to stay sane in a seemingly insane environment.

When was the last time you cried?

When we opened the children’s home last November so that we could finally provide a home for 13 kids, who lived on the streets or were abandoned by their parents. It took me seven years of planning to make the project possible.

When was the last time you laughed?

I laugh out loud every day. A day isn’t complete if you haven’t laughed out loud. Life is too short to take it too seriously.

What advice would you give others who want to make a difference?

Read “The Alchemist” by Paulo Coelho, “The Education of Millionaires” by Michael Ellsberg, “The 4-Hour Workweek” by Tim Ferriss, and “The Art of Non-Conformity” by Chris Guillebeau. Then get up to do something you’re passionate about, and figure out a way to make a living doing it.

In celebration of all the extraordinary talent that came out of Topaz, the Topaz Museum celebrates Willie Ito.

We proudly salute Nisei Soldiers and their families. Your valor during WWII helped win the war in Europe and the Pacific and lift the internment’s stigma of shame. Yours is an extraordinary legacy for all Americans. Congratulations on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

The Topaz Museum also congratulates Marian Hori for her much-deserved title as an Extraordinary APA.
The film’s crew includes: director Jeffrey Gee Chin, actor Chris Tashima and executive producer Fumiko Carole Fujita.

To tell the extraordinary story of Sei Fujii’s life — a gambler and a heroic newspaperman who wanted to expose the truth about his neighborhood — director Jeffrey Gee Chin and his film crew transformed Little Tokyo into a 1930s bachelors’ society filled with remarkable characters.

“It is a true history,” said Chin, 25, about his forthcoming narrative short film, “and I think it’s not been told for Fuji’s determination to protect the livelihood of his people, willing to risk his own life, much would have been lost.”

The goal is to complete post-production on the short film starting Academy Award-winner Chris Tashima as Fuji by the summer. Fundraising for the film is ongoing, and so are the trials and tribulations customary of an independent film production.

But the filmmakers persevered.

While researching Fuji’s life, Fumiko Carole Fujita, a Sunse South Bay [ACL] member, often wondered what the trailblazing hero was like.

“My thoughts included wishing to have been able to meet him to have a conversation,” she said. “So bringing Sei Fuji to life in the film through Chris Tashima’s portrayal of him was an awesome experience.”

Can you talk about the behind-the-scenes drama involving a disgruntled production member?

Chin: There was an early supporter of our production who was not entirely enamored with the story and wanted us to minimize the truth of the gambling and romance that existed during the 1930s. This individual felt it would not portray the community in a positive light. These opinions were personally acknowledged and addressed. However, through lack of communication, feelings were hurt and it took months for the entire situation to calm. The individual’s concerns did cause our team to take time to re-evaluate and assess our film’s effect on the community. However, we were able to garner greater support, therefore indirectly in a creative sense, we are thankful. We acknowledge and appreciate the constructive criticism provided by members of the community and encourage those within the community to continue supporting the culture, heritage and youth in arts.

Sei Fuji was an American patriot.

Fujita: He was a self-sacrificing hero, a forensic of civil rights advocates and according to Keizo Nomoto, former president of the Komaiho Mainichi, a samurai, potentially the last of the breed of outspoken and proactive role models for the Japanese American community. Although as an Issei, Sei Fuji was ineligible for citizenship, he worked to change the law and became a U.S. citizen, 51 days before he died in 1954.

What Sei Fuji would say about the film?

Tashima: First, I think he would chuckle, being familiar that we’re making a movie about him. I think he would enjoy to be a part of this and realize what he did for our community. I think he would say, “Thank you,” for keeping his legacy alive and for letting others know today, all that he accomplished on behalf of his fellow Isseis.

Finish this sentence, “If I had $1 million, I would...”

Tashima: Consider many of the stories of how Asian Americans have participated in the building of our country and use the money to share our experience through film or perhaps theatre. And maybe I’d buy a Harley.
Many in the Asian Pacific American community recognize the name Mike Eng for his long career in politics. Eng, 65, is a California State Assemblyman and he continues to work on behalf of issues that directly affect APIs.

Each year Eng, who is Chinese American, introduces a bill declaring Feb. 19 as a Day of Remembrance (COR) commemorating the anniversary of Executive Order 9066 that sent tens of thousands of Japanese Americans to WWII internment camps.

Rep. Eng has also been at the forefront of a commemorative stamp for the Nisei WWII veterans. He is the author of Assembly Joint Resolution 35 that urged the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service to issue a stamp honoring the heroic soldiers of the 442nd, 100th, and MIDs.

For Rep. Eng’s positive contributions to the Asian American community, the Pacific Citizen has selected Eng as this year’s “Extraordinary APA” award winner in the category of politicians.

Is it time for DOJ to become a state and/or national holiday? Definitely yes. Our communities have already commemorated Executive Order 9066 for the past 70 years and have shown that it is significant to every community that has experienced it. We should formalize what we are already doing to make sure that everyone would have an activity to attend on Feb. 19.

Will you advocate for a WWII Nisei veteran’s stamp? Definitely yes. I introduced AJR-35, which recognizes the contributions of Japanese American WWII veterans by encouraging the U.S. Postal Service’s Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee to approve a commemorative stamp honoring the veterans.

How do you mark Dec. 17, the Day of Inclusion? Since my legislation was enacted in 2009 to recognize California’s Day of Inclusion I have attended commemorations in Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Orange. I personally mark the day usually by calling one of my family members and usually the Day of Inclusion will come up.

The San Gabriel Valley has a very high APA population. Is this unique to the area or a sign of a nationwide trend? The 2010 Census indicates that the Asian Pacific Islander population is the fastest growing race group in the United States. After New York City, Los Angeles has the largest Asian or combination Asian population with 434,000. The San Gabriel Valley will continue to attract Asian Pacific Islanders and other groups because of education, business, quality of life, and cultural opportunities.

If you could have one superhero power what would it be? Why? America’s Cheo’s super-human ability to calculate every possible option and make a split second (correct) decision, which is something I need each and every minute.

Jennifer Linh Vu (presently) worked with the community, along with JACL, following the BP oil spill.

Jennifer Linh Vu Helps Those in Need

A daughter of refugees from Vietnam, Jennifer Linh Vu has made it a personal mission to help those in need.

Being a community leader on the Gulf Coast, Vu has worked directly with Vietnamese Americans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the 2010 BP oil spill. She also worked as an aide in Congressman Jose “Joseph” Cao.

Following the Gulf Coast oil spill, Vu served at times as an interpreter helping the Vietnamese American community, when their frustrations peaked, navigate the often complicated recovery system.

It’s really rare for Vietnamese older men to actually show any kind of emotion because of their pride and the culture—I’ve seen them on the verge of tears, asking how they’re going to pay for their house, how they’re going to pay for their boat, their kids’ education,” Vu said in a 2010 New York Times Student Journalism Institute article.

Giving back to those in need is personal for Vu, whose family struggled to survive in the war-torn Vietnam.

Her father, Khanh, was in the Southern Vietnam air force and escaped when his base was bombed. Her mother, Ngoc, left Vietnam in a boat with Vu’s brother. But the Viet Cong captured the mother and son.

Vu’s personal ideas of serving her community were in sync with JACL’s mission.

Today she is the president of the Gulf Coast Asian Pacific Islander JACL chapter, which was notified in 2011 at the Los Angeles JACL National Convention. To honor her work, the Pacific Citizen selected Vu as the Extraordinary Asian Pacific American in JACL’s MDC District.

“Vu is an American American woman, I was raised to serve my family, community and church,” Vu said in a 2011 article in the Pacific Citizen. “JACL has the same type of ideals. It’s about getting services to the needy.”
EXTRAORDINARY APAS

PACIFIC CITIZEN

MAY 4-17, 2012

Fresno JACL & CCDC congratulates David Mas Masumoto for being named an EXTR...
Lillian Kimura Continues to Inspire Youth

In April, former National JACL President Lillian Kimura turned 83 years old, but not surprisingly, she hasn’t slowed down. For the past 50 years she’s been involved with JACL in various leadership positions which culminated in 1992 when she became the first female national JACL president.

“I still think JACL is the only game in town,” said Kimura in a recent Pacific Citizen interview.

It was during her presidency that JACL affirmed its support for same-sex marriage. It’s something that she is still most proud of today.

Kimura, of the New York JACL chapter, has taken her years of experience leading a civil rights organization and her lengthy career with the YWCA to continue mentoring youth and encouraging them to take on leadership positions.

“I don’t think people realize the shoulders that they stand on,” she said. “Kids take it for granted. They need to give back to the community. If they don’t, who will?”

Kimura is the P.C.’s choice for “Extraordinary APA” for the Eastern District.

Why do you think there have only been two female JACL national presidents in the organization’s history so far?

With the many responsibilities young women have for work and home, they may not have the time to give to leadership positions. Both Helen Kawagoe ( 소개) and I were older. It may not be as important since we have a woman national director now.

JACL leadership positions (until now) have traditionally been very male dominated. Did you face any pushback during your tenure as national president being the first female in this role?

When I took over the presidency, all the other officers were young people, mostly under 30. The older men no longer were in leadership positions. Young men were not threatened by women leadership. My problem was an aggressive past leader who came to national board meetings and challenged my leadership.

How would JACL benefit from having another female president?

JACL will benefit from any leader — Young, male or female — committed to the goals of the organization.

Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not?

I consider myself a feminist — one who wants to make a contribution to the development of the community from a female perspective.

During your presidency, JACL became one of the first civil rights organizations to affirm its support of same-sex marriage.

Today, the battle rages on. How far has the Asian American community come in seeing same-sex marriage as a civil rights issue since 1994?

JACL has put a lot of energy into same-sex marriage although support has been indicated. I was disappointed that the single LGBT chapter formed after our decision did not continue.

What has been your biggest personal achievement thus far?

Having opportunities to provide leadership and becoming national president. And being a mentor to some young people to become leaders in JACL. Also I learned a lot from my position on the national staff of the YWCA of the USA, especially working with civil rights pioneer Dorothy Height and receiving the YWCA Civil Rights Award.

Complete this sentence, “People will be surprised to know that I _______.

... am 83 years old. ■

Her Passion is Education

As a professor and teacher training workshop facilitator, Sharon Ishii-Jordan uses her expertise to teach the lessons of the WWII internment.

When it comes to passions, education is at the top of the list for Sharon Ishii-Jordan, 57. And the one topic she is most passionate about is the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

As a former professor in the education department at Creighton University and the current associate dean in the school’s College of Arts and Sciences, she has often taught her students about this important part of American history.

But it has been through her volunteer work at the JACL — she’s a former Midwest governor and a longtime member of the National JACL Education Committee — that she has been able to spread the lessons learned from the WWII experiences of Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Last fall she was part of a group that headed to Skokie, Illinois to ensure that teachers from this area would make the history of the WWII camps a part of their classroom curriculum.

“Educators touch the lives of so many students from kindergarten to adult education; ‘students’ who will become the decision-makers,” said Ishii-Jordan, who still continues to volunteer her

>>See ISHII-JORDAN pg. 14
At 101, Hayashida’s Life Chronicles the History of JAs from Bainbridge Island

The oldest living former JA internee from Bainbridge Island has spent years helping to raise funds for a permanent memorial.

At 101 years of age Nissi Fumiko Hayashida is the oldest living survivor of the World War II incarceration camps from Bainbridge Island, Wash. She celebrated her recent birthday milestone with a trip to the Tulalip Casino.

Although she says she’s slowed down a bit in recent years, her long support of the Bainbridge Island Memorial has helped garner much needed funds for the important monument that broke ground on phase two in 2009.

But perhaps Hayashida is best known for the iconic WWII image of her holding her infant daughter Natalie as they prepared to head to Manzanar from their home in Bainbridge Island along with over 200 Japanese Americans.

Hayashida joined the JACL in 1942 and continues to be a member of the Seattle chapter.

How did you celebrate your 100th birthday?
The family held a big party for me. Over 100 family and friends came to celebrate. We had a nice dinner and I was able to take photos with everyone who came. I was very surprised and happy to be surrounded by so many people. For my 101st birthday we had a smaller (40 family members) party. Can’t wait for next year!

What feelings and thoughts come to mind when you see the famous evacuation photo of yourself holding your sleeping daughter?
I didn’t know the photo was taken. It could have been anyone. I remember being scared of not knowing where we were going.

As one of the oldest members of the first group of JAs to be forcibly removed, what do you remember about the day you had to leave everything behind on Bainbridge Island?
I was sad to leave friends and my home. Bainbridge Island is where I was born and grew up and having to leave with only what you could carry was daunting. I was only comforted that I had family members with us.

That photo has been republished in many history books. What do you hope the younger generations take away from that photo?
I’m not sure what they will take away. I have great grandchildren and I hope that the photo piques their interest. I hope that once the children learn more about what happened, they understand the whole scope of the Japanese internment.

In 2009, you boarded a construction backhoe to break ground on phase two of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial. Why do you think it’s important to build memorials about the World War II Japanese American experience?
It’s important because we should not forget the past, so we can learn from it.

What goals and dreams have you yet to accomplish?
I have accomplished everything in my life. I have traveled extensively. I had a wonderful husband that spoiled me, a good family and many friends. I’m surrounded by people that care for me and now I’m taking it easy.

If you could do one thing over in your life what would it be? Why?
Nothing, the road of my life has been full and now I just want to take it easy.

If you had the power to stop time for 10 minutes, what would you do? Why?

Aside from my job, I love traveling the globe.

If not bound by geographic location, what is the No. 1 reason for a person to join a JACL chapter in the Midwest District?
The Midwest District chapters are spread across the largest geographic area with the fewest number of chapters per square mile and some of the smallest chapter sizes to engage in activities that will carry out the mission of JACL. There is a lot to do, but a wonderfully diverse and enjoyable group of individuals with whom to share the load.

If you had the power to stop time for 10 minutes, what would you do? Why?

My goodness, 10 minutes is not much time! We all need a break to refresh ourselves, so I would breathe deeply, hug my family members, smile, say a quiet prayer of thanks for those 10 minutes, and then begin organizing my time after that luxury ended.
How did internment create a hole in your family?

The Masumotos had four brothers ready to farm a farm and plant roots in the early 1940s. Internment shattered our dreams. My grandmother grew bitter, understandably terrified about the government taking things away, especially when my father bought our farm after the war. The climate for most Sansei farm kids to run away from the land and a mass exodus from farms did occur. Any family farm was crushed. I was one of the few naïve enough to come back to the farm.

Do you have an argument or why your family should eat more produce?

Check the price of a Twinkie — it’s typically over $5 a pound. And considering how much cheap produce is thrown away because it lacks flavor. That’s wasteful and very expensive.

You're a writer and a farmer.

I can’t separate the two — I write about farming and I believe our family farm is an evolving story. I have a passion for both, a blessing and curse that’s passed down to my daughter, Nikiko, who is an artist and taking over the farm. Once, someone told me writing and farming would be incompatible. They were wrong, there’s an art of the story and the art of growing a peach. Besides, neither profession makes a ton of money so they’re quite compatible.

The former Wasatch Front North chapter president has helped to triple the once dying chapter.

Friends and acquaintances of Marion Hori all know that when internment came to all members of the JA community, she did not take “no” for an answer. She will get you to volunteer for a chapter event and in the long run you will become a member of the organization, even a chapter president.

Hori’s abilities are not myth, they are a reality. During the 1990s when her Wasatch Front chapter in Utah was barely surviving, she proposed to become the chapter’s president. Soon, the chapter had tripled its membership. Today, Wasatch Front North has over 75 members.

“I believe in the JACL,” said Hori, 70, in a recent interview with the Pacific Citizen.

Hori has been a JACL member for almost 50 years and her family has a long tradition in the organization. Almost all of her family members have at one time served as the Wasatch Front North chapter president. Her brother-in-law Gerald Nishigaci served as chapter president and her husband Tom, daughter Jaclyn and brother-in-law Gerald Nishigaci served as chapter president.

“I believe that JACL is necessary to have an organization that will stand up for anyone that is being discriminated against. It still happens and I would choose to be involved.”

From JACL, what hobby is usually the center of conversation at meals?

As for opportunities to learn about our Japanese culture and AA community affairs, I know there are other organizations that have started programs in these areas and so it would be nice to see if JACL could form alliances with them and thus promote these programs to the youth membership. Otherwise, it is really hard for youth who live in isolated areas to hear about these learning opportunities and thus get involved.

The Legendary Marion Hori

Marion Hori is pictured here with her two daughters, Crystilyn (left) and Jadyn.
Leading JACL to its First Annual National Convention

Gary Mayeda (pictured above with actress Tamlyn Tomita) of the PSW District may have made it look easy but a lot of sweat and tears went into JACL’s first annual convention in Los Angeles.

For JACL members who have had the experience of leading a national JACL convention, exhaustion seems to be a common outcome by the end of it. Some may even ask why they took on such a monumental assignment, all on volunteer time.

But not Gary Mayeda of the PSW District who was the chair of the first annual JACL national convention in Los Angeles back in 2011. He says he has no regrets and would do it all over again.

“The district planning committee was a joy to work with,” said Mayeda, 48, of the APAN JACL Chapter. “We were people from different chapters and professional backgrounds with a common objective. Gathering talent like that and seeing everyone work together with such fantastic results is gratifying beyond belief.”

Any advice for the folks taking on the upcoming convention in Bellevue, Wash. July 5-8? Mayeda’s advice: make your convention unique and show off the great attractions and talent the PNW District has to offer.

“National may want you to do certain things but hold your own and trust your years of leadership abilities,” he said. “I’ve known the chair Elaine Akagi for many years and I know she will do a great job.”

Mayeda is the Pacific Citizen’s choice for “Extraordinary APA” from the PSW District.

What was the biggest challenge of hosting JACL’s first annual national convention?

There were several. Having only 18 months to plan the convention was probably the shortest amount of time in the history of JACL to plan a convention. The second was a venue change. National had to change the hotel site six months before and didn’t secure the new hotel until four and a half months before the convention.

What was the biggest triumph of hosting this historic event?

For the first time in convention history, we collaborated with the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJAACL) on workshops to expand the networking of JACL to beyond just the JACL community. The sponsors saw value in this and sponsored the events to bring JACL greater financial security. For me personally, it was seeing the delegates having a great time at special events like Madame Tussauds and taking silly pictures in the photo booth.

Is it true actor Gary Busey was roaming the halls outside of a JACL board meeting? Any other star sightings?

Yes indeed, Gary Busey was just outside the PSW office giving an interview in the hallway. Actress Tamlyn Tomita graciously hosted our Culmination Banquet. If you were at Madame Tussauds then you saw all the famous Hollywood actors in character.

Would you consider JACL’s move to an annual convention a success? Why?

Yes and in many ways a series of firsts for JACL. We were able to bring together JACL delegates and APA leaders from CJAACL to discuss important issues facing our communities. From a business model, all of our vendors were either JACL members or people that are currently doing business with JACL. It is a way of strengthening the business relationship we have with our partners. Never before was there a conscience effort for any convention. The cheapest vendor does not always enhance future growth.

This was also the first time a district hosted a convention. Typically a chapter hosts a convention so this involved the whole district. I also came up with the idea to have membership upgrades during the convention and solicited the help of Membership Coordinator Phillip Otsuki to implement. We also had the third highest set of profit for all conventions and at 60 percent this was the first convention that gave more than the normal 50 percent of the profit to National JACL.

Complete this sentence, “If I had known then what I know now, I would...”

...have spent more time with my mother.

MILITARY

Virgin Westdahl
522nd Field Artillery
Michigan

“When I got the first hint that there was a bill (SL005) being introduced in Congress to bestow upon the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team their highest award the Congressional Gold Medal, I wondered if it would ever come to fruition. Over time thanks to so many Congressional members’ help it was submitted to the president for his signature.

“When all this happened I thought of my soldier friends and those RCT members Killed in Action or passed on who could not be present when the Congressional Gold Medal was presented on Nov. 2, 2011, in Washington, D.C. How astounding the 'Honored Message' completely filled my thoughts as I truly realized the United States is saying to the RCT and the MIS, accept our humble thanks for the heroism, bravery, trustworthiness, and perseverance you demonstrated during those very difficult times. The deep sense that affected all of us, some more than others, was gone. I have no regrets how my life has turned out. The Congressional Gold Medal has sent a strong 'Honored Message' to us for WWII, before, during, and after. I very humbly accept the 'Honour' and I thank Congress for it.”

Terry Shima
442nd Veteran, recently retired executive director of JAVA (Japanese American Veterans Association)
Washington, D.C.

“I link the Congressional Gold Medal to the accusation of Japanese American disloyalty during WWII. The Congressional Gold Medal is a reaffirmation of America’s faith in Japanese Americans as loyal Americans. To admit it had made a huge constitutional mistake, to make corrections, and to offer a national apology at the highest level speak of the greatness of America.”

MICHAEL LIN

>>continued from pg. 7

Is an expression of regret enough?

Nothing will adequately correct the injustices caused by the repeatedly enacted exclusion laws and the six decades of suffering of early immigrants before these laws were repealed. However, for Congress to show courage to acknowledge the injustice is a start for the healing. More importantly, the passage of Congressional resolutions opens the opportunity to understand why and how this chapter of dark history occurred and what we can do to prevent it from happening again.

The fight for an expression of regret is pan-Asian (including JACL). Why do you think the lessons of the Exclusion Act resonate across ethnic communities?

These exclusionary laws were enacted by representatives elected by the people and carried out in a democratic institution of the people with the beneficial intent for the people. Without an acknowledgment of the injustice and removal of the commitment, we could be all impacted again, such as the internment of Japanese Americans during the WWII.

What’s the next step?

We still have the companion House Resolution for passage. It is currently pending in the House Judiciary Committee and there seems to be encouraging signs that the committee is willing to consider it. Once the passage is achieved, we need to continue our efforts to educate the public and future generations about the history and consequences of the Chinese Exclusion Laws and their extended impact on Asian Americans and their significance for all Americans. ■
balance precarious national finances.

The P.C. is a large line item on JACL’s national budget (8 percent of the budget), which makes it as easy target. But the fact is, producing a great news operation is expensive, and Director Caroline Asakawa, Assistant Editor Lynda Lin and reporter Ko produce a great newspaper and website with a skeleton staff and an already very, very tight budget.

Newspapers everywhere are cutting back, so why shouldn’t the P.C., especially if JACL is financially hurting? It’s the classic cliché of cutting off your nose to spite your face: Newspapers are finding that there is a point of no return when they keep cutting staff to balance their books; quality suffers.

When you keep trimming fat, you eventually cut into bone. We’re about to slice bone.

Lin has been integral to the P.C.’s level of quality journalism since her arrival, and she has brought great energy and talent to the operation. She’s not just a savvy editor and sharp writer; she’s also a skilled design director who’s helped establish a cleaner design for both the print edition and the P.C. website.

It would be difficult to imagine the P.C. operating smoothly for long if Caroline permanently lost Lynda.

I’ve said in past national board meetings during my tenure as P.C. board chair, that we’ve been incredibly fortunate to have both Caroline and Lynda running the paper. Their pay is low compared to similar media jobs in the market, but they’ve stayed on because of their passion for JACL, and for producing great quality journalism. That quality has been reflected in New America Media awards.

The P.C. has always worked to accommodate national JACL’s shrinking budgets, and last year accepted a $79,000 drop in membership dues funding. With such cuts, the P.C. has worked harder and leaner, and thanks to you, increased its support from the annual Spring Campaign. It’s not just with staffing; the P.C.

WORKSHOPS

Tom Ikeda, director of Densho.

• “Nikkei Senior Health - What the Individual and the Community Should Know” Dr. Lianne Hirano, medical director of Seattle Keiro Center and Mirabella and faculty member, University of Washington and Jeffrey Hattoni, CEO of Nikkei Concerns:
  "Identity is Not a Math Equation: Multicultural, Multilingual and Mixed Identity.” Christine Munteanu, JACL Foil program coordinator.

There will also be a "Living Well” Health Fair that will focus on diabetes. Screening and information about the prevention and treatment of diabetes will be offered by professionals from the American Diabetes Association.

The workshops and performances are designed not only to enhance the conversation about the JACL and its future, but also to ensure that everyone has access to information to enjoy good health and be energized to enjoy life to the fullest. 

Gill Asakawa is a former P.C. board chair and the current P.C. IDC rep.

2012 CONVENTION THEME: INFORM * TRANSFORM * PERFORM ... EMBRACING JACL IN AN ERA OF TRANSFORMATION

JACL remembers the past, approaches current challenges, and acts to secure and uphold human and civil rights for current and future generations. JACL promotes and preserves the cultural heritage and values of Japanese Americans.

INFORM — share our stories and describe the history of Americans of Japanese ancestry, and the experiences of the JACL. Who are we? Where did we come from? What experiences have we had and how have we responded? What have we accomplished?

TRANSFORM — the JACL organization is changing. The fundamental values and principles of JACL from 1929 remain intact, formed in response to prejudice and discrimination. As JACL moves from "the good old days" to the "brave new world," conscious, deliberate attention is needed to manage change. We need to acknowledge that when there is change, loss is always involved, even when the change is positive.

WHERE are we now? WHERE do we want to go as an organization? What programs will support our mission and help us to achieve our priority goals? How do we get there?

PERFORM — a high-performing organization brings out the best in people, mobilizes teams, nurtures a learning environment where people can share diverse ideas and disagree respectfully. A high-performing organization is one that is oriented to achieve, to meet and exceed defined goals.

Each session’s JACL’s “Program for Action” sets the course. How can we strategically move JACL through the 21st century?

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的真实内容为：

balance precarious national finances.

The P.C. is a large line item on JACL’s national budget (8 percent of the budget), which makes it as easy target. But the fact is, producing a great news operation is expensive, and Director Caroline Asakawa, Assistant Editor Lynda Lin and reporter Ko produce a great newspaper and website with a skeleton staff and an already very, very tight budget.

Newspapers everywhere are cutting back, so why shouldn’t the P.C., especially if JACL is financially hurting? It’s the classic cliché of cutting off your nose to spite your face: Newspapers are finding that there is a point of no return when they keep cutting staff to balance their books; quality suffers.

When you keep trimming fat, you eventually cut into bone. We’re about to slice bone.

Lin has been integral to the P.C.’s level of quality journalism since her arrival, and she has brought great energy and talent to the operation. She’s not just a savvy editor and sharp writer; she’s also a skilled design director who’s helped establish a cleaner design for both the print edition and the P.C. website.

It would be difficult to imagine the P.C. operating smoothly for long if Caroline permanently lost Lynda.

I’ve said in past national board meetings during my tenure as P.C. board chair, that we’ve been incredibly fortunate to have both Caroline and Lynda running the paper. Their pay is low compared to similar media jobs in the market, but they’ve stayed on because of their passion for JACL, and for producing great quality journalism. That quality has been reflected in New America Media awards.

The P.C. has always worked to accommodate national JACL’s shrinking budgets, and last year accepted a $79,000 drop in membership dues funding. With such cuts, the P.C. has worked harder and leaner, and thanks to you, increased its support from the annual Spring Campaign. It’s not just with staffing; the P.C.

WORKSHOPS

Tom Ikeda, director of Densho.

• “Nikkei Senior Health - What the Individual and the Community Should Know” Dr. Lianne Hirano, medical director of Seattle Keiro Center and Mirabella and faculty member, University of Washington and Jeffrey Hattoni, CEO of Nikkei Concerns:
  "Identity is Not a Math Equation: Multicultural, Multilingual and Mixed Identity.” Christine Munteanu, JACL Foil program coordinator.

There will also be a "Living Well” Health Fair that will focus on diabetes. Screening and information about the prevention and treatment of diabetes will be offered by professionals from the American Diabetes Association.

The workshops and performances are designed not only to enhance the conversation about the JACL and its future, but also to ensure that everyone has access to information to enjoy good health and be energized to enjoy life to the fullest. 

Gill Asakawa is a former P.C. board chair and the current P.C. IDC rep.

2012 CONVENTION THEME: INFORM * TRANSFORM * PERFORM ... EMBRACING JACL IN AN ERA OF TRANSFORMATION

JACL remembers the past, approaches current challenges, and acts to secure and uphold human and civil rights for current and future generations. JACL promotes and preserves the cultural heritage and values of Japanese Americans.

INFORM — share our stories and describe the history of Americans of Japanese ancestry, and the experiences of the JACL. Who are we? Where did we come from? What experiences have we had and how have we responded? What have we accomplished?

TRANSFORM — the JACL organization is changing. The fundamental values and principles of JACL from 1929 remain intact, formed in response to prejudice and discrimination. As JACL moves from "the good old days" to the "brave new world," conscious, deliberate attention is needed to manage change. We need to acknowledge that when there is change, loss is always involved, even when the change is positive.

WHERE are we now? WHERE do we want to go as an organization? What programs will support our mission and help us to achieve our priority goals? How do we get there?

PERFORM — a high-performing organization brings out the best in people, mobilizes teams, nurtures a learning environment where people can share diverse ideas and disagree respectfully. A high-performing organization is one that is oriented to achieve, to meet and exceed defined goals.

Each session’s JACL’s “Program for Action” sets the course. How can we strategically move JACL through the 21st century?

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Franklin Aizo Hijikata
August 24, 1922 – March 1, 2012

Franklin A. Hijikata, 89, died on March 1 in Baltimore, MD. He spent over 25 years of his career as the executive director of the Neighborhood House in St. Paul, MN.

Frank was born in Ikeshuku, Tokyo, Japan, to an American-educated Baptist missionary, the Reverend Kiichi Hijikata, and his wife, Kimiko Aoki Hijikata. When he was four, his family immigrated to Sacramento, CA, where his father was minister of the First Japanese Baptist Church. He had two younger sisters, Ruth and Lillian, as well as a younger brother who died in infancy.

Frank’s youth was spent in Sacramento, although the family spent periods in Loomis and Pacific Grove, CA, due to his father’s declining health. After high school, he attended Sacramento Junior College, receiving an A.A. degree.

As part of the Evacuation, Frank was sent to the Walegra Assembly Center and then interned at the Tule Lake War Relocation Center, both in California.

During the war, the Baptist church sponsored Frank’s release to Buffalo, NY, where he earned a B.A. from the University of Buffalo. Frank then received a M.Div from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, NY, and a M.Sc. (Social Administration) from Western Reserve University’s School of Applied Social Sciences in Cleveland, OH.

Prior to the Neighborhood House, Frank was the executive director of the Firman House, a Presbyterian settlement house in Chicago, IL. He also served as pastor of the Nisei Christian Fellowship in Cleveland, OH, and the Fernwood Baptist Church in Rochester, NY.

He was a member of the Religious Society of Friends. Franklin A. Hijikata is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rose Takano Hijikata; three daughters, Judith Hijikata, Susan Hijikata and Heidi Hijikata; and four grandchildren, Nathan Cox, Alexander Graber, Sachiko Graber, and Nicholas Cox. In addition, he is survived by his son, F. Bruce Hijikata, and a daughter-in-law, Sandra Hijikata. A son, the Reverend Kiichi Hijikata, and a daughter-in-law, Sandra Hijikata, died in 2002.

American Holiday Travel
2012 TOUR SCHEDULE

DISCOVER CUBA HOLIDAY TOUR (NEW TOUR - price limited) JUN 19-27 Havana, Trinidad, Cienfuegos, Bay of Pigs, Varadero, Trinidad, Havana
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR JUN 23-30 Havana, Trinidad, Cienfuegos, Bay of Pigs, Varadero, Trinidad, Havana
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR JUL 06-13 Havana, Trinidad, Cienfuegos, Bay of Pigs, Varadero, Trinidad, Havana
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR JUL 27-04 Havana, Trinidad, Cienfuegos, Bay of Pigs, Varadero, Trinidad, Havana
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR AUG 10-17 Havana, Trinidad, Cienfuegos, Bay of Pigs, Varadero, Trinidad, Havana
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR AUG 24-31 Havana, Trinidad, Cienfuegos, Bay of Pigs, Varadero, Trinidad, Havana
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR AUG 31-SEP 07 Havana, Trinidad, Varadero, Havana, Cuba
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR SEP 14-21 Havana, Trinidad, Varadero, Havana, Cuba
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR SEP 28-OCT 05 Havana, Trinidad, Varadero, Havana, Cuba
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR OCT 07-14 Havana, Trinidad, Varadero, Havana, Cuba
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR OCT 21-28 Havana, Trinidad, Varadero, Havana, Cuba
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR OCT 29-NOV 05 Havana, Trinidad, Varadero, Havana, Cuba
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR NOV 08-15 Havana, Trinidad, Varadero, Havana, Cuba
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR NOV 15-22 Havana, Trinidad, Varadero, Havana, Cuba
CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY TOUR NOV 29-DEC 06 Havana, Trinidad, Varadero, Havana, Cuba

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