

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Remembering Hiroshima 68
years after the atomic bombing



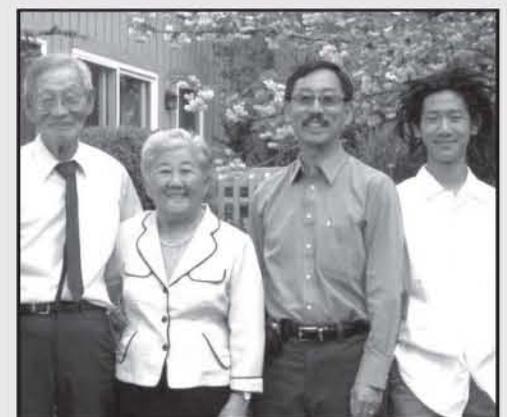
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THE IMPORTANCE OF SOLIDARITY IN THE FACE OF RACE VIOLENCE

By Priscilla Ouchida
JACL National Director

Aug. 5 was the one-year anniversary of the mass shooting at the Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wis. The date led many to reflect on the senseless loss of life.

It is ironic that hate crimes are generic acts. In the mind of the perpetrator, they are specific acts, but in reality, hate crimes are generic attacks against "others."

The tragedy of the attack at Oak Creek one year ago was that Paramjit Kaur, Satwant Singh Kaleka, Prakash Singh, Sita Singh, Ranjit Singh and Suveg Singh were killed, not because of who were they were as individuals but because they were "others."

Oak Creek was another in a long list of hate crimes against "others." Today, it is those perceived to be Muslim American. Thirty years ago when Vincent Chin was killed, it was those perceived to be Japanese. To Oak Creek shooter Wade Michael Page, it didn't matter who he killed as long as his victims fit his concept of the enemy.

For 150 years, AAPIs have struggled to gain acceptance as Americans. That struggle led to the creation of the Japanese American Citizens League in 1929, to the organization of OCA in 1973 and, more recently, to the birth of South Asian Americans Leading Together. As new AAPI communities join the growing landscape of Americans, they face many of the same hurdles as early Chinese and Japanese immigrants, and today, there are over 30 national AAPI organizations.

Within days of Oak Creek, there was a unified AAPI response to the tragedy. JACL members contributed to funds to provide mental health services. The coalition of NCAPA organizations has held together to

push for the expansion of data reporting on hate crimes to include crimes against Sikhs. Individually, each of the organizations has a small voice in a country of over 319 million residents. In collaboration, AAPI groups represent the fastest-growing segment of the population. Oak Creek was a reminder of the importance of coalitions, and the first steps were an important emergency response.

Now comes the hard part — a coordinated, long-range program to



JACL's Greg Marutani offers his condolences to the victims of the mass shooting at the Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wis., in August 2012.

address a belief that is deeply embedded in the psyche of too many that AAPIs and others of color are something other than American. The problem is common to all AAPI communities. Random acts of violence against AAPIs are almost always accompanied by racial epithets. Bullying is the "canary in the mine" for hate crimes, and coalition efforts need to drill down to what is happening in our schools by demanding further breakdown of data on school bullying.

It is important that the American story of AAPIs become part of the larger landscape. Today, most history centers on the accomplishments of white males. Sikh Americans have made enormous contributions to the national story. The work of Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany, the father of fiber optics, or Congressman Dalip Singh Saund should be a part of our American history. Portrayals of Sikh Americans in network programming should be visible and accurately represented. As long as stereotypes are perpetrated in the media, it is difficult to counter hate philosophy.

This is not just a challenge for AAPI organizations, but for the broader civil rights community. It is a call to action. ■

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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. First St., 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

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National Director: Priscilla Ouchida

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Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

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NIKKEI VOICE

It's Important to Call Out Racism Whenever It Appears, Even If It's Inadvertent

By Gil Asakawa

'... If you think something is offensive, it doesn't matter whether the person who said it likes Asians or didn't mean it the way you took it. If it offends you, or anyone, it's offensive. Period.'

Whenever I write about racism on my blog, I get some standard responses: "You're being too sensitive," "you should get a sense of humor." Or, I'll get the nonapology apology: "The offensive comment wasn't meant to be racist, so sorry if you were offended."

It's always my fault that I'm angry about some offhand remark that stereotypes me. It's never the fault of the person who uttered the offensive words. In fact, they'll often add that they have an Asian girlfriend or friends, or else they love Asian culture, eat sushi, watch anime, drive Asian cars, whatever.

But the simple fact is, if you think something is offensive, it doesn't matter whether the person who said it likes Asians or didn't mean it the way you took it. If it offends you, or anyone, it's offensive. Period.

And you should call out the racism. You should tell the offender that you're not amused, that you're angry, that you're offended.

Don't be Asian. Don't be Japanese. Sometimes, you have to bring attention to yourself and make waves if you want justice. Ignore *gaman*. Throw out *shigata ga nai*. Sure, those values helped the Japanese American community hold together during the racist injustice of wartime incarceration. But the world the Issei and Nisei of 70 years ago lived in was different in many ways — not the least of which,

racism was institutionalized and accepted by mainstream society.

In the decades since, the United States has undergone huge social and political upheavals — the baby boom; the struggle for civil rights for African Americans, women, homosexuals; anti-war movements; terror attacks; the Internet . . . and, oh yeah, a black president. We're much more sensitive to racism. Aren't we? Political correctness rules the media. Doesn't it?

Political correctness is an unfortunate term for the sensitivity and respect we should all show for each other's cultures, values and opinions. The "PC Police" is an easy target for racists to ridicule and toss aside whenever they want.

As an Asian American, what's most troubling to me is the fact that Asians are the easiest targets of all for racism. I'm not sure if it's because one of our stereotypes is that we don't complain, that we will quietly suffer any slings and arrows that are aimed at us.

But Asians are subjected to the kinds of outrageous attacks that no one would dare utter anymore about African Americans or Latinos.

Just this summer, a racist prankster submitted fake names for the pilots of the Asiana Airlines jet that crashed at San Francisco Airport to a Bay Area TV station, and the station's anchor duly read the names on the air.

>> See RACISM on page 12

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Silent Disease, Silent Discrimination

By Nadine Shiroma and Ronald Katsuyama

Issued to provide additional information and a call to action based on the emergency resolution approved by the JACL National Council on July 26, 2013, to address outdated, discriminatory policies and practices by the U.S. Dept. of Defense that prohibit the enlistment or retention of personnel with chronic hepatitis B.

In March 2013, civil rights and health advocates hailed a groundbreaking settlement agreement by the U.S. Dept. of Justice on behalf of two Asian and Pacific Islander American students who had been accepted but not allowed to enroll in New Jersey medical schools because they are chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV) — "the silent disease."

Between 2010 and '11, Seattle JACL member Nadine Shiroma and the Hepatitis B Foundation assisted the two students identified above, in addition to four more APIA healthcare students, all of whom were barred from enrollment or threatened with dismissal because of their chronic HBV diagnosis. These students are the sons and daughters of first-generation APIA immigrants. Sadly, we will never know how many more students were dealt the same blow and, not knowing where to turn for assistance, forfeited their dreams of a healthcare career.

The most egregious aspect of chronic HBV discrimi-

nation by health professional schools and employers is the fact that it continues to be cloaked in silence. The reality is that most people know little or nothing about chronic HBV or the discriminatory policies that evolved and became institutionalized.

As of 2011 and even today, most health professional schools and the national organizations that publish admissions guides and process all admission applications for schools in their respective health professional fields do not provide adequate information to aspiring applicants — prior to or after the student accepts a place in the incoming class. Nor do they inform students that each school has its own chronic HBV policy, and the policies vary by school.

In most cases, school policies are either lacking or not published for applicants. It's important to point out that school policies are often more restrictive than the licensing laws for doctors and dentists who have chronic HBV and practice in the states where the schools are located.

Even with federal recognition of chronic HBV as a disability under the Americans With Disabilities Act, advocates worry that discriminatory practices will continue. Therefore, we encourage victims — or their advocates — to immediately file complaints with the DOJ. So long as the public remains silent and uninformed, and schools and employers do not amend or disclose unfair chronic HBV policies, silent discrimination will continue in schools and in the workplace.

In fact, just two months ago, health and civil rights advocates became aware of the unfair chronic HBV policies and practices of the U.S. Dept. of Defense. Specifically, the Army has initiated action to discharge a soldier due to chronic HBV. The individual is a nine-year APIA Afghanistan and Iraq War veteran who works in an auxiliary services unit. He has no healthcare issues related to his medical diagnosis; his fellow soldiers are protected because DOD policy requires all personnel to be vaccinated for HBV; and the soldier is willing to forego future deployment to a combat zone in order to remain on active duty.

Without assistance and the voice of community advocates like the JACL, the soldier will probably lose his appeal. For this reason, the Seattle JACL chapter proposed the emergency resolution that was approved during the July 2013 JACL National Convention.

Educate Yourself & Others About Chronic HBV

In recent years, chronic HBV has been described as the "silent disease." Is it "silent" because most people don't understand what chronic HBV is or how it's transmitted?

Or is it because people don't realize that liver cancer caused by chronic HBV is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths among Asian men in the U.S.? Or that an individual with undiagnosed chronic HBV generally doesn't experience symptoms for decades, until liver damage has already occurred and may not respond to treatment? The answer: all of the above.

>> See DISCRIMINATION on page 5

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye to Posthumously Receive Presidential Medal of Freedom Award



WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama on Aug. 8 named 16 recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. Among the honorees is the late Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii).

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is presented to individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

Other honorees include former President Bill Clinton, baseball legend Ernie Banks, media mogul/actress Oprah Winfrey, country music icon Loretta Lynn and the late astronaut Sally Ride.

Inouye, who passed away in December at age 88, was a lifelong public servant. He fought in World War II with the 442 Regimental Combat Team, for which he received the Medal of Honor, and he was later elected to the Hawaii Territorial House of Representatives, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Inouye, in fact, was the first Japanese American to

serve in Congress, representing the people of Hawaii from the moment they joined the Union.

"The Japanese American Citizens League applauds the president's selection of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye as a medal recipient. In addition to being a great American, Sen. Inouye elevated what it meant to *be* an American," said JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida.

Said President Obama in an official statement: "The Presidential Medal of Freedom goes to men and women who have dedicated their own lives to enriching ours. This year's honorees have been blessed with extraordinary talent, but what sets them apart is their gift for sharing that talent with the world. It will be my honor to present them with a token of our nation's gratitude."

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Executive Order that established the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President John F. Kennedy. Since its inaugural year, more than 500 individuals have received the medal.

The recipients will receive their medals during a ceremony at the White House later this year. ■

JACL Now Accepting Applications for Daniel K. Inouye Fellowship

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The application for the 2013-14 Daniel K. Inouye Fellowship position in the Washington, D.C., office of the JACL is now available. Named after the late senator from Hawaii and Presidential Pro Tempore of the Senate, this fellowship focuses on public policy advocacy in the AAPI community.

Among the responsibilities of the position, the fellow will have the opportunity to staff and monitor key legislative initiatives and issues relevant to the AAPI community; work on a wide variety of projects, issues and programs; conduct research and study topics assigned; interact with other national AAPI and civil rights organizations in the D.C. area; work with JACL and other organizations to organize programs and events; serve on various civil rights and AAPI committees; and perform a wide variety of duties while working directly with the JACL national director.

Qualifications include a minimum four-year degree from an accredited college or university; excellent

writing, analytical and computer skills; the ability to take directions and follow through with assignments; the capability to work well with others and have good interpersonal skills; and be a member of the JACL and familiar with AAPI issues.

The fellowship term is for one year and will begin as early as September. A \$2,200 monthly stipend will be provided.

Air travel for the Daniel K. Inouye Fellowship is provided by Southwest Airlines.

Interested applicants should submit a completed application with personal statement to the Washington, D.C., office of the JACL at policy@jacl.org with "Inouye Fellowship" in the subject line. The application can be downloaded by visiting the JACL website at www.jacl.org.

All applications are due by Sept. 16.

For any questions regarding the fellowship, contact the D.C. office at (202) 223-1240.

APAs in the News



Kent Hirozawa Is Confirmed by the U.S. Senate to the NLRB

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On July 30, the U.S. Senate voted to confirm President Barack Obama's full slate of five nominees to the National Labor Relations Board. Kent Hirozawa joins Nancy Schiffer, Mark Pearce, Harry Johnson III and Philip Miscimarra for a term that runs through 2016.

Hirozawa is the first Asian American to ever serve on the NLRB.

Said President Obama in an official White House statement: "I welcome today's confirmation . . . A critical part of our effort to strengthen the middle class is ensuring that every American who works hard has a chance to succeed. That means providing wages people can live on, safe working conditions and real opportunities to get ahead. Every day, the NLRB is focused on the concerns of working Americans, from eliminating unfair labor practices to upholding the right of employees to join a union and bargain collectively with their employers. I applaud the Senate for putting in place a full board and look forward to working together on other steps we can take to grow our economy."

Hirozawa was previously chief counsel to NLRB Chairman Mark Pearce. Before joining the NLRB staff in 2010, he was a partner in the New York law firm Gladstein, Reif and Meginniss LLP. Hirozawa received a B.A. from Yale University and his J.D. from New York University School of Law.

State Rep. Mark Takai Launches His Congressional Bid



HONOLULU — Hawaii state Rep. Mark Takai has announced plans to run for Congress in Hawaii's First Congressional District. Takai joins a field of Democrats hoping to replace Colleen Hanabusa in the U.S. House.

Takai, who represents Aiea in the State Legislature, has been a state lawmaker since 1994. He is chairman of the House Veterans Committee and is a lieutenant colonel in the Hawaii Army National Guard. He previously served overseas as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009.

Hanabusa is stepping down to challenge U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz in a primary election. Schatz was appointed to the Senate in December following the death of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye.



Anchor/Reporter David Ono Wins Three L.A. Area Emmy Awards

LOS ANGELES — David Ono, reporter/anchor of KABC-TV (ABC7) won three Emmys on Aug. 3 at the 65th Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards, presented by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences at the academy's Leonard H. Goldenson Theatre.

Ono took home Emmys in the following categories: Outstanding Writer — Programming, Outstanding Feature News Reporting (producer/writer) and Outstanding Hard News Reporting (producer/reporter), of which he shared his award with Ana Garcia (reporter) and Robbi Peele (producer) of Los Angeles' NBC4.

Ono's awards accounted for three of his station's seven Emmys.

Brandon Takahashi Named to Lawyers of Color's Hot List



LOS ANGELES — Lawyers of Color recently named Brandon Takahashi to its inaugural Hot List, which recognizes early- to mid-career attorneys under 40 who are excelling in the legal profession.

Takahashi, an associate in the L.A. office of Jackson Lewis LLP, focuses primarily on employment litigation in both state and federal court on behalf of private sector and public entity employers. He earned his juris doctor from the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento.

Lawyers of Color was founded in 2008 as a news and resource center. The company has grown into a social media firm providing research, career development and brand marketing opportunities to clients. ■

**DISCRIMINATION >>
continued from page 3**

Still, on learning about the disease, one can't help but feel upbeat about the amazing medical advances that have occurred since 1967, when the hepatitis B virus was isolated and identified by U.S. Nobel Laureate Dr. Baruch Blumberg. Two years later, Blumberg and Dr. Irving Millman developed the HBV vaccine.

HBV vaccinations are now required for all school children, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention highly recommends that physicians administer the vaccine to all newborns at the time of delivery to protect future generations from this potentially lethal virus.

The good news is that chronic HBV is an entirely preventable and treatable disease. A simple, inexpensive blood test can easily identify if an individual should be referred for treatment or if he or she requires a vaccination. There is a safe vaccine to prevent HBV infection and seven approved drugs to treat and control chronic HBV.

And for those who are accidentally exposed to the virus, there is a highly effective prophylaxis that prevents or minimizes the risk of HBV infection. These are the reasons HBV advocates are working so diligently to raise awareness, distribute information and staff screening events in APIA and other at-risk immigrant communities.

More exciting news: Highly effective HBV antiviral drugs are readily available and affordable. These medications are very effective at suppressing the virus, often to an undetectable level. In most cases, the viral count is reduced well below levels that the CDC considers safe for even an HBV-infected physician or dentist to

perform invasive, exposure-prone procedures. Each of the six APIA medical and dental students described above now has a viral load that is well below the CDC safe threshold.

One might ask, "How is it that Asian and Pacific Islander Americans account for 50 percent of the 2 million cases of chronic HBV in the U.S. but comprise only 5 percent of our country's population?" The answer lies in the facts that 1) the most common mode of HBV transmission is from an infected mother to her newborn during delivery, and 2) a high percentage of children and young adults in the APIA community were born outside the U.S. or to parents who immigrated from countries where HBV is very common and unknowingly transmitted from generation to generation due to lack of knowledge and access to testing and HBV vaccination.

Neutralizes Silent HBV Discrimination

We would never expect health professional schools to adopt dangerous policies; and we would never advocate for the DOD and military services to institutionalize policies that undermine the well-being or effectiveness of military personnel.

The current DOD policy is outdated and discriminatory. To understand why an update to the DOD and service branch policies for individuals with chronic hepatitis B is overdue, compare the facts presented in Figure 1 (accompanying chart), for HIV — human immunodeficiency virus — and HBV, and the institutionalized policies for enrollment in professional healthcare programs and service in the armed forces.

Anecdotally, we know that a much larger percentage of the population from all racial and socioeconomic groups is more likely to recognize HIV than chronic HBV as a lifelong, blood-borne infectious disease.

Yet, the number of U.S. residents living with chronic HBV (2 million) is higher than the number living with

HIV (1.2 million). And APIA immigrant populations — who are not among the racial groups most impacted by HIV — represent 50 percent of the chronic HBV cases.

The accompanying table indicates that significant differences exist in the most common modes of disease transmission. It also lists the racial groups most impacted by the respective chronic condition. As of March 2013, both conditions are considered disabilities under the ADA, and for both of these chronic diseases, major advances have been made in prevention, monitoring and treatment with effective medications.

How, then, do we explain the inconsistent treatment of persons with these chronic conditions, i.e., health professional schools that have enrolled students with HIV but previously excluded students with chronic HBV and the DOD and major service branches providing accommodation for personnel with HIV but discharging personnel with chronic HBV.

Is it because immigrant communities affected by unfair HBV policies are not speaking out against these injustices? Is it harder for individuals to ask for help, when most of the people around them don't know what HBV is?

Can it be that HIV, because of its association with AIDS and given its initial impact on mainstream America, has more vocal, experienced advocates who have worked to insure fair treatment for persons with HIV under the ADA, where HIV is specifically named as a protected disability?

After you've considered these questions, please ask yourself: Should I, my JAACL chapter and the APIA community help ensure fair treatment for APIA's and other persons with chronic HBV? If the answer is yes, send an email message to chronic.hbv.advocacy@gmail.com, and we'll update you on the work that's underway to mobilize this effort.

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Figure 1. Comparing HBV and HIV

	Chronic HBV (Hepatitis B Virus)	HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)
Most common modes of transmission	In high-prevalence, immigrant populations: At birth from mother to child; In low-prevalence populations: Unprotected sexual activity and intravenous drug abuse	Unprotected sexual activity and intravenous drug abuse
No. of people in the U.S. living with the virus	2 million	1.2 million
Racial group(s) bearing the most severe burden of the disease	Asian & Pacific Islander Americans	Blacks/African Americans followed by Whites
% Of total U.S. population represented by the most affected racial group	5%	14%
% Of total cases represented by the most affected racial group	50%	46%
Proportion unaware of their chronic infection	More than 50%	Approx. 20%
Are effective antiviral medications available to slow the disease and reduce viral load?	Yes	Yes
Long term prognosis without monitoring or healthy lifestyle choices	Chronic Hepatitis B is a serious disease that can result in premature death due to cirrhosis, liver failure, and liver cancer (2nd deadliest cancer in the U.S.)	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome — AIDS — the final stage of HIV infection, where people have badly damaged immune systems and are at risk for opportunistic infections.
Do institutional policies require vaccination against this chronic disease for individuals in health professional school and in the U.S. Armed Forces?	Yes	(no vaccine available)
Were students with the disease excluded or dismissed from certain medical or dental schools prior to the DOJ settlement agreement in March 2013?	Yes	No
Are service personnel afforded accommodation by the Dept of Defense & most branches of the Armed Forces as of Aug 2013?	No	Yes
Sources: Hepatitis B Foundation: www.hepb.org www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/b/bfaq.htm#bFAQ01 www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/basics/ataglance.html www.aids.gov/hiv-aids-basics/hiv-aids-101/statistics www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr6103.pdf www.ada.gov/umdnj_sa.htm www.outservemag.com/2012/11/military-reverses-course-on-hiv-people-serving-overseas-2/		



Delwayne Arakaki, of the JACL Las Vegas chapter, speaks in opposition to the Trayvon Martin resolution at the JACL National Convention.

JACL National Council Votes to Support Civil-Rights Investigation Into the Trayvon Martin Case

DELEGATES AT THE JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION PASSED FIVE RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING MOTIONS ON IMMIGRATION REFORM, JAPAN JACL CHAPTER DUES AND THE MARTIN CASE, AMONG OTHER MATTERS.

By P.C. Staff

The JACL National Council voted to honor Trayvon Martin, the unarmed black 17-year-old teen who was shot to death last year by supporting the efforts to pursue a U.S. Department of Justice investigation into possible federal charges against George Zimmerman.

The emergency resolution was introduced at the National Council meeting on July 26 in Washington, D.C., by Bill Tashima of the Seattle JACL chapter and approved by Heidi Park, president of the chapter.

The resolution passed with 47.5 in favor, 7.5 against and 17 abstentions.

The JACL decision came after Zimmerman was acquitted on July 13 in the death of Martin, a verdict that has polarized the country.

Martin was unarmed and walking back from a 7-Eleven

store carrying Skittles and ice tea when he was fatally shot by Zimmerman on Feb. 26. Zimmerman claimed he shot Martin in self-defense.

Many JACLers compared the Martin case to the death of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American beaten to death in 1982 at a time when anti-Japanese sentiments were high due to car manufacturing layoffs in the United States.

"Thirty-one years ago, I met an elderly Chinese American woman. That woman's name was Lily Chen, Vincent Chin's mother," said Andy Noguchi, a Florin JACL chapter member. "The JACL demanded we step forward for the Chinese American community, for the Japanese American community, for Asian Pacific Islander Americans then. We need to at least do as much for the African American community today."

Much like the Zimmerman verdict has divided the country on issues of race and equality, the JACL resolution to honor Martin and support a civil-rights investigation was met with



JACL delegates voted on resolutions during the national council session held in Washington, D.C.



Ken Inouye, the Pacific Southwest District governor, spoke in favor of the Trayvon Martin resolution.

skepticism by some.

“Whereas he was shot and killed while walking from the 7-Eleven store because he was viewed as suspicious by Zimmerman. No, he was shot and killed because he thought he could beat up on someone,” said Delwayne Arakaki, of the JACL Las Vegas chapter, questioning the wording in the resolution. “The lesson should be if you resort to violence, then possibly you will expect to get it in return.”

Other JACLers echoed Arakaki’s opposition to passing the resolution.

“JACL must be concerned with due process and the presumption of innocence. President Obama, who is unhappy with the verdict — President Obama’s opinion was that Mr. Zimmerman did receive due process and that he did receive a fair trial,” said David Unruhe, the Northern California-Western Nevada Pacific District governor. “So, I don’t understand why justice was not served. We have a very unpopular verdict. That’s different than having justice not be served.”

The resolution indicates that the National Council will direct JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida to send a letter of support to the U.S. attorney general. The national council also urges, according to the resolution, district and chapter representatives to send similar letters of support.

“This organization has to recognize that racial profiling is rampant in this country. And I believe that calling for an investigation by the Department of Justice will bring this issue to light so that all Americans will understand that being a black person in this country bears with it certain burdens that fortunately most of us do not face,” said Ken Inouye, the Pacific Southwest District governor. “We live in a society that assumes that everybody is created equal, but unfortunately as I’ve suggested earlier, it is true that being an African American is

a difficult task.”

The Justice Department announced in July that it has an open investigation in Martin’s death. Martin’s parents, Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin, and their lawyer, Benjamin Crump, met with prosecutors from the Justice Department on July 31 to discuss pursuing a civil rights investigation.

Other motions passed at the JACL convention include a resolution to urge Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform and pathway to citizenship.

National delegates also passed a resolution to amend the Japan chapter dues to \$25 a year after considering the historical and demographic differences that separate Japanese citizens from Japanese Americans. Those in support of the resolution explained that Japanese residents who are JACL members do not receive the same benefits as Japanese Americans because, for example, the *Washington Digest* newsletter and *Pacific Citizen* are written in English. Also, supporters explained, Japanese citizens, being the majority in Japan, have not had the same historical experience with discrimination. That resolution passed with 43 in favor, 28 opposed and 1 abstention.

Another emergency resolution that directs the national council to recognize the importance of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was also passed.

The final emergency resolution, concerning the discharge of an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran with hepatitis B, was also passed. The resolution indicates that JACL will petition the Department of Defense to prevent recruiting military officers from disqualifying or discouraging applicants with chronic hepatitis B.

A traditional resolution to thank the convention committee for volunteering to organize the convention was also passed. ■

Legacy Fund Grants Mark a Return to 'Giving Back'

TEN RECIPIENTS RECEIVE \$3,000 TO FUND VARIOUS NATIONAL JACL PROJECTS.

By Janice Faden and Jane Katsuyama

It was a very special moment at this year's Legacy Luncheon on July 26 during the JACL National Convention in Washington, D.C.

As Kaz Uyehara stepped up to the microphone to announce the 2013 Legacy Fund Grant Awardees, he was carrying on a part of his own family's legacy.

Kaz Uyehara is a member of the Legacy Fund Grants Committee and the third generation of the Uyehara family to participate in JACL's Legacy Fund. His grandmother, Grayce, was the first chairperson of the Legacy Fund Campaign, and Kaz's father, Paul, is the past chair of the LFG Committee.

The awarding of this year's Legacy Grants marks a return to the mission of the JACL Legacy Fund.

The JACL Legacy Fund was established on June 20, 1990, after the passage of the federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988. The Legacy Fund's goal is to support cultural programs, research and education aimed at preventing the repetition of injustices, such as the U.S. government's wrongful incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Annual earnings from the Legacy Fund are distributed to the National JACL (65 percent), local chapters in proportion to each chapter's past contributions to the fund (20 percent) and to district and chapter programs (10 percent). The remaining 5 percent is reinvested in the Legacy Fund.

Approximately \$5 million was donated to the fund by those incarcerated in the camps who wished to use their \$20,000 redress awards to further the Japanese American legacy of patriotism and hard-won civil rights.

The first distribution from the Legacy Fund was made in Spring 1992 in the amount of \$78,149. In 1993, the distribution grew to \$120,312. For several years, no grants were awarded because there wasn't sufficient earnings from the Fund principle.

At this year's Legacy Luncheon, LFG Committee co-chairs Janice Faden (EDC) and Jan Katsuyama (MDC) announced that the committee reassessed the fund's status and determined that grant money could once



This year's Legacy Fund Grant recipients are flanked by Legacy Fund Grant Committee co-chair Janice Faden of EDC (far left), JACL National President David Lin (left) and co-chair Jane Katsuyama of MDC (far right).

again be made available. All chapters were encouraged to submit proposals for creative projects to sustain the Japanese American legacy.

This year, Legacy Fund Grants of \$3,000 were awarded to 10 recipients. The winning projects include:

- Gardens commemorating JA ancestry and contributions
- Trips for youth to Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, Manzanar and the JACL Convention, with follow-up reflection sessions for the participants
- Multimodal community conferences that aim to increase youth participation, broaden awareness of and appreciation for Japanese American contributions to the community and the U.S. and a greater collaboration with diverse community groups.

Each grant recipient received a certificate presented by JACL National President David Lin and VP for Planning and Development Chip Larouche.

Certificates were presented to the following awardees by chapter:

- *Japanese Garden Project (Idaho Falls)*, Dale Cawley
- *Kansha Project (Chicago)*, Megan Nakano
- *2013 Youth Delegate Campaign Project (National Youth/Student Council)*, Nicole Gaddie
- *MIS Language School Project (Twin Cities)*, Matthew Walters
- *Densho Legacy Garden Project (Boise Valley)*, Janis Ogawa
- *Youth Project (Portland)*, Connie Masuoka
- *Informational Brochures Camp Amache Project*



Three generations of the Uyehara family include (from left) Hiroshi, Grayce, son Paul and grandson Kaz.

(*Mile High*), Mary Ann Amemiya

- *Living Legacy Speaking Series Project (Berkeley)*, Jeffrey Yamashita
- *TEDx Event Project (San Francisco)*, Haruka Roudebush
- *Collegiate Asian Pacific Internship Project (Pacific Southwest)*, Traci Ichigo

The JA legacy lives on through these Legacy Grant projects. Each winner joins the generations of JAs, such as the Uyehara family, who believe in the importance of learning from our past and building a better future. ■

For \$50 remember loved ones, events, welcome the upcoming year or just wish all Happy Holidays!

This is a special **Holiday Issue** donation campaign directly for the **Pacific Citizen** newspaper.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: contact Susan Yokoyama at busrmgr@pacificcitizen.org or call: 213-620-1767 mornings (PST).

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Japanese Government to Help Combat Radioactive Water Leaks at Fukushima

By Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's government said Aug. 7 that it will step in and take "firm measures" to combat leaks of radioactive water at the country's crippled nuclear plant, including possibly funding a multibillion-dollar project to fix the problem.

The announcement came a day after the operator of the wrecked Fukushima Dai-ichi plant said some of the water was seeping over or around an underground barrier it created by injecting chemicals into the soil that solidified into a wall.

"There is a heightened concern among the public, particularly about the contaminated water problem," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Wednesday during a government nuclear disaster response meeting at his office. "This is an urgent matter that needs to be addressed. The government will step in to take firm measures."

The latest problem involves underground water that has built up over the last month since the operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., began creating the chemical walls underground to stop leaks after detecting radiation spikes in water samples in May.

Government officials said Wednesday that an estimated 300 tons of radioactive water has been leaking into the sea each day since early in the crisis, which was caused by a massive 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Since a major leak occurred from a maintenance pit a month after three reactors at the plant melted following the disasters, TEPCO had denied any further leaks of radioactive water into the sea, despite repeated warnings by experts, until finally acknowledging them last month.

The underground barrier on the coastal embankment has slowed the leaks somewhat, but has caused underground water to swell at the complex. To prevent an overflow above the surface, which is feared to happen within weeks, TEPCO will start pumping out about 100 tons of underground water from coastal observation wells by the end of this week. Later this month, TEPCO is to remove old contaminated water from trenches near the coast — a time bomb that it had left untouched despite repeated prodding from government watchdog officials.

Shinji Kinjo, an official at the Nuclear Regulation Authority, said faster-than-expected swelling of the underground water following the installation of the chemical barriers accelerated the emergency caused by TEPCO's delays.

Alarmed by the leaks, a fisheries cooperative in nearby Iwaki city decided to indefinitely postpone a test catch planned for September.

Government officials said Aug. 7 that they were considering funding a separate, multibillion-dollar project to surround the reactor buildings with a wall of frozen ground to block underground water from entering the contaminated buildings.

The project, announced in May, is scheduled for completion in July 2015. ■

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Remembering the Bombing on Hiroshima 68 Years Later

NO MENTION OF FUKUSHIMA AS JAPAN'S PRIME MINISTER CALLS FOR END OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.



Hiroshima Peace Park is a memorial dedicated to the legacy of Hiroshima as the first city in the world to suffer a nuclear attack and to the more than 140,000 people who were killed as a result.

By Associated Press

HIROSHIMA — Japan marked the 68th anniversary Aug. 6 of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima with a somber ceremony to honor the dead and pledges to seek to eliminate nuclear weapons.

Some 50,000 people stood for a minute of silence in Hiroshima's Peace Park near the epicenter of the early morning blast on Aug. 6, 1945, that killed up to 140,000 people. The bombing of Nagasaki three days later killed tens of thousands more, prompting Japan's surrender to the World War II Allies.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, among many dignitaries attending the event, said that as the sole country to face nuclear attack, Japan has the duty to seek to wipe out nuclear weapons. He made no mention of the dilemma this resource-scarce country is facing over nuclear energy, nor the tens of thousands of people displaced by risks from radioactivity from a nuclear disaster in Fukushima.

Most of Japan's nuclear power plants were taken offline after the massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011 damaged reactors at a plant in Fukushima, causing meltdowns. Abe favors restarting plants under new safety guidelines, while many Japanese oppose such restarts.

There are more than 200,000 *hibakusha*, surviving victims from the atomic bombings, with an average age of nearly 79. Many gathered in Hiroshima to burn incense, bowing in prayer.

In a "peace declaration" speech, Hiroshima's mayor, Kazumi Matsui, described the pain of those who survived, only to be shunned as contaminated by the radiation.

"The atomic bomb is the ultimate inhumane weapon

and an absolute evil. The *hibakusha*, who know the hell of an atomic bombing, have continuously fought that evil," he said.

Matsui chided the government for its efforts to restart the nuclear plants and to export nuclear technology to other countries.

"This summer, eastern Japan is still suffering the aftermath of the great earthquake and the nuclear accident. The desperate struggle to recover hometowns continues. The people of Hiroshima know well the ordeal of recovery," Matsui said.

"We urge the national government to rapidly develop and implement a responsible energy policy that places top priority on safety and the livelihoods of the people," he said.

A recent agreement on discussing nuclear energy cooperation with India, he said, would likely hinder efforts to abolish nuclear weapons.

The Hiroshima victims offered their support to those suffering from the accident in Fukushima, where the situation remains precarious following meltdowns of three reactors after the plant's power systems were crippled by the tsunami.

The plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., admits it is struggling to contain radiation-contaminated water as its storage facilities overflow.

Last year, the previous government pledged to eventually phase out nuclear power and vastly increase use of renewable energy.

Abe has backtracked from that commitment, saying that he favors a "responsible" energy policy that would allow nuclear plants to restart, reducing the burden on the economy from costly imports of natural gas and oil. ■

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



PHOTO: DAVID YU

Sumo Champions Exhibition**SAN FRANCISCO, CA****Sept. 22, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.****Japantown Peace Plaza
Post and Webster Streets**

The public is invited to cheer on professional sumo wrestlers at this outdoor sporting event. Wrestlers will demonstrate sumo techniques and participate in a real match. The family event is a good chance for children and parents to meet and greet sumo wrestlers.

Info: Visit www.japancentersf.com or call (415) 440-1171.

CALENDAR

>>EDC**Chinatown Mid-Autumn Festival
Philadelphia, PA****Sept. 14, 12:45-6 p.m.****China Friendship Gate
10th and Arch Streets**

Asian Americans United is hosting a mid-autumn full-moon celebration. Enjoy arts and crafts, performances, music, a dragon dance and an eating contest.

Info: Call Ellen at (215) 925-1538 or email aau@aaunited.org.

**The Annual Quincy August
Moon Festival****QUINCY, MA****Aug. 18, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.****Quincy Center
1509 Hancock St.**

The Quincy August Moon Festival, a family event, will feature traditional and modern Asian music, games and crafts, as well as cuisine from local restaurants.

Info: Call (617) 472-2200 or visit www.quincyasianresources.org.

**A Day to Honor the 442nd RCT
NEEDHAM, MA****Aug. 24, 2-4 p.m.****Gari Japanese Restaurant
1019 Great Plain Ave.**

To honor the heroics of the 442nd Regimental Combat unit, artists will decorate Adirondack chairs for a Needham-wide business promotional event. World War II veteran Dr. Susumu Ito, who served in the 442nd RCT, and Vincent Yee, author of "The Purple Heart," will speak at the event. Attendees will receive a restaurant discount.

Info: Call (781) 455-8882.**>>NCWNP****The Japan Expo
SANTA CLARA, CA****Aug. 23-25****Santa Clara Convention Center
5001 Great America Pkwy.****Cost: \$20-\$25/Day pass;
\$50/Three-day pass**

The Japan Expo launched 13 years ago in France and is considered to be one of the largest celebrations of Japanese culture and entertainment.

Info: Visit www.japan-expo.org.

**Pacific Rim Film Festival
SANTA CRUZ, CA****Oct. 17-23****Rio Theatre
1205 Soquel Ave.**

The theme of the 25th annual Pacific Rim Film Festival is "When Strangers Meet." Featured films will focus on fostering a cross-cultural understanding. The free festival is funded by the community and Ow Family Properties.

Info: Visit www.paorimfilmfestival.org

**Pink Elephant Project
SAN FRANCISCO, CA****Aug. 28, Sept. 21,****Oct. 26 & Dec. 5**

The Network on Religion and Justice for Asian Pacific Islanders LGBTQ People (NRJ) and API Equality of Northern California are collaborating to hold a storytelling and education project. The goal of the project is to create online

videos that give a voice to a broader range of API individuals.

RSVP: Visit www.netrj.org or contact Lauren Quook at (510) 859-3874 or email lauren@netrj.org.

**Kimochi Silver Bells Arts &
Crafts Faire****SAN FRANCISCO, CA****Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.****St. Mary's Cathedral
1111 Gough St.**

Help support Kimochi's programs and services for seniors as you shop for unique holiday gifts such as jewelry, bags, stationery, ceramics and more! There's a free shuttle service to and from Japantown.

Info: Visit www.kimochi-inc.org or call (415) 931-2294.

>>PSW**East West Players Presents****'Steel Magnolias'****LOS ANGELES, CA****Sept. 11, 7 p.m.****David Henry Hwang Theater
120 Judge Aiso St.****Cost: \$26/Preview seats;
\$36-\$46/General admission**

East West Players, a national organization of Asian American artists and the longest-running professional theater of color in the country, is kicking off its 48th anniversary season with "Steel Magnolias." Opening night is Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. Previews begin Sept. 5-8. The production runs until October. **Info: Call (213) 625-7000, ext. 16 or visit www.eastwestplayers.org.**

**Pacific Asia Museum's
Constructed Visions Art Exhibit****PASADENA, CA****Aug. 23-Nov. 24****Pacific Asia Museum****46 N. Los Robles Ave.
Cost: \$10/General admission;
\$7/Seniors and students**

The exhibit "Constructed Visions: New Media From Korea" features four Korean artists who examine their urban and rural environments using digital media.

Info: Call (626) 449-2742 or visit www.pacificasiamuseum.org.

**Kokoro Craft Boutique
LOS ANGELES, CA****Oct 5, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.****Japanese American National
Museum****100 N. Central Ave.**

Find unique treasures from more than 40 vendors at this craft boutique that benefits the Japanese American National Museum's educational programs. Merchandise includes origami, ceramics, art, clothing, dog accessories and items from Eric Nakamura's Giant Robot collection. **Info: Visit www.janm.org or call (213) 625-0414.**

>>PNW**The Congressional Gold Medal
Traveling Exhibit****PORTLAND, OR****Aug. 24-Sept. 29****Oregon History Museum****100 N. Central Ave.****Cost: \$50/Lunch Per Person;
\$750/Tables of Ten**

The traveling exhibit "American Heroes: Japanese

American World War II Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal" honors Japanese American veterans who served in the 442nd RCT, the 100th Battalion and the MIS. The exhibit was organized thanks to the Oregon Nikkei Endowment, the Oregon Historical Society, the National Veterans Network and the Smithsonian. The opening ceremony is Aug. 24 at 10:30 a.m. A luncheon will follow at the Hilton Portland, with speaker Gen. Eric K. Shinseki. **RSVP by Aug. 20. Info: Visit www.oregonnikkei.org or call (503) 224-1458.**

**Portland Taiko
'Making Waves' Concert****PORTLAND, OR****Oct. 12 & 13, 8 p.m. &****2 p.m.****Aladdin Theater****3017 S.E. Milwaukie Ave.**

Portland Taiko will collaborate with the Los Angeles-based taiko group On Ensemble for its latest concert "Making Waves 2013."

Info: Visit www.portlandtaiko.org or call (503) 288-2456.

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FOR MORE INFO:

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Memoriam

Asawa, Ruth, 87, San Francisco,



CA; Aug. 6; a well-known sculptor and arts advocate; she was interned with her family during World War II at Rohwer; predeceased by her husband, Albert Lanier; she is survived by five of her six children, Xavier, Aiko, Hudson, Addie and Paul; 10 gc; 4 ggc.

Fujiwara, Alice T., 81, Mililani, HI; July 26; survived by husband, Norman; sons, Russell and Nelson; daughters, Joanne Look and Sandora Nishio; brother, Richard Iwamoto; sister, Fumiko Sato; 3 gc.

Fujitani, Mae Kazuko, 97,



Pasadena, CA; July 26; survived by her son, Danald Shigeo (Miyuki); daughter, Diane Sachiyo; sisters, Masako Suruki and Setsuko Asano; 2 gc.

Fukiage, Audrey C., 82, Ontario, OR; May 7; she was interned at Gila River; a member of the Ontario Community Church and JACL; predeceased by husband, Harry; survived by sister, Yoko Takatori; brother, Dennis Okamoto; nephews, Ted Takatori (Maureen), Colin Takatori (Sonja), Sherman Takatori (Heidi) and Brett Okamoto (Nicole); grandnephews and nieces, Jason, Lucas, Mika, Emma, James, Brandon, Malia and Cameron.

Hayakawa, Carol Tsuda, 82,



Torrance, CA; Aug. 5; her family was interned at Jerome Relocation Camp during WWII; predeceased by her beloved husband, Kenneth Kiyoshi Hayakawa; survived by daughter, Caren (David) Murray; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

Hayakawa, Yoshiko, 84,



Montebello, CA; Aug. 4; she is survived by her loving husband, Kenjiro Hayakawa; children, Shigeru (Wendy), Steven (Laura), Lane (Judy) Hayakawa and Kimi (Pil) Serpas; sister, Mary Sadako Woo; also survived by many grandnieces and nephews; 9 gc.

Ikeda, Kayora Alice, 97, West Los Angeles, CA; July 25; Alice was born near Penryn, Calif., to Itono Tanaka Okumoto and Kansaburo Okumoto; survived by her husband of 70 years, Michito Stanley; three children, Irene (Kenneth) Hirose, Robert (Lillian) Ikeda and Andy (Savita) Ikeda; 2 gc; 1 ggc.

Isomoto, Dorothy Sonoko, 90, Los Angeles, CA; June 20; survived by her children, Jacquie Takaha, Robert Isomoto, Dr. William Isomoto of New York and Becky Isomoto; sister-in-law, Dorothy Hokoyama; brothers-in-law, Tad (Tsutako) Isomoto and Hiroshi Isomoto; and also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 6 gc; 8 gggc.

Itaya, Ted "Teddy," 65, Oroville, CA; Aug. 10; a U.S. Army veteran; he is survived by his family; son, Andrew Itaya; daughter, Brianne Itaya; and Jane Itaya; also survived by many other relatives.

Kadowaki, Hank Hitoshi, 66, Villa Park, CA; July 2; he is survived by his wife, Alice Kadowaki; mother, Shigeko Kadowaki; siblings, Tom (Lorene) and Ted (Donna) Kadowaki; sisters-in-law, Sharon (Glenn) Sugita and Gail (Ken) Nishida; nieces and nephews, Bryan, Ryan and Lisa Kadowaki, Blaine (Jill) Ishii, Staci (Garin) Yoshimura, Trisha Nishimura and Kevin and Kayla Nishida; also survived by many other relatives.

Kaneoka, Rose Satsuki, 91,



Monterey Park, CA; July 24; survived by daughter, Eileen (Ray) Sugiura; siblings, Pansy (Harold) Yamagata, James (Joyce) Yasui of WA; sister-in-law of George (Ada) Kaneoka of HI, Donald (Elsie) Kaneoka, Chris Sugita, Akiko Yokoo of HI, Joanne (John) Tao, Helen (George) Tamayori and Masayo Nagao of HI; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

Kato, Mary Mari, 92, Gardena, CA; Aug. 9; survived by her children, Richard (Eileen), Daisy, Bob (Kathleen) and Violet (William) Dresser; best friends and closest relatives, Jiki (Kiku) Higa and their daughter, Yumiko; 5 gc.

Kusaba, Aiko Outa, 85, Culver City, CA; May 23; survived by her husband, Mike; children, Sachie Nitta of Washington and Bill; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc.

Mikami, Toshie Mildred, 99,



Torrance, CA; Aug. 3; survived by son, Richard (Ann); daughters, Meiko Inaba, Carol (Vern) Matsuura, Lynn and Shirley; also survived by many nieces, nephews, many friends, neighbors and other relatives; 4 gc; 7 ggc.

Nishiya, Setsuko, 75,



Los Angeles, CA; July 30; she is survived by her husband, Kunihiro Nishiya; children, Dr. Mark (Jackie) Nishiya of Colorado and Susan Nishiya; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Okamoto, Satoru, 82, South San Gabriel, CA; a veteran of the U.S. Marines; he is survived by his loving family; son, Brian Okamoto; daughter, Charlene (Steve) Hill; sisters, Toshie Fujikawa and Itsue Kanemura; also survived by his niece and nephew, Karen and Kevin Kanemura.

Shimabukuro, Kiyoshi, 85, Monterey Park, CA; July 22; a veteran of the Korean Conflict; he is survived by his children, Lori (Tom) Hikida, Linda (Bill) Tan and Dean (Stacy) Shimabukuro; brother, Joe (Patsy) Shimabukuro; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in the U.S. and Japan; 4 gc.

Takada, Kazuo, 70, San Diego, CA; July 9; survived by his wife, Waka; children, Miki and Kentaro; mother, Toshiko; siblings, Akio (Michiko), Nobuo (Yoko) and Michiko; brothers-in-law, Shunichi (Michiko) and Koji (Yoshiko) Tajima of Japan; also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives in Japan.

Takehara, Amy Ichiye, 75, Los Angeles, CA; July 4; survived by her husband, Umio; son, Ron (Pia); brothers, Joe (Noriko) Iwama and Henry (Yumi) Sumida; brothers-in-law, Yone (Jane) and David (Yoko); 2 gc.

Tsurutani, Aya Lucy, 100, Santa



Monica, CA; July 24; a San Francisco-born Nisei; she is survived by her son, Bruce T. (Olga Verkhoglyadova); daughter, Laurie T. (Ralph) Rennie; sister, Helen Kimiko Tanabe; 2 gc.

Unoura, James Makoto, 87, Culver City, CA; Aug. 10; a veteran of WWII; he is survived by his wife, Matsuyo Unoura; also survived by many nieces,

nephews and other relatives.

Watari, Kazuko, 86, Los Angeles,



CA; July 28; she is survived by her husband, Kiyoji Watari; son, Tetsusen Wesley (Sayoko) Watari; sisters, Kyoko Togashi and Fukuko Yashima, both of Japan; many nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; 2 gc.

Zoriki, Itsuo, 102, Los Angeles, CA; June 23; a WWII veteran of the 442nd Anti-Tank Company; predeceased by his wife, Mary; survived by children, Judy (Terrie) Shiohita and Christopher; 3 gc; 2 ggc; also survived by many other relatives.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch. **Contact:** nalea@pacificcitizen.org or (213) 620-1767

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RACISM >>
continued from page 3

They included, "Captain Sum Ting Wong" and "Wi Tu Lo." The anchor and the newsroom staff I'm sure are mortified that they were fooled, but it doesn't answer the question why someone would think that would be funny in the first place.

And last month, an otherwise forgettable rap-rock band from Los Angeles called Day Above Ground filmed a truly offensive music video, "Asian Girlz," that strings together a nonstop litany of racist and sexist babble about, you guessed it, Asian girls. It was so awful and angered so many people that a planned performance at an L.A. club was yanked by the promoter, and the band finally had to pull the video altogether. A Vietnamese model who "starred" in the video wrote a heartfelt apology for her involvement on Twitter and her blog.

More recently, a CNBC news anchor couldn't resist the urge to use the phrase "chink in the armor" in a story about media mogul Rupert Murdoch's divorce from his Asian wife.

These three examples cover the range of willful hate speech (the fake names submitted to the TV station), incredible ignorance (the music video) and inadvertent poor choice of words (using a phrase that is legitimate but in certain contexts can appear to be racist, and seriously, shouldn't we all just stop using the word "chink" for any reason anyway?).

But in each case, it's our responsibility to point out that we're offended by this stuff. If we quietly take the punches, if we rely on *gaman* and *shigata ga nai*, nothing will change. No one will know, and they will continue to think it's OK.

If we instead call out the offense, people might disagree, and they may tell us to stop being sensitive and get a sense of humor. But we can't expect change if we don't start the conversation.

And we can't start the conversation until we say something.

Gil Asakawa is a current member of the P.C. Editorial Board and former P.C. Board Chair. His blog is at www.nikkeiview.com, and he also is the Japanese expert for Answers.com at www.japanese.answers.com.



City of Glendale Unveils Comfort Women Monument

BUENA PARK ALSO IS IN TALKS TO APPROVE A MONUMENT.

The city of Glendale, Calif., recently unveiled a monument in Central Park dedicated as a lasting testament to the Korean "comfort women" of World War II, and now the Buena Park City Council has also been asked to approve a monument, though some members are expressing reluctance to become involved in the heated debate.

During World War II, nearly 200,000 women from Korea and other Asian countries were held as sex slaves by the Japanese Imperial Army. Despite

historical proof of the abuse, the issue has been largely opposed by Japanese nationalists.

The unveiling of the statue of a young girl, seated next to an empty chair representing the victims who have died, comes after the Glendale City Council approved the monument on July 9.

Kathy Masaoka spoke on behalf of Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, which has supported the Korean comfort women's demand for an apology and individual reparations from the Japanese government.

"When Japan sincerely apologizes and pays reparations to each of the comfort women before it is too late, it will help these survivors heal and show that Japan has learned from its past," she said. "This monument to the comfort women is also a reminder to all of us that the abuse and trafficking of women into forced prostitution or domestic slavery continues today, even in this country."

The proposal to erect a monument in Buena Park was brought up at the council's July 23 meeting, but no vote was taken. The issue has been tabled for now and will be discussed again upon further review. ■

AMERICAN HEROES
★★★
Japanese American World War II Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal

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All donations will be recognized on the NVN website sponsor page. Tributes in honor or memory of veterans will be included for donations \$100 or more.

The National Veterans Network is a coalition that advocates on a national level to educate and enlighten the public about the experience and legacy of the Japanese American World War II soldiers. NVN operates under the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Washington D.C. (tax ID # 95-4255318), which serves as its fiscal sponsor. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.