Dear Editor,

Grayce Uyehara passed away on June 22, 2014. She was 94 and a longtime resident of the Philadelphia area. One of her major contributions was her role in making JACL’s redress initiative a legislative success story.

In 1984, when JACL’s efforts to seek passage of its redress legislation were stalled and in complete disarray, Grayce was asked to lead the effort as the executive director of JACL’s Legislative Education Committee (LEC), working out of JACL’s Washington, D.C., office.

She, together with a team of volunteers, resuscitated the stalled redress initiative. Her team consisted of Grant Ujifusa, Min Yasui, Cherry Kinoshita, Denny Yasuhara, Shig Wakamatsu, Mae Takahashi, Peggy Liggett, Molly Fujioka, Harry Kajiha, Tom Kometani, Rudy Tokiwa, Mary Tsukamoto, Art Morimitsu, Judy Nizzawa, Meriko Mori and Ruth Hashimoto.

They worked tirelessly to overcome obstacles in Congress, garnered support from key legislative leaders and persuaded President Ronald Reagan to change his initial opposition to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which he signed on Aug. 10, 1988.

Grayce is depicted in “Crossing,” artist Alfred J. Smith’s large acrylic painting (1986), which is hung in the Washington, D.C., Convention Center lobby area. The painting includes then-prominent community leaders crossing the street at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and M Street NW, Washington, D.C.

Grayce was a kind and quiet person. When she did speak, she was always insightful, direct, and fearless in “telling it like it is.” I always listened and learned. I will miss her.

Gerald Yamada
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Tateishi,

Although I agree with some of your article “Still My Hero,” I respectfully disagree with most, and I would appreciate the opportunity to present my opinion as an opposing view.

“The problem with the VA were not of Shinseki’s making. He inherited them,” I agree. Shinseki did not create the problems, but he was appointed to correct them, and he did not. And more disturbing is the abuse and mismanagement continued UNDER HIS WATCH. This is just another excuse to try to deflect blame for the ongoing dysfunction and abuse within the VA and this Administration.

“. . . increasing demands as thousands of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have sought care.” This is true. However, the veterans who have not received adequate care also include older ones, veterans from other combat wars.

“Shinseki was blind-sided.” Where was Shinseki since being appointed? Wasn’t he appointed to get to the bottom of these problems and begin to correct them? Sadly, it appears the abuse and mismanagement continued, and more occurred under his watch. And had it not been for the whistle-blowers, this abuse would not have been reported nor acknowledged by (Shinseki or Obama), and it would have continued.

“Shinseki was willing to fall on his sword.” In my opinion, he should be held accountable for his lack of leadership and management. But this doesn’t constitute blame for the ongoing dysfunction and abuse within the VA and this Administration.

Where was Shinseki since being appointed? Wasn’t he appointed to get to the bottom of these problems and begin to correct them? Sadly, it appears the abuse and mismanagement continued, and more occurred under his watch. And had it not been for the whistle-blowers, this abuse would not have been reported nor acknowledged by (Shinseki or Obama), and it would have continued.

“The problems at the VA were not of Shinseki’s making. He inherited them.” I agree. Shinseki did not create the problems, but he was appointed to correct them, and he did not. And more disturbing is the abuse and mismanagement continued UNDER HIS WATCH. This is just another excuse to try to deflect blame for the ongoing dysfunction and abuse within the VA and this Administration.

Grayce Uyehara is depicted in “Crossing,” a painting by artist Alfred J. Smith.

>> SEE LETTER on page 12

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NIKKEI VOICE

ASIANS HAVE ALWAYS EMBRACED TECHNOLOGY EARLY, AND SO SHOULD YOU

By GS Anakawa

I make a living using technology, so maybe it's not fair for me to say it, but I will anyway: We all should have computers and smartphones, and we should embrace technology, not be scared of it.

This is a mantra I've said for years, going back to the start of my career in the early 1980s. Back then, I was a journalist who typed on an IBM Selectric typewriter — anyone who's a baby boomer or older remembers those — and I thought I was getting my but fried when the weekly newspapers I worked for went over to a computer system. I didn't think I could adapt. Or evolve. I thought the newfangled stuff would be too complicated, and I couldn't learn it.

You know what? I did learn it. Not just because my job depended on it, but because I found I liked it.

The fact is, I've always been a gadget geek, since my childhood. It's a stereotype, but maybe there's some sociological reason for it. Asians (certainly I'm one) seem to have an affinity for high-tech stuff. Even today Japan leads the world in robotics, and one museum in that country just introduced robot doctors who explain the exhibits and look eerily like human beings. Another Japanese robot senses, and displays, emotions. The sci-fi era of Androids among us is not far off.

But that's today. Back when I was a kid in Tokyo, I loved watching Astro Boy (Tezuka's Atom in Nihongo) and Tetsujin 28 and Gigantor, all futuristic cartoons several decades ahead of anime's popularity in the U.S. And as I grew older, I loved cameras, and radio, and hi-fi sound systems.

I started the transition to computers. By the time the Internet became a consumer phenomenon, in the mid-1990s, I was completely hooked, and every job I've had since then has been for an Internet company, or somehow related to digital media.

I've had a slew of computers, laptops, digital cameras, portable hard drives (I'm seriously addicted to hard drives of all sizes) and external batteries. I had a really smart phone that was sort of dumb, a Palm Treo. I had half a dozen smartphones since then, and my wife can't understand why I'm always trying to upgrade my phones. Metaphorical. I know, to stare aside a perfectly good phone just because a new model is available.

All of which brings me to my current gig as the Asian American Journalist Asia's first-ever AARP Social Media Fellow. I post to AARP's Facebook and Twitter accounts and write articles for AARP's website to reach out to Asian Americans who are over 50 years old, because AARP is involved in so many issues that are related to this age group — not just elder care, health care and traditional Asian family issues, but for Asian America a baby boomers who grew up in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, AARP is a virtual celebration of the robustness of our generation, because the last boomers are turning 50 this year.

So, I moderated a panel that AARP sponsored at the recent V3 conference of Asian American digital media in L.A. (see article this issue), and my panels and I had a rousing and entertaining, but hopefully thought-provoking conversation about having your Asian parent move in with you (and writing about it online), sharing stories about depression and suicide online and using social media and a documentary film to get the evangelical church to accept LGBT members.

>> See TECHNOLOGY on page 12

FOR THE RECORD

IT'S THAT GUY

By John Ikeda

I told him, he was nuts, that they would chew him up and spit him out in little pieces.

I was talking with Guy Aoki, founding member and at the time of our conversation, the president of MAANA, Media Action Network for Asian Americans, the Los Angeles based watchdog organization dedicated to ensuring sensitive and balanced portrayals of Asian Americans in the entertainment media.

The year was 2001, and Aoki was preparing, for a confrontation with comedian San Silverman on Bill Maher's popular show "Politically Incorrect," which aired on ABC television, before it got a abruptly canceled for offense against certain political standards and practices lines.

The backstory that led to Aoki's appearance on "Politically Incorrect" began when Silverman appeared on Conan O'Brien's late-night talk show and told a "blank" joke, a word he used not just once but twice.

Aoki got on her case, and as we would learn when they were both on "Politically Incorrect," she apparently read Guy's comments in whatever media outletsprinted his response to her use of the slur.

So in August, enter Guy Aoki and Sarah Silverman on Bill Maher's program, with Silverman clearly having the advantage because, well, he's more American comedian who had a few years to get his own TV program, while Guy Aoki was, to the audience and to Maher, little more than someone with a line. Forget that he was president of MAANA because part of that introduction went virtual unnoticed.

Without being picky, suffice it to say, there was not one instance where Guy let either Silverman or Maher intimations of the funny how he might, Maher's line is this sort of thing about Asians as well, and judging by the audience, enough, to make up for that impression, but also added by Aoki, the end, more than held his own.

It was a commanding performance, and I for one admired the fact that Guy controlled so much of the conversation. It's not easy to do if you're not regularly on the air, and I also know from experience that some hosts can be difficult and even brusque, and in his case, Guy was being ganged up on but never filtered.

It was an important moment for us because there was a "slap" on the set with Aoki, those in the live audience, and those watching, this very popular program on television learned that you can't compete with an Asian American, that we're not going to let those who would abuse our sensibilities get by with it, and those who would abuse us publicly, protect.

That was an important message, and honestly, as often as I would be and often, I would be on the air and those nasty talk shows during the middle days and for at least a couple of years until 911, I'm sure I could have driven the same message home more effectively as Guy did that evening on national television. We have very different styles, and for that moment on Maher's program, his was perfect.

While recognizing Guy's gutsy performance, his example is part of the broader message we need when we deal with media, which has enormous influence over how others perceive us. That's why MAANA and other watchdog groups like them (I'm sure there must be others but I'm just not aware of them) are so important.

It's straightforward enough working with news media, whether print or electronic, but I found that it is quite a different matter working with the entertainment side of the business because here, it's all about big money and big names. And in that world, it's clear that the focus is on what attracts an audience.

>> See GUY on page 12
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION NAMES HISTORIC WINTERSBURG TO ITS 2014 LIST OF AMERICA’S 11 MOST-ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Trust for Historic Preservation named Historic Wintersburg in Huntington Beach, Calif., to its 2014 List of America’s Most Endangered Historic Places on June 24.

This annual list spotlights important examples of the nation’s architectural, cultural and natural heritage that are at risk of destruction or irreparable damage. More than 250 sites have been on the list over its 27-year history, and in that time, only a handful of listed sites have been lost.

Historic Wintersburg documents three generations of the Japanese American experience in the United States, from immigration in the late 19th century to the return from incarceration in internment camps following World War II.

The site contains six extant pioneer structures and open farmland and is one of the only surviving Japanese-owned properties acquired prior to California’s anti-Japanese “alien” land laws of 1913 and 1920. In contrast to Japanese American confinement sites from the WWII era, Historic Wintersburg captures the daily community life and spiritual institutions of Japanese settlers as they established a new life in America.

“Historic Wintersburg is a unique cultural site that tells the important story of early Japanese American immigrants as they sought to make a new life and build a community in Southern California,” said Stephanie Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. “We strongly support a collaborative effort that preserves Wintersburg’s historic landscape while building upon its longstanding role as an educational and supportive space for the Huntington Beach community.”

The site also chronicles the multigenerational story of the Furuta family, Japanese pioneers who cultivated a farm for close to a century, helped establish Japanese civic and business development organizations and are a largely unrecognized part of Orange County’s history.

The property is currently owned by Rainbow Environmental Services, a waste transfer company. In November 2013, the Huntington Beach City Council voted 4-3 to certify an Environmental Impact Report, which rezone the property from residential to commercial/industrial. The Council also approved a Statement of Overriding Consideration — the action that allows demolition of all six structures.

Although Rainbow agreed to provide preservationists until mid-2015 to find solutions to save the historic property, demolition of the site remains a possibility.

America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places has identified more than 250 threatened historic treasures since 1988. Whether these sites are urban districts or rural landscapes, Native American landmarks or 20th-century sports arenas, entire communities or single buildings, the list spotlights historic places across America that are threatened by neglect, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy. The designation has been a powerful tool for raising awareness and rallying resources to save endangered sites from every region of the country.

Members of the public are invited to learn more about what they can do to support these 11 historic places and hundreds of other endangered sites at www.preservationnation.org/places.

THE 2014 LIST OF AMERICA’S MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES

- Battle Mountain Sanitarium (Hatt Springs, S.D.)
- Bay Harbor’s East Island (Miami-Dade County, Fla.)
- Chattanooga State Office Building (Chattanooga, Tenn.)
- Frank Lloyd Wright’s Spring House (Tallahassee, Fla.)
- Historic Wintersburg (Huntington Beach, Calif.)
- Mokuaikaua Church (Kailua Village, Kona, Hawaii)
- Music Hall (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- The Palisades (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.)
- Palladium Building (St. Louis, Mo.)
- Shockoe Bottom (Richmond, Va.)
- Union Terminal (Cincinnati, Ohio)

APAs in the News/NewsBytes

Esther Puakela Kia’aina Confirmed to Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Hawai’i’s Esther Puakela Kia’aina was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 26 as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas at the Department of the Interior.

Born in Guam to Native Hawaiian parents, Kia’aina currently serves as the First Deputy Director of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, appointed by Gov. Neil Abercrombie to oversee the management of 1.3 million acres of public lands and nearshore ocean resources in Hawaii.

Kia’aina is a graduate of the Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu and received a J.D. from George Washington University Law School in 1998 and a B.A. in political science and international relations from the University of Southern California in 1985.

UCLA Prof. Paul M. Ong Honored with Don T. Nakashima Award

LOS ANGELES — Prof. Paul M. Ong was recently awarded the Don T. Nakashima Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles.

A longtime member of the Center’s faculty, Ong has taught at the university for the past 29 years and has dedicated his career to putting research at the service of the community and engaging the public sector and policymakers in making significant social change.

Ong has authored or edited nine books and published more than 70 journal articles and papers, and his innovative courses have helped students pursue research that is relevant to key issues in the API community.

The Don T. Nakashima award includes a $5,000 award and is rotated annually between faculty and students.

Nisei Veteran Don Miyada Receives Diploma From Newport Harbor H.S.

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIF. — Don Miyada, 89, joined Newport Harbor High School’s 2014 graduating class on June 19, more than seven decades after he was taken out of school and interned in Poston, Ariz., during World War II.

Miyada was 17 when he was sent with his family and more than 17,000 other detainees to Poston. After two years in camp, Miyada moved to Michigan, where he was drafted. He went on to serve in the U.S. Army and then earned a doctorate in chemistry from Michigan State University. He later became a professor at the University of California, Irvine.

In May, Miyada was invited by school principal Sean Boulton to walk with this year’s graduating seniors, an honor long overdue but not forgotten.

JACL Supports Senate Hearing on Voting Rights Amendment Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The JACL joined other civil rights organizations on June 25 on Capitol Hill to urge Congress to support the passage of the Voting Rights Amendment Act (VRAA). Staff from JACL National attended a crowded Senate Judiciary Committee hearing and the following rally outside the Capitol.

JACL submitted a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee, noting the importance of the vote for minorities.

The passage of the VRAA would reinstate and strengthen provisions to the 1965 Voting Rights Act that were struck down by the Supreme Court’s decision in Shelby County v. Holder one year ago. The Supreme Court’s ruling deemed the formulas for mandatory preclearance of certain regions outdated. Section 5 of the VRAA would restore the preclearance protections removed by the Supreme Court. These protections demanded that jurisdictions (states or counties) with histories of voting discrimination be required to prove to the U.S. Department of Justice that any changes in voting laws or practices would not have a discriminatory impact on minorities.

Honolulu Pitched for Barack Obama Presidential Library

HONOLULU — Hawaii officials hoping for their state to be selected as the site of the Barack Obama Presidential Library say getting picked would mean added jobs and visitors to the state.

The University of Hawaii, state and city of Honolulu submitted a joint proposal on June 16 to the Barack Obama Foundation seeking to host the Barack Obama Presidential Center in Honolulu. The proposal says the facility would create 2,130 new jobs during construction and $556 million in economic activity.

The complex, proposed to be built on eight acres of land in Kakaako, would include an interactive museum, visitor center, presidential archive, a convening institute and a global youth leadership academy.

The Hawaii site is one of at least six proposed in three different states.

— P.C. Staff and JACL National Staff
RISE OF THE POKE-MONSTERS

The third annual 'I Love Poke' Festival proves mainlanders have an appetite for poke.

By Tiffany Ujaje
Assistant Editor

Poke might've made landfall here in the states some time ago, but not until recently has the indigenous cubed ahi dish become very popular with mainlanders. In fact this Hawaiian bowl of deliciousness is on the foodie hit list.

The annual sell-out 'I Love Poke' Festival celebrated this Hawaiian dish with 500 guests and volunteers June 30 at the Hilton Waterfront Beach Resort in Huntington Beach, Calif. Although tickets were a hefty $65 to sample 19 food stations, it was the closest substitute to booking a flight to Hawaii and eating some damn good poke.

"I always knew poke was a hot item, but people just weren't getting it," said festival founder Nino Camilo explained. "We're not in Hawaii, but I love the fact that food brings people together, and I wanted an event where we could pretend we're in Hawaii for a night."

Camilo started his food blog www.lovepokeshi.com in 2009 while working in surf marketing, as his day job before hosting the first 'I Love Poké' Festival in San Diego that same year.

Growing up in San Diego, Camilo was heavily influenced by the Hawaiian culture — from participating in hula competitions to surfing along the California coast. His love of eating and surfing meshed together for Camilo into a festival like "I Love Poké" and Mabuhay San Diego, a fundraiser for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

"It's just such a simple dish, but it's just so good," Chef Justin Shea, owner of Hapa Js in San Clemente, Calif., and a vendor at this year's festival. "There's that tabby crunch with the onion and seaweed and the softness of the ahi. I just immediately think of Hawaii and my memories from the islands because it has that island beach look to it."

Hapa Js is named after Shea's son, Jaeden, who is half-Japanese and half-Hawaiian. While "hapa" is traditionally a Japanese term to describe individuals who are half-white and half-Japanese, the restaurant's name is more of a play-on-mixing-everything. For Shea, fusion was everywhere in Hawaii, but he found a large disconnect between fine dining at Roy's and a run-down local shack. Both offered similar food, but

what was in the middle? Poke.

At Hapa Js, ocean lovers can take a bite into Shea's Spicy Sesame Aioli Poke with ginger, red Hawaiian sea salt, green onions and cubed of higher-grade ahi atop a seaweed salad. Other dishes at the restaurant include its Kala pig nachos and a new chili menu, with chili mo'o fries a favorite.

"We try to do a lot of different things," Shea said. "We did a poke span, because my son loves span- span. It had served span in a poke style with ground span seeds. It won second place, actually, at a competition."

The festival also hosted its annual poke competition, offering up vendors' latest and greatest poke dishes. Chef Shawn Gole of the North Shore Poke Company in Huntington Beach took first place with his Pipeline "traditional style" Poke made with soy sauce, sesame oil, chili pepper and poki (sweet sour) alongside his Spicy Teriyaki Poke made with soy mayo, house teriyaki sauce, house hot sauce and mango.

Other winners included Chef Ben La Fleche in second place from Stades Restaurant in Huntington Beach with his Chili Maple Poke mixed with Korean chili paste, in apple soy sauce, sesame oil, green and red onion, sesame seeds and tapioca. In third place was Chef James Harris of 301 Common.Prímo Beer with his poke with toasted macadamia nuts, green onion, sesame seeds, yuzu, chili paste, gluten-free soy, sesame oil, lime and tapioca.

"We don't change our menu too much," explained Gole, whose team ate his first competition. "The Pipeline and Waimae are our consistent dishes and original". To expand the North Shore Poke Company we set for this September in Ventura, Calif. "It worked out," Gole said. "Centro had a busy shopping plaza with other shops, and it was a great fit for us. We just fell in love with it. The new location will include the same menu, including the Pipeline and Waimae bowls.

But the festival wasn't all about the poke. Other foods such as doggy makasadas, classic muffins and a variety of other island goodies also visited the festival.

Although this summer's Poke tour is at an end, stay tuned for next year, as the festival is planning on more dates and new cities, including Las Vegas, Los Angeles, New York, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle and, of course, the motherland of poke, Hawaii.

KOKUSAI-PACIFICA
2014 TOURS

On behalf of Wally Kii, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many friends and families who have traveled with Kokusai over the years. We hope to provide you with the same level of quality and service that you enjoyed with Wally, as he passes the torch over to his daughter, Stephanie.
V3CON HARNESSES THE POWER OF THE INTERNET

The two-day digital media conference offers Asian American journalists the opportunity to showcase their work on digital media platforms.

By Connie K. Ho
Contributor

I

one looks at video site YouTube or photo-sharing platform Instagram, some of the top users are Asian American. Asian Americans are known to be savvy online, and according to a 2012 U.S. Census 'Parks for Teens' article, 80 percent of Asian American households have Internet use. This percentage is the highest among racial and ethnic groups.

A digital media conference by the Asian American Journalists Association, Los Angeles chapter, has tapped the power of Asian Americans in the online space. Vision, Visibility, Voice (V3con), held June 20-21 at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo, was an opportunity to showcase the work of minorities on digital media platforms.

Now in its third year, V3con brings together Asian American Pacific Islander online journalists, social media communicators, bloggers and those interested in learning more about digital platforms.

The event kicked off with an opening-night reception,ountain house Thujid L.A., as well as dessert by Spaio Café and beer provided by Kira.

The night included celebrity award recipients, particularly those who are influential online in connecting diverse communities. This year, Ann Curry, Emmy-winning NBC news correspondent and anchor, was honored, receiving the Vision Award.

“It was difficult for me to find my voice as an Asian American because there were so few role models,” said Curry, who teamed the event with Irene Hirano Inouye, president of the U.S. Japan Council. Being seen as different still hurts. Diversity is more than checking off a box and setting up diversity committees. Diversity fuels America’s greatness, diversity strengthens businesses, diversity makes journalism more truthful. Asian Americans are more than just smart people, driven people and meticulous people. We are everything, it’s beautiful and we are human. As a community, we can make sure, especially at this conference, to look at ways to use the Internet to report and connect with people, not just through America, but throughout the world. We can make sure the next generation of Asian Americans won’t have to fight to find a voice.”

Singer-songwriter Judith Hill received the Voice Award. Thank you so much for this beautiful, beautiful award — just so heartwarming. I am deeply honored to be part of this community and represent Asian Americans. This is very special for me to be here in Little Tokyo — these are my old stomping grounds,” said Hill, who was a contest-winning last year on NBC’s singing competition “The Voice.”

Food writer Jonathan Gold received the Visibility Award for his work in bringing wide recognition to Asian restaurant and cuisine. He also participated in “A Conversation With,” an intimate public interview with Los Angeles Times editor Dana Maram at his experience as a food writer for esteemed publications such as the Los Angeles Times and LA Weekly.

There are people that are listening — be persistent, don’t be afraid to tweet or email somebody,” said Monique Saucy, who partners with the regional HR manager to lead and support him on resource efforts for American Public Radio’s West Coast offices. “Don’t hesitate in asking questions; tweet people, and they will tweet you back.”

The two-day gathering wrapped with the announcement of the winner of the Social Media Bingo game. With Social Media Bingo, participants were tasked to take photos and post updates on various social media sites, including selfies with program volunteers and video on Vine about the conference. The winner was UCLA student Morgan Moore-Turner, who was chosen for her cross-town posts: she went home with an Apple iPad.

“Thank you to everyone who attended the conference and made it successful — we hope to see you at next year’s event,” said Naomi Haynes, AAJA-CA co-president.

The 2015 conference is slated to take place in LA in June. To learn more about the conference, visit V3con.com.

Additional reporting by Amy Lieu.
A DRIVING FORCE

Pepperdine University golfer Marissa Chow gains confidence in the U.S. Women’s Open.

By Alysha Tsuji
Contributor

Study abroad plans were canceled on short notice. Marissa Chow traded a month in Pepperdine University’s Lausanne, Switzerland, house for a week in Pinehurst, N.C., to compete recently in the U.S. Women’s Open. Chow won the sectional qualifier by three strokes at the Oak Valley Golf Course in Beaumont, Calif., on May 14. "I was shocked," said the Iolani High School graduate. Although her Pepperdine golf coach, Laurie Gibbs, wasn’t surprised at all: "She definitely has a game that could qualify ... Her game has matured — she’s an excellent ball striker.” The U.S. Women’s Open is one of the major championships in professional golf. Competing in the tournament pitted Chow up against the best in the world — the likes of No. 1 Stacy Lewis and the eventual 2014 champ, fellow Honolulu native Michelle Wie.

Chow described stepping into the hospitality tent upon arrival as “surreal” and “humbling,” as the pros, collegiate players and younger qualifiers mingled.

"It shows you they’re just like you. It’s not like they’re on a pedestal or like a god," said Chow. "They’re just like you and me.”

TOPPING THE LEADERBOARD

Rather than bow down to the initial pressure, Chow stepped up and swung for the fences. Playing at arguably the most challenging professional golf course, Pinehurst No. 2, she birdied the first hole of Round 1.

And Chow didn’t stop there. She birdied the second, fifth and sixth holes. Then, at the seventh, she marked 1-under on a par-3 to steal the lead from Lewis.

Chow’s high school coach and longtime family friend, Bo Hunter, traveled from Honolulu to Pinehurst along with Chow’s father and aunt. Hunter said his favorite moments of the Open include watching Chow gain confidence.

“When she tied for the lead and went ahead, I think that really strengthened her self belief . . . I had tears in my eyes," said Hunter. “He added that “seeing her smile” in that moment “was just heartwarming. I’ll never forget that.”

Meanwhile, out on the course, Chow’s aunt, U.S. Open caddy and former LPGA player of 22 years Lenore Ritteriliouse, tried to calm her niece’s nerves.

Their group rounded out the last tee time, so without taking a glance at the leaderboard, Chow knew the score to beat: 3-under. "I hit every shot as if it was my last," said Chow.

Chow’s mother (Ritteriliouse’s sister) died of breast cancer before Chow started high school. Ritteriliouse said that on the course, to keep things light, she made comments like, “Thanks, mom,” and, “Mom must have been watching on that hole.”

Despite the calming tactics, nerves inevitably got the best of Chow in her first crack at the U.S. Open.

“I used to look at the leaderboard, and I would fall off because your heart beats a little faster, and you try to protect something you don’t have,” said Ritteriliouse. “I know the process that can happen and did happen. It’s something you can’t teach.”

On top of the leaderboard pressure, Chow also faced another type of distraction she had never encountered before: media frenzy.

Anyone threatening the lead of the No. 1 golfer in the world — be it an amateur Pepperdine junior — is going to garner attention. Ritteriliouse said at about the sixth hole, the cameras began to flock around their group.

Chow said she could feel herself tensing up as the ESPN2 cameras and high shutter speed DSLRs began following her every move.

Her lead slipped with a double bogey on the eighth hole. “That course was so hard," said Ritteriliouse. “The second double bogey was nerves, in my opinion. The third double bogey was her not trusting herself.”

Then, the cameras cleared, and, as Ritteriliouse puts it, Chow "got back to herself." She finished the first round 6-over, the second round 10-over and missed the cut.

However, Chow left the course un-daunted. Ritteriliouse said that once they were back at home, settled on the couch, the first thing Chow asked was, “What do I need to work on?”

“I never walk away from a tournament not learning something," said Chow. She said that overall she felt the U.S. Open gave her a new perspective. Holding the lead for that moment in time opened her eyes to the fact that she has the skills to compete with the best in her sport.

UNDER THE RADAR

At around 8 years old, Chow started playing golf thanks to Ritteriliouse, who introduced Chow’s mom to the game. The two became members at the Cahu Country Club. Hunter works at the club and said Chow and her mother enjoyed going out on the course together.

Additionally, Chow was involved in gymnastics, volleyball and basketball, but chose to focus on golf. A few years later, Chow began entering youth tournaments.

Physically, Ritteriliouse recalls being amazed at how coordinated Chow was and how she had incredible upper body strength combined with a lengthy stature.

One major differentiating factor that separates Chow from the bulk of youth athletes is that her parents didn’t force her to practice.

“It’s always been on me,” said Chow. “I think that’s why I still really, really thoroughly enjoy it.”

Aside from following the old adage of “practice makes perfect” to improve her game, Hunter notes she has an innate talent.

“She’s a natural. Golf comes very easily for her,” said Hunter. “She works hard, but she can take a break of a month and come back just where she left off. She can maintain that tempo. I think it’s a gift — her ability to focus.”

>> See DRIVING FORCE on page 9
WEST L.A. JACL ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The West Los Angeles chapter of the JACL announced its scholarship winners recently.

Edward Kobayashi, a first-year medical student, was awarded the $2,500 Chuyo M. Hattori Scholarship, which is designated to an outstanding student pursuing an education in medicine. Grant Nagai, Jason Oyakawa and Lily Sloan were recipients of the Jack Nomura High School Scholarship.

Kobayashi, 25, completed his first year at Quinnipiac University School of Medicine in Hamden, Conn. The son of Yumie and Masao Kobayashi of Bellingham, Calif., graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 2010 with a degree in psychology and a minor in Japanese.

Nagai graduated from Pacific Christian High School in Santa Monica, Calif., where he excelled academically and participated in basketball and baseball. The son of Linda and Mike Nagai of Los Angeles was also involved with the Venice Youth Council and Boy Scout Troop 764. He will attend Loyola Marymount University in the fall.

Oyakawa graduated from Santa Monica High School and played competitive tennis for his school and the United States Tennis Association. He was the managing editor of the school yearbook and a member of the wind ensemble band and the Japanese National Honor Society. The son of Misao and Dennis Oyakawa of Santa Monica will attend Reed College in Portland, Ore.

Sloan, the daughter of Mihoro Tsuchiya and Elke Sloan of Los Angeles, graduated from Venice High School and will attend the University of California, Irvine, this fall. She is president of the West Los Angeles United Methodist Church’s youth group and received several scholastic honors, including an AP Scholar Award, Elementary Award and Certificate of Excellence Award for overall academic achievement.

Each high school awardee received $750. The scholarship is named in honor of Jack Nomura, a longtime chapter board member, who passed away last year.

For more information, contact the WLA JACL at westlajac@yahoo.com.

VENTURA COUNTY JACL AWARDS 2014 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Ventura County Chapter of the JACL held a small reception at the West Western Camarillo in Camarillo, Calif., on June 19 for the recipients of its 2014 scholarship program.

Honored this year were Austin Takeda, a recent graduate of Foohill Technology High School in Ventura, Calif., who will be attending the University of California, San Diego, in the fall as a sports medicine major; Trent Golden, a recent graduate of Newbury Park High School in Newbury Park, Calif., who will be attending San Diego State University as an international business major; John Kubo, a recent graduate of Newbury Park High School who will be attending Northeastern University as a pharmacy major; Christopher Garvin, a recent graduate of Thousand Oaks High School in Thousand Oaks, Calif., who will be attending California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, as a biology major; Erika Kodera, also of Thousand Oaks High School, who will be attending the University of California, Berkeley, as an international relations major; and Tiffany Strong, another recent graduate of Newbury Park High School who will be attending California State University, Northridge, in the fall, where she will be studying to become a math teacher.

The chapter would like to acknowledge the generous donations from the Hijik brothers and the late Dr. Tom Takeda.

Sequoia JACL scholarship recipients are (from left) Elna Tanaka, Daisy Valenzuela, Erin Nishimura, Halley Sawamura, Ryan Wong and Trini Houshie.

The 2014 JACL Ventura County scholarship recipients are (alternating, from left) Austin Takeda, Trent Golden, John Kubo, (sitting, from left) Erika Kodera and Tiffany Strong. Missing: Christopher Garvin.

Sequoia JACL Honors Students

My parents and Japanese maternal grandparents are particularly proud. I will put the scholarship money to good use as I enter UC Davis in the fall and start a new chapter in my life,” said 2014 Sequoia JACL High School Scholarship recipient Ryan Wong, a Clovis West High School graduate, in a statement.

The Sequoia JACL honored Wong and five other students at its annual Scholarship Reception on May 13 in the ischem Hall at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple in Palo Alto, Calif.

Erin Nishimura from Wilcox High School and Haley Sawamura from Mountain View High School were also selected for the $1,000 Sequoia JACL High School Scholarship. Daisy Valenzuela from Foohill College and Elisa Takeda from De Anza College received the $1,000 Sequoia JACL College Scholarships.

The special $500 Henry and Elsie Yoshida Memorial Award was given to Thai Jaijuwee from Los Altos High School.

This year’s recipients were selected for their outstanding academic records and their commitment to school and community involvement.

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JAACL Mourns the Passing of Activist Grayce Uyehara

By PC. and JAACL National Staff

Grace lived JACL through most of her life. Her ongoing commitment and dedication set an example for all of us through the years. It was impossible to refuse her knowledge. All that she did.... Grayce’s influence and contribution to JACL has been well documented. Here in Philadelphia, we knew we had a rare giant in our midst. Yes, we will never forget Grayce, her influence and commitment to JACL,” said Dr. Herbert Hohl, former Philadelphia chapter president and co-chair of the 1999 National Convention in Philadelphia on the passing of Grayce Uyehara.

Uyehara, who also worked as a community organizer, social worker helped lead the national redress movement for Japanese Americans forcibly interned during World War II, passed away at the age of 94 on June 22 following a brief illness at Virtua Memorial Hospital in Mount Holly, N.J.

During her tenure as the executive director of the JACL Legislative Education Committee, Uyehara was known for her “Action Alerts” sent to JACL chapters and others, which provided updates on the status of the redress campaign and more importantly, imparted upbeat inspiration to continuously motivate all who participated in the effort to successfully seek remedies for the injustices of the internment.

Uyehara was born Grace Kaneda on July 4, 1919, in Stockton, Calif., the second of seven children of immigrant parents. Her family’s life was changed forever following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and the subsequent signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942.

Uyehara and her family were incarcerated at the Stockton Assembly Center and then Rohwer concentration camp. At the time of her incarceration, Uyehara was a music major at the University of the Pacific in Stockton.

After WWII, she settled in Philadelphia. She married Hiroshi Uyehara, an engineer who also had been at Rohwer, and together they helped form the city chapter of the JACL.

In 1976, the JACL established a National Redress Committee. Uyehara, then a retired social worker, volunteered as the national director of the JACL Legislative Education Committee. Upon her appointment, she said, “You have my commitment to redress and willingness to do the best I can.”

During the final phase of the redress campaign, Uyehara devised a plan to mobilize grassroots support by issuing her Action Alerts to inundate the White House with a letter writing campaign.

Following the success of redress, Uyehara became the chairwoman of the JACL Legacy Fund campaign, which raised more than $5 million to be used to support JACL programs.

“When redress was approved, I didn’t think I qualified. Grayce urged me to apply anyway (she was strong-minded), and I was approved. Her contributions to JACL were enormous,” said 97-year-old Dr. H. Tom Tanioka, former chapter president.

Said Floyd Mori, president and CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies: “The energy and enthusiasm Grayce Uyehara had for the mission of the JACL has always been an inspiration and motivation for me to do more. She approached her job with a smile on her face and in her heart, and she was a formidable advocate as she was able to stand toe to toe with anybody on the issue of redress.”

Added JAACL National President David Lin: “I am deeply saddened upon hearing the passing of Grayce Uyehara, as JACL lost a giant from the redress campaign…. Grayce’s leadership as the executive director of the JACL-LEC was instrumental and essential in the passing and signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. We will be forever grateful for all she did for our community.”

Uyehara is survived by her husband, Hiroshi, sons Paul, Christopher and Lawrence, daughter Lisa, a brother, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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

Grace Uyehara was a pivotal figure in the decades-long redress campaign.

Interment will be private. The family is planning a memorial service that is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 20 in Medford, N.J. Donations to the Uyehara Internship Program, c/o JACL, are suggested in lieu of flowers or food.

DRIVING FORCE >> continued from page 7

In high school, she hit the ground running, winning the Intercollegiate League of Hawaii (ILH) title as a freshman. As a senior, she led the girls’ golf team to the league championship, and she was named ILH’s Player of the Year.

Riding on that success, Chow chose to attend Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. Her reasoning was that she wanted to be in the Southern California area, where she liked the school’s values and enjoyed the warm climate.

She entered the college level with a splash, earning All-West Coast Conference Honorable mention in her first two years. This year, she was also selected as an All-American, and along with that, the Pepperdine women’s golf team claimed its 13th consecutive WCC league title.

Considering the undeniable success, Hunter said she doesn’t believe Chow has been given the media recognition she deserves. “She has always been under the radar, even in Hawaii,” said Hunter. He explained how stats such as Michelle Wie and UCLA All-American Stephanie Kono often leave Chow overlooked. “I always thought she was best in the group. I bet one day people are going to see that. This is just the beginning.”

Gaining Momentum

Perhaps part of the reason why Chow doesn’t typically dominate the headlines is her low profile and her tendency to understate her own talents. “She is very humble,” said Hunter. “She will not talk about her talent or what she’s accomplished.”

For instance, when Rittenhouse got the call from Chow adding her to caddy, Rittenhouse said she was excited but totally caught off guard. She said Chow had never mentioned trying to qualify for the U.S. Open.

Rittenhouse said she had told Chow earlier in the season that she “has all the tools necessary to compete at the pro level. “My coaches would tell you, ‘You’re really good; you have so much talent. You can be one of the great players,’” said Chow. “I never really believed them, I thought they were just saying that to make me feel good.”

As Chow has advanced and accomplished increasingly greater feats, she admits that she has a heightened sense of confidence. She says she wants to try qualifying for the U.S. Open again, and that she will work toward playing pro after graduation as well, depending on how her next two years playing at the collegiate level work out. According to Gibbs, her future at Pepperdine looks extremely bright on the course. “Each year she becomes more in herself,” says Gibbs. “Mia is someone that we will look to be one of our top players.”

And off the course. “She’s very warm and loves to laugh and doesn’t take things too seriously,” added Gibbs. “She’s a wonderful way of looking at life.”

Chow said that after missing out on qualifying for the U.S. Open this year, she hopes to apply again to go to Switzerland next year. But with all the success that keeps her traveling, the world might have to wait for that.

Mia is definitely a name that can qualify and go back there and compete,” said Gibbs. “She has many U.S. Opens in her future.”
Yoshida Hiroshi will be on view
37th Annual Asian American
Japanese Printmaking
July 4-Aug. 2

The Creative Process in Modern
Asian American
July 4-Aug. 2

Locations vary
Cost: Ticket prices vary
Asian CineVision will host this
year's Asian American
International Film Festival with
a full film lineup. The festival
will explore a diverse range of
themes relevant to the Asian
and Asian American
experience. The event aims to
raise lively dialogues and
celebrate the cinematic
innovation and compelling
storytelling of the community.
A total of 18 features and
33 shorts compiled into five
short programs are set for this
year's screenings, covering
more than 21 countries and
regions across the globe.

The Carved Brush
San Francisco, CA
July 13
Asian Art Museum
200 Larkin St.
Cost: Adults $15
The Carved Brush exhibit
features 24 pieces of Qi
Baishi's calligraphy, painting
and seal artworks (1863-
1957). His paintings feature
rugged, expressive brushwork
based on his practice of the
related arts of brush-writing
calligraphy and seal carving.
Baishi simplifies his
rendering of subjects to a
minimum number of brush
touches, integrating elements
with abstraction as he cap-
tures the spiritual essence of
his subjects.

Korean Traditional Hanji Paper
Fashion Show
Seattle, WA
July 30 and Aug. 3
Asia Pacifico Cultural Center and
Seattle Asian Art Museum
Check dates for specific
locations
Cost: General admission $49
Hanji is an ancient Korean
tradition of papermaking and
the highlight of this summer's
two fashion shows. Directed
by renowned Korean
Hanji Fashion Designer
Jeon Yang-Bae from Gunsan,
Korea, the designer works to
demonstrate the suppleness
and strength of this unique
Korean paper as wearable
art. Both shows will highlight
this quality paper material in a
runway-style event.
Info: Visit: www.seattleartmu-
seum.org or www.asiapacific-
culturalcenter.org.

Utamaro: Aspects of Beauty
Chicago, IL
July 13
The Art Institute of Chicago
111 S. Michigan Ave.
Cost: Adults $23, Students and
Seniors $17
Chosen from among
approximately 300 works
by Kitagawa Utamaro
(c. 1753-1806) in the Art
Institute's collection, this
exhibition highlights some
of the his most-celebrated
prints. Utamaro gave the
world close-up portraits of
beauties with pensive
expressions, scenes of
women engaged in everyday
activities in every age against
brilliant and luminescent mica
backgrounds.

Just Dance Summer Sizzle
Dallas, Texas
July 12, 7 p.m.-1 a.m.
Park Inn by Radisson
1241 W. Mockingbird Lane
Cost: Dinner $45, Overnight
room rate $89
Put on your dancing shoes
with the North Texas Asian
American Cultural
Asn., as it hosts its Just
Dance Summer Sizzle. Dinner
includes a choice of steak
or grilled chicken and an
evening of fun and dancing
to a spectrum of musical genres
such as hip-hop, Latin,
country and ballroom.

Utamaro: Aspects of Beauty
Boston, MA
Aug. 17
Boston Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave.
Cost: Adults $25
No longer constrained by the
requirements of commercial
publishing, artists were able
to exploit the color wood-
block process as far as their
imagination could take them,
experimenting with new
Western media. Featured
artists Takei Takeo and
Yoshida Hiroshi will be on view
with their prints up for display.

'Valor with Honor' Screening
Oakland, CA
July 27, 1-3 p.m.
Oakland Asian Cultural Center
388 9th St.
Cost: Free with RSVP
The documentary film screening of the
Japanese American 442nd Regimental
Combat Team visits the Oakland Asian
Cultural Center this summer. The story of
these heroic men in a segregated
U.S. Army unit led by white officers
visits a piece of American history. The
film includes over 20 interviews with
Nisei vets, who share their bittersweet
return home to America and stories
during WWII. An open Q & A with
filmmaker Burt Takeuchi follows the
screening and DVD copies will be sold.
Info: To RSVP, call (510) 637-0455.

Sake Express
Los Angeles, CA
July 25, 7-9:30 p.m.
Los Angeles Union Station
800 N. Alameda St.
Cost: Must be 21 and Over,
Presale $75 or at the door $100
Come enjoy a unique evening of
sake, food and entertainment at the
eighth annual “Sake Express”
benefiting the Little Tokyo
Service Center. Sample
dishes from a variety of L.A.
restaurants and try a wide
array of sake, shochu and
beer provided by Mutual
Trading Company. The
evening will also have a
special recognition during the
sponsor reception for Eugene
Eng and Ansho Uchima.
Info: Visit: www.sake.lts.org or
e-mail ewaver@ltsc.org.

For more info:
tiffany@pacificcitizen.org
(213) 620-1767

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maximum exposure.
For more info:
Tiffany@pacificcitizen.org
(213) 620-1767
In Memoriam

Kakihara, Hiroshi Richard, 84,
Gardena, CA; May 27; he is predeceased by his wife, Misao; he is survived by his children, Russell (Donna) Kakihara, Hiroshi Richard, 84, Kay; brother, Harry Emoto; sister, Jeannie Emoto; she is also survived by her son, Floyd; sisters, Hisako Akiyama and Jean Okazaki.

Katoaka, John Shoji, 87,
Boyle Heights, CA; June 17; he is a former incarceree of Heart Mountain Camp; he is predeceased by his wife, Mutsuko; he is also survived by his children, Ronald (Warren) Loo, Janet (Warren) Loo; also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Nonoshita, Michiylo, 89,
Pasadena, CA; June 1; she is predeceased by her husband, Jack Kiyoji Nonoshita; she is also survived by her children, Andrew (Karen), Richard (Karen), Gary (Maria), Reina (Ronald) and Darlene (Neal); she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sugita, Toru, 89, Midway City,
Long Beach, CA; June 2; she is predeceased by her husband, Kiichi Nonoshita; sister, Tomiyto Shoji; she is also survived by her son, Roger, daughter, Shirley (Dave) Bear; brothers, Yoshihazu (Piggy) and Susumu (Jie); Kinoshita; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Shizuku, Mitzi, 89,
Spokane, WA; June 6; she is predeceased by her husband, Kay; brother, Harry Emoto; sister, Jeannie Emoto; she is also survived by her son, Floyd; sisters, Hisako Akiyama and Jean Okazaki.

Masukawa, Fred Yutaka, 94,
Kakihara, Hiroshi Richard, 84,
Gardena, CA; May 27; he is predeceased by his wife, Misao; he is survived by his children, Russell (Donna) Kakihara, Hiroshi Richard, 84, Kay; brother, Harry Emoto; sister, Jeannie Emoto; she is also survived by her son, Floyd; sisters, Hisako Akiyama and Jean Okazaki.

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Masukawa, Fred Yutaka, 94,
TECHNOLOGY >> continued from page 3

These are serious issues, and because they concern Asian Americans, they’re too often missing from mainstream media. But within the Asian American blogosphere, they’re discussed far and wide, and they resonate among an admittedly young demographic of computer-savvy web surfers. It doesn’t have to be so. I think even older Asian Americans, including many JACLers, have the capacity — and dare I say duty — to log on and get the hang of using computers. It’s the way the world now communicates, after all.

At the JACL convention, which is in a week as I write this, I’m moderating another panel sponsored by AARP’s AAPI Community team, this time featuring people like Jeff Yang, the Wall Street Journal columnist whose son is starring in the new ABC sitcom “Fresh Off the Boat.” Our community has kept up with news of this show for almost a year thanks to social media, and Yang’s savvy use of it. My other panelists include a diversity officer from CBS; a spokesperson for 18 Million Rising, a powerful Asian American Pacific Islander social activism website; and a former YouTube VP who was in charge of channel strategy during a time when Asian Americans became some of the most successful video producers online.

My goal is not to host a hands-on training program (something that AARP’s TEK group does very well for older folks, by the way). I want to show how much is going on in online media and how you can tap into the energy of the future — today.

You can’t stop the march of technology. Just keep up the best you can, and you’ll be introduced to a whole new world of knowledge and action. Remember, I thought I’d be fired when my newspaper switched to computers. But I’m still here!

Gil Asakawa is a member of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board and the author of “Being Japanese American.” He blogs about Japanese and Asian American issues on his blog at www.mkkeisiview.com, and he’s on Facebook, Twitter and lots of other social media. He was recently named the 2014 Asian American Journalist Association AARP Social Media Fellow.

A sampling of Gil Asakawa’s old computers that are in his basement at home.

LETTER >> continued from page 2

“Forty-one Republican senators filibustered . . . to kill a bill that would have provided landmark funding for badly needed resources at VA facilities around the country.”

What happened to all the money the VA was given prior to this filibuster bill? Let me answer this question. The Phoenix VA awarded $10 million in bonuses in the past three years. And the VA Nationwide Access Audit reported 65 percent of senior executives received bonuses while their veterans received inept or no care at all.

In addition, Derek Murdock wrote an Op-Ed uncovering the stomach-churning bonuses VA staff received. Just a few examples include:

- In Fayetteville, N.C., Elizabeth Goolsby received a performance bonus in 2012 of $7,004.
- In Dayton, Ohio, medical center director Guy Richardson won a promotion and an $11,874 bonus despite reports of unsanitary conditions for 18 years.
- In 2011 at the Pittsburgh, Penn., VA hospital, chief Terry Gerigk Wolf earned a bonus of $12,924 and regional director Michael Moreland received a bonus of $15,619 even though there was an outbreak of Legionnaire’s disease (at that facility) that sickened 20 veterans and killed six others.
- Between 2009 and 2013, Rima Ann Nelson, hospital director at the St. Louis Mo., VA hospital, received bonuses totaling $25,000.

This article can be found at http://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/2014/06/29/ despite-inapt-care-bonuses-va-hospital-staff/9736279/.

“[Shinseki] wasn’t given the opportunity to deal with the corruption and malfeasance reported at VA facilities around the country,” I ask again. “Where was Shinseki since being appointed?” “And what was he doing?” (Because we know now what he wasn’t doing.)

No one disagrees with Shinseki’s distinguished military career 1, for one, truly appreciate what he has done for this country. His military career and his sacrifices are and will always be honorable. What was questioned and scrutinized and ultimately his resignation was due to his competence (or lack of) to lead and manage a Federal agency.

Sincerely,
Jayne Nielsen
Acampo, Calif.

GUY >> continued from page 3

In 2001, I was invited to join a coalition of APAs in meetings with some of the network executives to discuss programming issues. The APA Media Coalition, of which the JACL is a participant along with MANAA and other APA organizations, was established to monitor and rate the major television networks in their employment of APA actors, their roles and the networks’ sensitivity to the treatment of Asian characters.

Each year, the APAMC issues an annual report card, rating each network for the previous season, noting in detail a variety of issues and concerns about the way in which each network deals with the concerns of the APAMC.

I’m not sure at this point if the coalition is still active since there is no report card for 2013 on the MANAA site, where the report card normally appears. If it is inactive, that would be unfortunate because the report card puts the networks on notice that they’re being watched and evaluated and provides MANAA the platform for confronting those who think nothing of offending us.

The JACL is an advocacy organization, so we all know that nothing is as effective as face-to-face confrontation in dealing with those who would mock or belittle us as a community. That’s why someone like Oy Aoki on “Politically Incorrect” or MANAA or APAMC are important to us.

And we know that in dealing with comedians like Maher or Silverman or the hosts of any of the networks evening talk shows, you can only be effective if you don’t let them dominate the conversation. Otherwise, it’s just a pointless conversation. They win, and you come out the fool.

John Tateishi is a former JACL National Director.

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801-424-5225 800-546-8828
www.jacicu.com

Sincerely,
Jayne Nielsen
Acampo, Calif.