



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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'Cheezburger' icon Ben Huh chats memes and a new reality show.

Letters to the Editor

WELCOME TO THE 2012 JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION



I would like to welcome you to the JACL national convention this July 5 to 8. I also welcome you to the Pacific Northwest District. July is usually a very pleasant month — not too hot or not too cold — but I can't guarantee that it will not rain.

I understand that the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bellevue, Washington is a very nice hotel. I trust the accommodations will be very pleasant for you all.

On behalf of all the chapter members of the Pacific Northwest District, may I welcome you all. Have a good meeting, enjoy your friendships with old and new friends and take home some pleasant memories.

If possible, please visit some of our very scenic areas such as Mt. Rainier or a Puget Sound sightseeing boat trip. Also, take in some good restaurants, including Japanese food.

John Matsumoto
Past President - Seattle and Lake Washington chapters

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

I always enjoy reading the *Pacific Citizen* and keep a copy in my waiting room here in Denver, Colorado.

In the April 6 issue, the article on the San Francisco redistricting collaboration especially caught my eye. My senior year of high school ('74), I was able to do an independent study project to visit several of the Asian American youth groups in San Francisco. JCYC (Japanese Community Youth Council) served as my base as I met with groups also in Chinatown and the Filipino community. Even then, I learned that the Japanese American and African American communities collaborated for their shared concerns.

So the walk down memory lane reminded me of the continued struggles of our communities.

Jane Kano, MD
Denver, CO

RE: PRISCILLA OUCHIDA, OUR NEW JACL NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Our congratulations and best wishes for being the first woman national director of the JACL. We look forward to making the transition of the organization from "old-timers" to a new forward looking, progressive civil rights organization.

Priscilla Ouchida has done much to promote a greater cultural understanding of JACL in the California State. We should add that we admire the work she has done over the years to provide the nation with a greater understanding of Japanese American culture and political arts.

She is the person with the modern political skills and should be praised for her keen knowledge in the field of political science.

Takasumi Kojima
Berkeley, CA

SPRING CAMPAIGN IN DEFENSE OF THE P.C.

By Kevin Miyazaki



I'm not a lawyer, and I don't even play one on television. But I'll put on a lawyer's hat today to make this case to you: the *Pacific Citizen* needs your support! Your newspaper needs financial assistance in the ongoing Spring Campaign, in addition to your dedication and support during important budgetary discussions. To bolster my case, I'd like to outline the value of the P.C. by entering a back issue of the newspaper as Exhibit A.

>>See MIYAZAKI pg. 16

NAT'L DIRECTOR'S REPORT JACL'S EFFORTS TO HELP JAPAN

By Floyd Mori



Thank you to everyone who supported the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund which was established as a joint effort by the JACL and Direct Relief International (DRI) after the disaster of the earthquake and tsunami which struck Japan on March 11, 2011. If you gave to the fund, your money went to a good cause and you are in good company.

Did you know that Brad Pitt mentioned the JACL and DRI when he and Sean Penn were being interviewed by *The Japan Times* in August 2011 about their film, "The Tree of Life"? Pitt mentioned his concern about those who were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The article states that Pitt knows a fair amount about reconstruction after a disaster. He spearheaded an effort to rebuild homes in areas of New Orleans that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He and Angelina Jolie frequently donate to charities.

>>See MORI page 16 and registration form page 6

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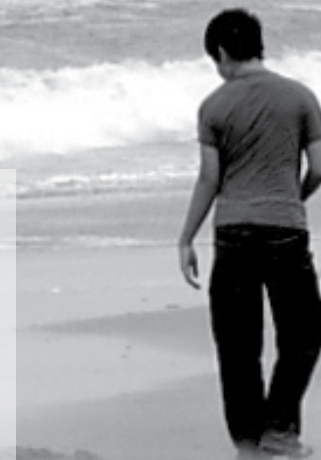
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HIV/AIDS HEALTHCARE: THE TIES THAT BIND AND DIVIDE THE APA COMMUNITY

The Asian Pacific American community is comprised of more than 100 languages/dialects and some 45 different ethnic subgroups, often making the process of treating and preventing HIV/AIDS more complicated.



By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

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

At two-years-old Heather, 28, fled the war-torn country of Burma seeing causalities along the journey with her family to a refugee camp in Thailand.

Heather, a pseudonym to protect her identity, says even while growing up in a refugee camp she always dreamed of one day becoming a mother.

"I wanted to be a good mom," she said through a translator. "That's all."

But a "dirty needle" used by a traveling backpack medic to administer a vaccine, she says, would change her life. At the age of 25, Heather discovered she was HIV positive. The diagnosis sent Heather into depression and prompted suicidal thoughts. However, when she read HIV/AIDS education materials she realized her diagnosis was no longer a death sentence.

Heather's dreams of motherhood would come true. She has two children, who are now 9 and 4 years old, with her husband. Her children and husband are all HIV negative.

The family applied for refugee status and was eventually given permission to move to California in 2007. Her parents were left behind in the refugee camp. It was there her father died a few months ago.

Now living in the Bay Area with her husband and two children, Heather says she sometimes worries about her children becoming negatively impacted by her HIV status and the stigmatization the virus carries in the tight-knit Burmese American community.

"Maybe they [will] become like depressed about this status because the community is not supporting anything about this virus," she said.

Heather is one of 4,053 Asian Pacific Americans living in California with HIV/AIDS, according to a June 30, 2011, report by the California Department of Public Health's Office of AIDS. But Heather says she specifically identifies as Burmese and without the help of a Burmese-speaking caseworker, navigating the healthcare system can be confusing.

To access the needs of Burmese immigrants who are living with HIV/AIDS in the Bay Area, organizations like Street Level Health Project and Community Health for Asian Americans (CHAA) started a pilot program last year with about 25 individuals, who are living with the disease. There are 19,439 Burmese in the country as of 2010, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Organizers of the program hope to address the specific needs the Burmese and Karin community faces in accessing HIV/AIDS healthcare in the Bay Area.

"I think they're in and out of treatment or they get substandard treatment because of language issues," said Sean Kirkpatrick, CHAA associate director. "A lot of what they've been asking for in meetings is some dedicated language support and to help them navigate, not just health care, but social services and other kinds of things that

they need."

To bring to light the differences and similarities Asian Pacific American subgroups face in accessing HIV/AIDS healthcare, the Banyan Tree Project is holding the National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on May 19. Last year 33 events were held nationwide to raise awareness about the day.

"This year we decided to go a different direction and produce a series of digital stories from community members," said Sapna Mysoor, Banyan Tree Project's national program manager. "If you look at the six stories even though they're all APIs living with HIV, they're actually quite different and have different levels of struggle and different levels of hope."

There are over 4.9 million Asian Americans and 144,386 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in California, according to 2010 data from the U.S. Census Bureau. There are also some 45 different Asian American ethnic subgroups and over 100 languages and dialects spoken in the community, which makes helping individuals with HIV/AIDS challenging.

"With the Filipino community it's really complex because Philippines is the only Catholic country in Asia," said Filipino American Dennis Mallillin, a senior case manager with the API Wellness Center. "So the sexual suppression or repression is so great that it translates to an internalized issue for Filipinos."

The lack of disaggregated statistical information on Asian Pacific Americans living with HIV/AIDS in California also does not give an accurate picture of the community's needs, say healthcare workers.

Edwin Mah, 62, was diagnosed with HIV

in 1986 and knows firsthand the myths that exist about the virus in the Chinese American community. The Bay Area resident also lost his brother, Philip, to the disease in 1994.

"I have the battle scars of this disease," Mah says. "I have a sunken face because of the side effects of the medication and what-not."

Having lived with HIV for over two decades Mah says he has noticed that the Chinese American community has difficulty speaking about subjects like sexuality and HIV/AIDS.

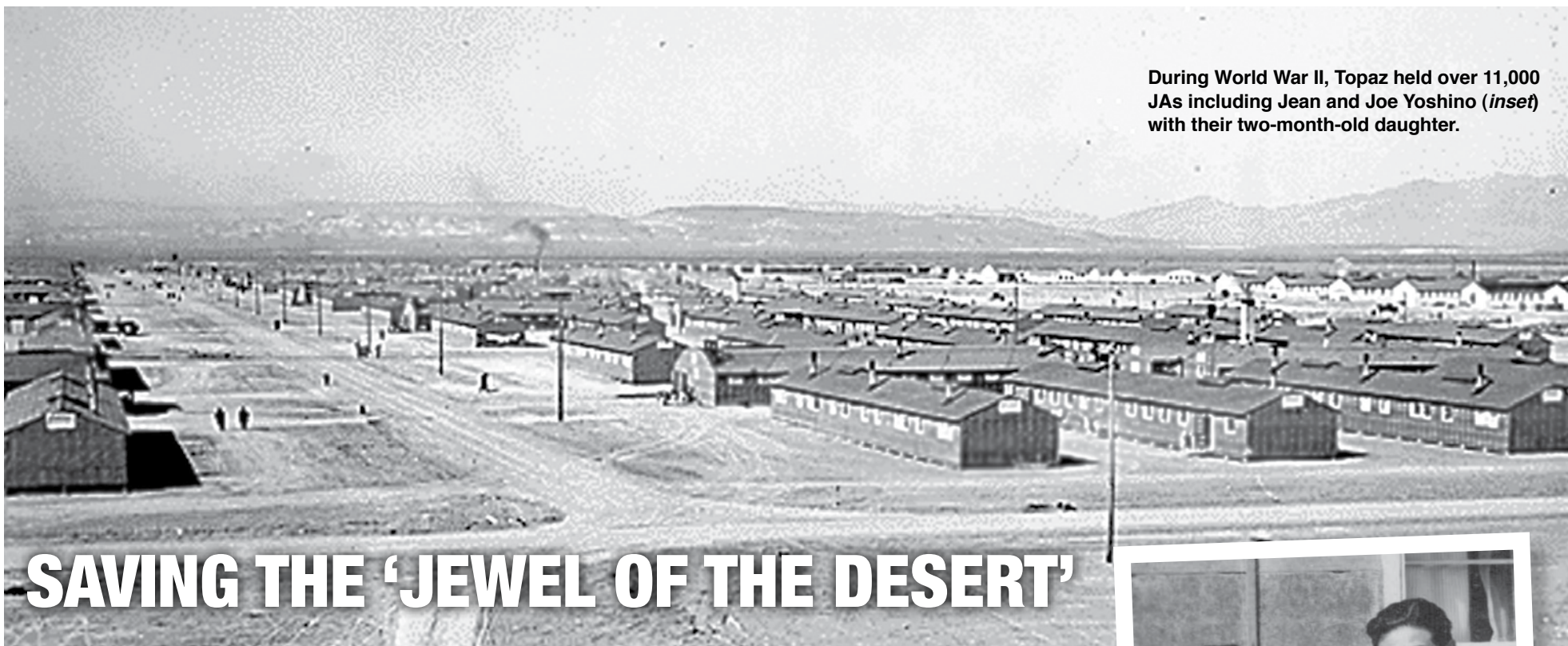
"I think the Asian community has a very easy way of dealing with denial," Mah said. "I have spoken to Chinese people who say, 'Well, in China we don't have that.' I said, 'What do you mean?' They say, 'Well, in China we don't have gay people.'"

To better understand the needs of specific Asian Pacific American subgroups, California Gov. Jerry Brown in 2011 signed into law AB1088. The bill was introduced by Assemblyman Mike Eng and requires state agencies to separate out demographic data.

For minority Asian Pacific American subgroups like the Burmese, healthcare workers say they're cautiously optimistic that this bill will give them a clearer picture of the existing healthcare issues and disparities.

Heather, who speaks Thai and Burmese, says she sometimes has difficulty navigating the healthcare system without a translator. She now dreams of going to school and learning English. One day, she'd like to return to her homeland.

"If I have a chance I would like to go back to Burma. But currently I cannot, I'm not allowed to get into Burma," she said. ■



SAVING THE 'JEWEL OF THE DESERT'

During World War II, Topaz held over 11,000 JAs including Jean and Joe Yoshino (inset) with their two-month-old daughter.

Groundbreaking for a physical space for the Topaz Museum is slated for the summer, but large fundraising strides need to be made before then.

By **Christine McFadden**
Correspondent

At the Topaz War Relocation Center in Millard County, Utah a banner once greeted incoming internees: "Welcome to Topaz: Jewel of the Desert."

During World War II, the prison camp held over 11,000 Japanese Americans during its operation from Sept. 11, 1942, to Oct. 31, 1945.

Over the years, wear and tear from the harsh climate and the destructive actions of some of the landowners after WWII have made this "Jewel of the Desert" — now a National Historical Landmark — severely in need of protection.

The Topaz Museum, a volunteer nonprofit organization, is working with The Conservation Fund to acquire ownership of all of Topaz's total 640 acres. So far, they have successfully purchased 96 percent of the land.

There are currently two remaining unprotected tracts of land: Block 35, a "key" 6.5-acre property, and nearby Block 42. Block 35 requires an additional \$20,000 by June 8 (to be matched 2-to-1 by federal funding).

Currently belonging to a private landowner who built a house on the property, Topaz Museum president and founder Jane Beckwith says that it is crucial that this land be purchased to protect it from any further damage. The owner, in addition to previous owners of other blocks, has damaged the terrain through construction.

"By doing that, they started to destroy the original campsite," said Rick Okabe, a member of the Topaz Museum board of directors.

"You can still see outlines of the roads that were there," a feature, he says, that is slowly being erased, sometimes even from owners driving all terrain vehicles across the land and destroying the impressions of the barracks.

"[There are] still concrete foundations from the mess halls and the latrines. There are rock gardens that the internees built outside their barracks," he said. By digging around in the dirt, one can even find broken toys or dishware.

"We want to keep that land as untouched as possible," he said.

Acquiring Topaz, Acre by Acre

After the war, the government sold Topaz land and structures to recoup some of the money spent on building the WWII prison camp, said Beckwith, a former teacher in the nearby town of Delta. Half a barrack usually went for \$200.

The effort to preserve the land began in 1998, when the first 417 acres were purchased together. Another 100 acres followed with the help of one of Beckwith's former students, now an attorney, followed by another 92 acres through The Conservation Fund.

"Thanks to the great work of the museum and the Fund working together, we've preserved 627 acres of the 640," said Dan Sakura, project leader for the Fund's JA Internment Camp Protection Initiative.

The Making of a Museum

The Topaz Museum, despite its namesake, does not yet have a physical museum. The organization has plans to start the construction of a museum onsite this summer, a goal since the organization's establishment in the early 1990s.

"It's only been [in] the last few years that things have been starting to come together," said Okabe.

The Topaz Museum received a National Park Service grant of \$714,000, kicking off their fundraising campaign. It is expected to cost upwards of over \$2 million — an amount they are working to achieve through the help of a campaign advisor — to build the museum.



A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Aug. 4, and the board is hoping to be finished by 2014, according to Beckwith.

The grassroots effort already has many connections to Topaz — Allan Kawasaki, the museum's architect, is a descendent of Topaz internees. Many local community members of the Delta area are on board as well.

Delta, which is about 15 miles away, has a population of about 5,000. Many of

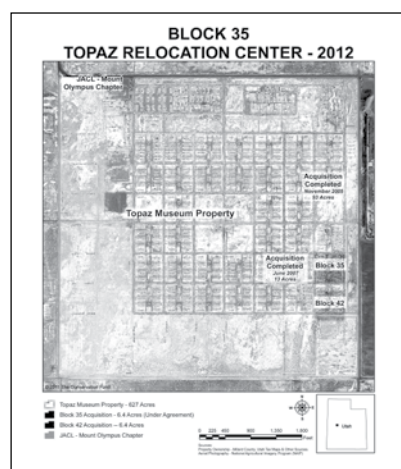
the JAs incarcerated at Topaz during WWII eventually moved back to California.

Beckwith's father ran the county newspaper during WWII in Delta and hired an internee named Harry Yusuda from Topaz. However, growing up, Beckwith never fully understood the purpose of the WWII prison camp.

In 1982 while teaching journalism at Delta High School, Beckwith assigned her students to write about nearby Topaz.

"[The] students were really fascinated about it," she said. With limited amounts of information about the camp available, they interviewed community members.

"The minute that happened, people started donating things to us," she recalled.



Block 35 at Topaz is a "key" 6.5-acre property that needs to be protected.

"Right away, I could see that there needed to be a museum."

Among the other artifacts Beckwith has collected are four chairs made out of shipping crates, a dresser, a baby crib, newspapers and yearbooks from camp, and various paintings and homemade shell jewelry.

"Her basement is full of Topaz artifacts," said Okabe.

The land preservation efforts will additionally preserve what has been left behind outside the museum as well.

"Topaz is one of the camps that has the greatest integrity in terms of land," said Sakura, a Yonsei whose family was incarcerated at Minidoka. He says that the conservation work has "helped heal a lot of the wounds from the war."

Tule Lake and portions of Heart Mountain and Minidoka are still under private ownership. Topaz, on the other hand, is "almost completely reassembled," said Sakura.

"We've almost put Humpty Dumpty back together," he said. "But we need help." ■

Save History

To donate to the Topaz Museum visit www.topazmuseum.org or send donations (indicating "Topaz Block 35") to:
Topaz Museum
P.O. Box #241
Delta, Utah 84624 or
The Conservation Fund
1655 N. Fort Myer Drive,
Suite 1300
Arlington, VA 22209-3199

JACL NATIONAL BOARD APPROVES PROPOSED 2013-2014 BUDGET WITH FUTURE STAFF ELIMINATIONS

In addition to approving the 2013-2014 proposed budget, the JACL national board passed a motion to support the effort to get a commemorative stamp for the Congressional Gold Medal recipients.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

SAN FRANCISCO—The JACL national board voted to approve the proposed budget at its recent meeting, which includes eliminating future national staff positions in a budget cutting measure.

At the April 21 meeting in San Francisco, the JACL national board approved the proposed 2013-2014 budget, which eliminated funding for two JACL national positions in the future. Those positions include the assistant editor position from the *Pacific Citizen* in 2014 and the JACL Pacific Southwest District regional director position in 2013.

Chip Larouche, Pacific Northwest District governor, made a motion to approve the budget. Jason Chang, vice president of planning and development, seconded the motion.

The motion passed with friendly amendments to not increase dues to JACL's Thousand Club and Century Club membership categories, a recommendation originally made by the budget committee.

Some JACL board members voiced their concerns about eliminating national staff positions.

"The *P.C.* has always worked to accommodate national JACL's shrinking budgets," said Jeanette Misaka, Intermountain District governor. Last year *P.C.* accepted a \$75,000 cut in membership dues it receives. "The *P.C.* for people in the IDC is a lifeline to our communities because we are so spread apart. We don't live in Los Angeles or San Francisco areas where there are a lot of Japanese Americans."

Misaka added that if there "has to be a cut in the *P.C.* shouldn't the *P.C.* have the option to decide where they can do the cuts?"

The motion to approve the proposed 2013-2014 budget passed with an amendment to allow the *P.C.*'s executive editor Caroline Aoyagi-Stom to have the "flexibility to manage [the] budget." The proposed elimination of the assistant editor position would cut \$66,976 from the budget, which includes the salary, taxes and full benefits.

"It was a hard day to go through the budget and figure out how we're going to balance this thing. In the end we're membership-based. We're not revenue-based or anything like that," said Chang. "So we're looking at the realities of today. The budget is proposed as what we can do, what we have today."

JACL's total projected budget revenue sources for 2013 are \$2,364,444 and \$2,235,835 for 2014. Projected program costs for 2013 come to \$2,274,240 and \$2,267,838 for 2014. There is a surplus of \$90,205 for 2013.

Board members expressed the importance of balancing the budget without changes to membership dues.

"The other thing that I need to point out or reiterate is we have budgeted a \$90,000 surplus that is virtually the cost of the regional director position," said Larry Oda, national JACL treasurer/secretary.

"I really don't like to say we're going to raise 1,400 new members to balance our budget because I don't know which one of you has that plan. How are we going to achieve that? That's just talk and talk is cheap. And we've tried that before and it didn't work."



PSW District Governor Ken Inouye makes his case for the district's regional director position which was eliminated in the 2013 budget. After a lengthy discussion the position was not reinstated by the national board in a 4 to 8 vote.

Ken Inouye, the PSW District governor, presented a report to the board about the importance of keeping the PSW regional director position in the budget and the need of a "local presence in the Los Angeles region in order to secure funding."

The report indicated that the PSW regional director position pays for itself since the previous regional director, Craig Ishii, secured funding from grants that exceeded the cost of the position.

"We strongly believe that having a strong national presence in Los Angeles is an integral part to making things happen for JACL on the national level," said Inouye.

A motion made by Inouye and seconded by Larouche to add the JACL PSW District regional director position to the national budget was voted down 4 to 8 by the board, with three board members abstaining.

Other significant motions that passed at the April 21 JACL national board meeting include:

- A motion made by Larouche to suspend the hiring freeze for the JACL membership coordinator position. The

motion also stipulated hiring a replacement for the position. David Lin, v.p. of membership, seconded the motion.

- The JACL national board unanimously approved the release of the Power of Words Handbook draft to the chapters and districts. The handbook outlines the suggested terminology to use to describe the unjust incarceration of persons of Japanese descent during World War II.

- A motion was made by Larouche and seconded by Matthew Farrells, the chair of the national youth council, to authorize the national director to hire replacements for the Mike M. Masaoka, Norman Y. Mineta, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye fellows and the six congressional interns.

- Ron Katsuyama, v.p. of public affairs, made a motion to support the campaign to get a Congressional Gold Medal stamp in honor of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service. David Unruhe, NCWNP District governor, seconded the motion.

- A motion passed to change the JACL national director title to executive director. ■

CONVENTION 2012 ATMOSPHERICS — 'ASIAN AMERICAN PUGET SOUND'

By Hugh Burluson

Picking up from my previous article on the atmospherics and environment for the upcoming Convention 2012, let's look into the Asian American presence in the greater Seattle area.

We've already noted the percentage of Nikkei and other Asian residents in this area. One draw for Asians here, of course, is the huge two-way trade through the Puget Sound region. You may know that such big corporations as Microsoft and Boeing are based here and contribute much to our global trade, especially with Asia. Each is supplemented by an array of lesser-known companies. Also, from east of the Cascades flow such products as apples, cherries, wines and hay. Yes hay, in the form of compact pellets, because Japan and other Northeast Asian nations have little room for growing things like hay.

A result of this trade is, for example, a panoply of organizations and institutions: the Consulates General of Japan and Korea, the Taiwan Trade and Cultural Office, the Hyogo Business and Cultural Center and the Japanese Business Association. Of course, a wide range of official and private of-

fices represent mainland China, too. Noteworthy, too, is that the Japanese Consulate General has in recent years worked harder to develop its relations with local Nikkei and Nikkei organizations.

More relevant to our convention's siting in Bellevue, many staff members of such offices choose to live in Bellevue, rather than Seattle, because they want the best education for their children and know the reputation of Bellevue's school system. This further boosts the ethnic East Asian population of Bellevue.

You can see this first hand simply by noting the many Asian faces at Bellevue Square, the two-story mall just a couple of blocks from the Bellevue Hyatt. In fact, an area in south Bellevue came to be called "China Hill" 20-odd years ago because so many Chinese from Hong Kong and Taiwan had moved there.

At the convention itself, you should get some inkling of the greater Seattle area Nikkei community's infrastructure of support. You've seen the Uwajimaya ads in the *Pacific Citizen*, touting its stores in Seattle's International District, in downtown Bellevue (less than a mile from the Hyatt), in



suburban Renton and in Beaverton, Oregon. These are no mom-and-pop operations, but supermarkets, and cultural institutions in and of themselves.

Also since WWII, Seattle's Nikkei community has created a range of institutions supporting the elderly and Japanese American culture in general: the full-care Keiro for the elderly, Nikkei Manor for oldsters who need little help, and Nikkei Horizons, under the management of Nikkei Concerns. The community is expanding the century-old Japanese Language School into a full-blown Cultural and Community Center. Let's not overlook the huge benefit accruing to Nikkei nationwide

from the endeavors of Tom Ikeda's non-profit Densho, which assiduously records for posterity the experiences of older Nikkei.

Nikkei and others also benefit from having several locally published weekly papers. Specifically for JAs is the bilingual *North American Post/Hokubei Houchi*, published since the early 20th century. Generally API-oriented are the *International Examiner* and the *Northwest Asian Weekly*. We should also mention Nikkei Concerns' quarterly *Tayori* newsletter that lists its activities, events and contributors. Hopefully, you'll see such publications while you're in Bellevue and poking around this area.

This look at our local media would be incomplete without mentioning the notable place of ethnic Asian women on camera here as TV newscasters and sportscasters. The doyenne of these capable ladies is Lori Matsukawa, who has starred on NBC's Channel 5 for several decades now and has long graced local JACL events.

We also enjoy two community events highlighting each year. The Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival has been held for decades, at the Seattle Center, where the Seattle Fair opened just 50 years ago this April. It features both Japanese and JA culture and draws crowds from the whole region.

Complementing that spring festival is Bellevue's Aki Matsuri, the fall festival put on at Bellevue College by another all-volunteer team from the non-profit Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association and drawing some 20,000 to this early September weekend event. Aki Matsuri benefits from having free on-campus parking. The "eye candy" there: the many children and other young people in their brightly colored kimonos. ■

Hugh Burluson is a member of the Lake Washington JACL

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

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

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

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

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GORDON HIRABAYASHI TO RECEIVE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

The civil rights icon joins singer Bob Dylan, civil rights pioneer Dolores Huerta, and former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in the honor.

By *Pacific Citizen Staff*

What do musician Bob Dylan, former astronaut John Glenn, and noted author Toni Morrison have in common with Gordon Hirabayashi? They are among 13 individuals who will soon be honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Although civil rights icon Hirabayashi's courageous story of defying the WWII internment orders is legendary in the Japanese American community, his story will now have a much wider audience as his legacy is honored this Spring at a White House ceremony.

"These extraordinary honorees come from different backgrounds and different walks of life, but each of them has made a lasting contribution to the life of our Nation," said President Barack Obama said. "They've challenged us, they've inspired us, and they've made the world a better



place. I look forward to recognizing them with this award."

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is given 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," according to a White House statement.

Hirabayashi was a 24-year-old student attending the University of Washington in 1942 when President Franklin

Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, sending tens of thousands of Americans of Japanese ancestry to desolate relocation camps. Defying those orders, Hirabayashi turned himself into the FBI asserting that the order was discriminatory.

Hirabayashi was convicted by a U.S. Federal Court for defying the exclusion order and violating curfew. His fight would take him all the way to the Supreme Court where in 1943 his conviction was upheld and he was imprisoned.

After the war Hirabayashi earned his doctorate in sociology and became a noted professor. In 1987, his WWII conviction was finally overturned by a U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He passed away earlier this year.

Hirabayashi "had the courage and fortitude to stand up for civil rights during a difficult period when racism against Japanese Americans was rampant," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "We commend Gordon for his valiant effort and thank President Obama for this honor to Gordon which is an opportunity to tell the story of innocent Americans of Japanese descent during World War II when the Constitution did not protect them and preserve their rights."

Hirabayashi will be honored at a White House ceremony in late Spring posthumously. The other honorees include former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, civil rights pioneer Dolores Huerta, and former Israeli president Shimon Peres. ■

CHICAGO HONORS JAPANESE AMERICAN WWII VETERANS



The tribute's deeper message was what Bill Hosokawa wrote: "The Nisei not only helped win our wars, they brought home afterwards the solemn lesson that we as a nation must live up to the ideals we profess."

On a crisp, clear Sunday afternoon 43 Nikkei veterans of the "Good War" received the heartfelt thanks from their community for defending the country that had questioned their loyalty and incarcerated many of their families. The occasion was the Nikkei World War II Veterans Tribute — held 67 years after the war — but the smiles and damp eyes told the story of pride and appreciation from almost 500 family members and friends.

The tribute on April 22 recognized the contributions of the many who served during WWII, but are ineligible for the Congressional Gold Medal. The medal was awarded to Nisei veterans who served in the segregated units of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team or the Military Intelligence Service.

"As wonderful as the Congressional Gold Medal is," said Howard Hieshima, chair of the tribute, "we wanted to include the many Japanese Americans who served with no less distinction. This includes the first Japanese American hero of World War II."

That hero, said Hieshima, was Ben Kuroki, a gunner in the Army Air Corps during WWII, who flew more than 50 missions over Europe and Japan.

Veterans received hand-made fabric leis from the Hawai-

ian Nisei Ladies and personalized handmade quilts from Quilts of Honor, an organization dedicated "to bestowing a universal symbol and token of thanks, solace, and remembrance to those who serve in harm's way to protect and defend our lives and freedoms."

At the event, Daniel Izui, Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Illinois, and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James H. Mukoyama, Jr. reminded everyone of the good these men and women contributed to United States history and the Japanese American community.

Attendees also paid respect to those killed in action and the veterans who have since passed away. The tribute's deeper message was what Bill Hosokawa wrote: "The Nisei not only helped win our wars, they brought home afterwards the solemn lesson that we as a nation must live up to the ideals we profess."

The Nikkei World War II Veterans Tribute was co-sponsored by the Chicago Nisei Post #1183 of the American Legion, the Chicago Japanese American Council, the Chicago JACL, the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, the Japanese American Service Committee, and the Tom Arai Bequest of the Japanese American Mutual Aid Society of Chicago. ■

ARIZONA JACL EVENT SPOTLIGHTS YOUTH, VETERANS

At its April 22 luncheon, the Arizona JACL celebrated both young scholars and World War II Nisei heroes.

The awards and graduates luncheon, held at the Glendale Civic Center, marked the awarding of the Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarships. This year, the chapter also honored local Nisei WWII veterans who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Infantry Battalion and Military Intelligence Service.

In his keynote speech, Rep. Trent Franks congratulated the youth and praised the WWII Nisei veterans for their service to the country.

The Arizona Congressman presented a replica Congressional Gold Medal to the following Nisei WWII veterans with Arizona ties: Robert Kiyoto Amano, Yoshitaka Eto, Tom Haga, Tatsuo Iguchi, Katsumi Ikeda, Masaru Ikeda, Masaji Inoshita, Satole Iwakoshi, Thomas Kadomoto, William Kajikawa, Ben Komatsu, Yoshiyuki Motoyoshi, Clarence Ohta, Harry Oyama, Jack Suda, George Takagi, Henry Takagi, Goro Tanamachi, Makoto Tanita, Minoru Tanita, Tamotsu Tanita, Wataru Tanita, Koichi Tomita, Masatsuki Yamamoto and Ted Yoshimura.

Many of these Japanese American WWII veterans were unable to attend the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in Washington, D.C., so community groups like the Arizona JACL are honoring their heroes locally.

The Congressional Gold Medal is Congress' highest civilian award. Among the 145 individuals and units awarded the medal are the Tuskegee Airmen, Navajo Code Talkers, Thomas Edison and the Wright Brothers.

This year's two recipients of the Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarships are Katy Ettlting and Charlotte Kishi.

Elementary graduates introduced at the event included Brooke Niimi and Emi Tanita. The high school graduates were Katy Ettlting (Hamilton High School), Daniel Hashimoto (Campo Verde High School), Trey Ishikawa (Mountain View High School), J.T. Kageyama (Highland High School), Charlotte Kishi (Shadow Mountain High School), Shaley Sato (Westwood High School), and Alexis Tanita (Mountain Ridge High School).

The college graduates were Alexandra Ettlting (BA, University of Arizona), Alyssa Hinchman (BS, University of Arizona), Ryan Ishikawa (BS, Arizona State University) and Christina Yoshii Kelly (MS, Arizona State University). ■



FOR THE RECORD

OBAMA AND SAME SEX MARRIAGE

By John Tateishi

Today, May 9th, President Barack Obama announced to the nation that he now supports same

sex marriage. It's a historic announcement and one that will bring all kinds of baggage to his re-election campaign.

Were it not for Vice President Joe Biden stating four days ago on national television that he was "perfectly comfortable" with the idea of same-sex marriages, the president would not have made his statement now. It forced the issue into the forefront of the presidential campaign, much, I suspect, to the consternation of some of Obama's campaign advisers.

No doubt President Obama could still have side-stepped this issue until after the elections, but he chose instead to state his personal views on this controversial issue, to the surprise of just about everyone — and to the shock of many.

His view, President Obama said in an interview today, has evolved over the past four years. As you no doubt recall, Obama did not favor same-sex marriage, even as few as six months ago. His leanings have always been at best moderate on social issues, and while he may have sympathized with those who sought same-sex marriage, he has never been a supporter of this issue.

Until today.

I was among those who were shocked to hear him declare his position, shocked not because he favors the issue (I fig-

ured he would come around eventually, maybe long after his presidency is over) but because it is such a daring and risky declaration to make in a presidential election year.

You can bet the right-wingers and Republicans are frothing at the mouth with this and can't wait to launch a full-scale attack on the president. This is the golden opportunity they have been waiting for, and I can only imagine how this will become the focus of the Republican attack, especially among Black and Latino communities and among religion-based constituencies.

Republicans have little credibility in criticizing the president on the economy because their insistence on austerity and a budget that did little to create growth incentives left too little room for Obama to establish a momentum towards a quicker recovery. In the last three recessions this country experienced (all under Republican presidents, by the way), the key to recovery was always through expanding public-sector jobs, which spurred on the private sector. While Republicans argue that Obama's economic policies are responsible for the slow recovery of the economy, they remain vulnerable for their role in this.

But now they have a ripe issue that cuts across all sectors of the voting public and gives Republicans an entree for reaching working class and middle class voters, whom they have screwed for longer than I care to remember.

What will be interesting now is to see how President Obama responds to the barrage he'll no doubt face. He's good under fire and a great speaker, and my guess is that

his response will be measured and calm and very rational. His campaign people might be going crazy, but you'll not suspect it from the way he carries himself through this part of the election campaigning. I think we'll see just how much Republicans hate this president.

So what does this have to do with the JACL? Other than same-sex marriage is a civil rights issue? Other than denying two people — yes, of the same sex — the right that extends to every other person in this society, even hard-core criminals, even the most despicable among us, even those who seem to be babbling idiots? So why should two people who love each other and happen to be of the same sex be denied a right that we give to every other adult in this society? And what business is it of the rest of us anyway?

I think people are offended by the thought of two people of the same gender having sex. To those people, I can only say, stop using your imagination so much!

I don't know if you're aware of it, but the JACL is the only national civil rights organization that has an affirmative position on the same-sex issue, according to the ACLU, with whom I joined on numerous same-sex legal cases during my seven-year tenure as national director.

For seven years the JACL was on public record and was very public about supporting same-sex partnerships. I'm glad to see in the most recent D.C. Alert that the JACL leadership continues to support that position. ■

John Tateishi is a former JACL national director.

THE RIGHT PLACE

RELEVANCE IN THE ERA OF DIVERSITY

By James Kumpel

Japanese Americans have a reason to feel proud during Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPIH) Month. Our history includes the first AAs elected to the Senate and to a governorship. The heroic exploits of the 442nd Regiment and the MIS during WWII helped to resoundingly counter the WWII-era suspicions about loyalty or Americanism. The 1987 explosion of the Challenger included the most diverse assemblage of Americans to ever take flight for NASA, including our own Ellison Onizuka.

With a decade-long effort to win passage of redress, the JACL demonstrated a gritty determination and highly effective grass roots organization to secure justice for the direct victims of what the ACLU deemed the "worst wholesale violation of civil rights of Americans in history". The organization made forceful arguments that influenced Democratic and Republican congressmen alike, ultimately securing the support of President Reagan to sign the legislation into law that historic August of 1988. We can rest assured that the JACL made a difference to those who had been wronged and helped firmly establish that Americans need to be treated as individuals and not be relegated to profiling by the mere accident of their race or ethnic background.

Investors often target diversification of their holdings in order to ensure low correlation as a means of preventing a single event or factor from decimating all assets at once. Diversity can be a strategy to reduce group-think and advance

views that might not otherwise even be considered.

Diversity should reflect a breadth of ideas, experiences, perspectives, cultural backgrounds, religious viewpoints and geographic origins. In other words, race should not be a proxy for diversity or equal opportunity. It really depends on the individuals whose lifetimes of experiences add to the collective wisdom and body of knowledge of a group.

I would contend that a fundamentalist Christian housewife from Alaska, a small farmer from the Midwest, a coal worker from West Virginia, a Polish immigrant from Milwaukee, and an entry level administrative worker from Texas would reflect a far more diverse set cross-section of experiences than would be found at most elite universities or companies, even if the former group were all white.

From my vantage point, diversity is not attained through the current construct of affirmative action. It most certainly is not just about checking different racial boxes.

I believe that Americans of all stripes should be concerned when outstanding students with impeccable academic backgrounds, impressive extracurricular activities, and demonstrable potential are held to more restrictive admissions standards just because they are AA ... or Jewish, for that matter.

When AA students are "profiled" as mere members of a racial group, rather than as individuals blessed with unique skills, then universities are engaging in the very institutional racism that Martin Luther King, Jr. railed against in the

1960s. The JACL and other civil rights organizations have accepted this *prima facie* discrimination as tolerable in the name of promoting diversity, as viewed through an affirmative action prism.

The JACL can achieve another great objective by taking on a broader mission in representing the very diverse national backgrounds and divergent concerns that comprise the AA community.

I am encouraged by Floyd Mori's efforts to partner with the Vietnamese community in New Orleans that was hurt by the BP disaster in 2010. But, I think that the JACL could reinvigorate the organization and take on greater relevance by addressing the evolving concerns of new Asian immigrants, aging AA residents who are underserved by government, and the tacit profiling of AA students that limit their prospects and opportunities.

In this way, the JACL can remind our government that AAs are not a monolithic group subject to artificially high standards, but a diverse patchwork of many cultures worthy of individual consideration. ■

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



LOL-ING WITH BEN HUH, THE MEME MOGUL

Ben Huh, a graduate of Northwestern University's prestigious journalism school, never thought he'd be running an Internet humor empire based on the ubiquitous "lolcat" — but now, with a Bravo reality show in the works, he's knee-deep in memes and loving it.

By Christine Fukushima, Correspondent

‘Dou mind? internetz r seriuiz biznez,” says the web-surfing cat, with that peeved expression unique to cranky kitties.

Such is a typical greeting from a “lolcat,” the now-ubiquitous Internet meme that features adorable kitties doing something silly with a caption that reads like the text message of a middle-schooler.

As CEO of Cheezburger, the company that owns and operates uber-popular meme repositories such as “I Can Has Cheezburger?” and “FAIL blog,” Ben Huh recognized that lolcats could indeed be “seriuiz biznez.”

“It wasn’t another oddity on the Web,” said Huh. “It was a big booming phenomenon.”

Ironically, the man who helped make these cats Internet-famous is allergic to them in real life.

Huh’s more of a dog person — in fact, he got his start in the Internet humor industry after making a blog about his pet dog with his wife, Emily.

After posting some details about a pet food recall on their blog in 2007, it was linked to “I Can Has Cheezburger?”

At the time, “I Can Has Cheezburger?” was already getting 500,000 views daily by lolcat-purveyors. The traffic the link brought crashed the Huhs’ blog, but it turned out to be a “feline-icitous” coincidence.

“We reached out to the creators, Eric Nakagawa and Kari Unebesami,” said Emily Huh, now editor-in-chief of Cheezburger. “We weren’t angry, just really fascinated!”

After striking up a friendship with the site’s founders, who lived in Hawaii, Ben and a group of investors purchased “I Can Has Cheezburger” for about \$2 million.

Huh, whose own start-up had “folded and died” during the dotcom bust of the early 2000s, decided to take a risk with the site because “the community was really compelling and it was a major form of entertainment,” he says.

“Once we purchased the site, the traffic continued to increase, which was when we realized that it was more about humor rather than just cats,” added Huh.

It’s a risk that’s paid off. Last year, Cheezburger received \$30 million in funding from venture capitalists, and in the works is a Bravo reality show (tentatively titled “Huh?”) following Ben and his team.

“When we saw inside the company Ben has built, and got a sense of the characters he has surrounded himself with, we immediately fell in love with him and his world,” said Elli Lehrer,

vice president of development and original programming for Bravo.

“It’s a truly unique organization filled with creative, eccentric, totally compelling personalities, and Ben is the ringleader,” he added.

Over the years, Cheezburger has expanded, adding more blogs to its blogroll and contributing to the proliferation of Internet memes that “I Can Has Cheezburger” helped start.

According to Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary, a meme (rhymes with “beam”) is “an idea, behavior, style, or usage that spreads from person to person within a culture.”

“Everyone has a favorite meme ... They’re all over our social networks,” said Earnest Salgado, a 21-year-old from Vallejo, California, on the omnipresence of memes on popular websites like Reddit and Tumblr.

“It’s like a subculture of social media. Since it’s a subculture, I guess the reason we like [memes] so much is because we like social media so much,” he added.

Today, the “Cheezburger family” contains over 60 meme and humor-based sites, with topics ranging from “Historic LOLs” (“captioned portraits of yore”) to “Monday Thru Friday” (photos related to “failing in the workplace”).

In addition, Cheezburger’s “Know Your Meme” has a database of over one thousand memes, detailing the origins and notable examples of each.

And for those who want to create their own memes, a variety of “meme builders”

are available, as well as a platform for people to create and curate their own meme sites. More than 22,000 “Cheezburger sites” have been created by the company’s fan base of over 16.5 million people.

A graduate of the prestigious Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, Huh had no idea that he’d one day be running such an instrumental and comprehensive institution of Internet humor.

“Running a cat picture site was not my first choice, but I really loved the way it made people happy,” said Huh.

Growing up in South Korea and then Hong Kong, Huh was “a pretty serious, studious kid,” he says. He immigrated to Sacramento at the age of 11 because his parents wanted him to have better educational opportunities.

After graduating from journalism school in 1999, Huh gravitated towards what he felt was the next wave in communication — the Internet. But he experienced the brunt of the dotcom bubble burst after his start-up failed in eighteen months.

He credits his parents’ unwavering support for the entrepreneurial spirit that motivated him to take a risk with purchasing “I Can Has Cheezburger?.”

“That was pretty unusual about my parents. The first generation of family tends to push toward a professional career, but they didn’t,” he said.

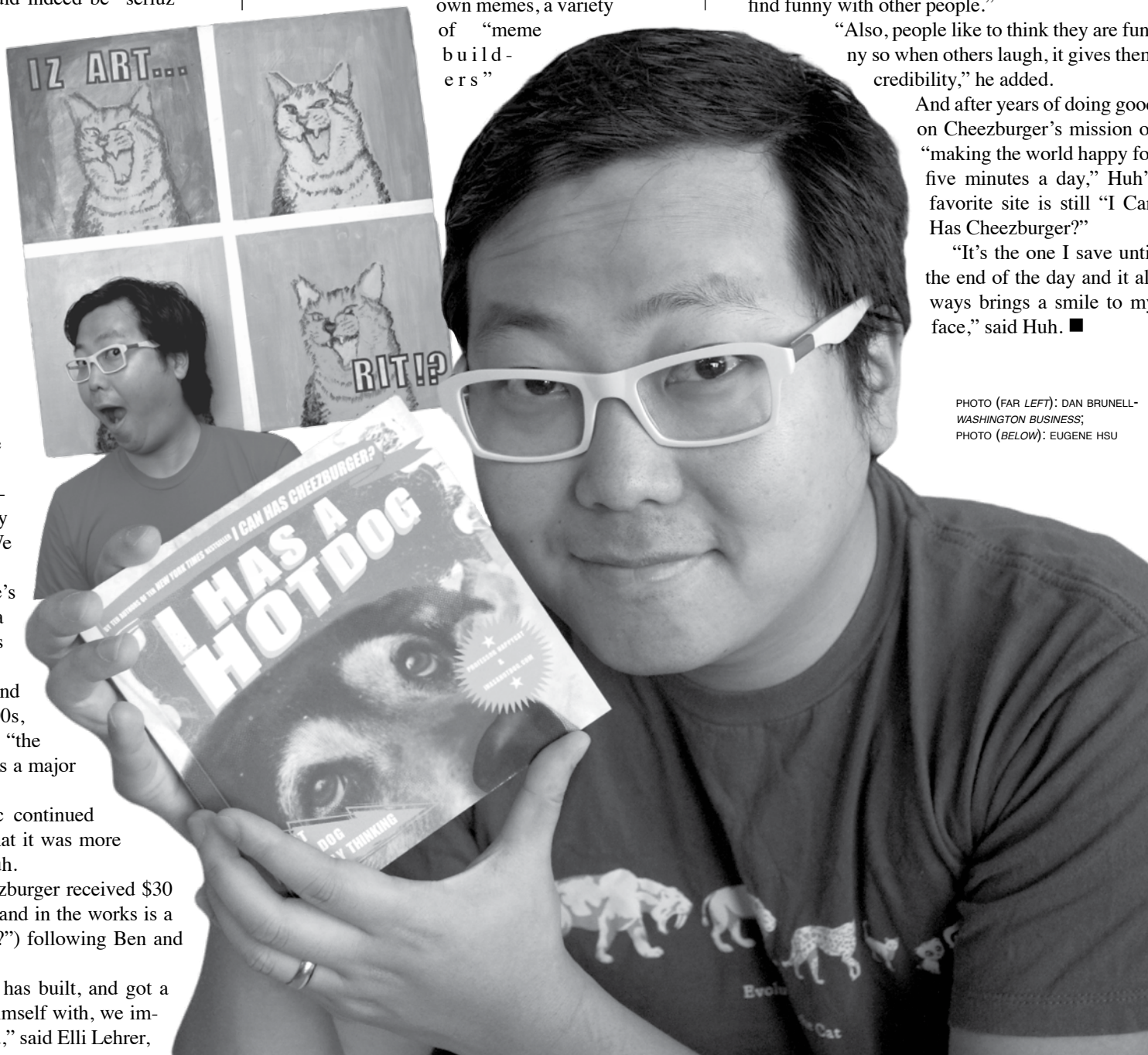
Huh believes Cheezburger has become so popular because “people have the desire to be happy. They like to laugh and they want to share the things that they find funny with other people.”

“Also, people like to think they are funny so when others laugh, it gives them credibility,” he added.

And after years of doing good on Cheezburger’s mission of “making the world happy for five minutes a day,” Huh’s favorite site is still “I Can Has Cheezburger?”

“It’s the one I save until the end of the day and it always brings a smile to my face,” said Huh. ■

PHOTO (FAR LEFT): DAN BRUNELL-WASHINGTON BUSINESS;
PHOTO (BELOW): EUGENE HSU



GET TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL JACL OFFICES

In accordance with the JACL Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1 (b), the national nominating committee for national officers, also known as the nominations committee, has reviewed and approved the candidate applications for the people listed below for national offices.

National president: *Jeff Yoshioka, David Lin*

National vice president for public affairs: *Craig Tomiyoshi*

National vice president for planning and development: *Jason Chang*

National vice president for One Thousand Club, membership and services: *John Moy*

National secretary treasurer: *Matthew Farrells*

National youth/student council chairperson: *Jeffrey Moy*

The offices for national vice president for general operations and national youth/student council representatives did not receive any applicants.

In accordance with the JACL Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1 (c), a member in good standing may run for any national office as a late filer. To have your application considered and processed, all late filers must submit a completed application form with the signatures of the majority of chapter presidents or chapter delegates from their district council to the nominations committee on July 5 at 1:30 p.m. A copy of the candidate's application form, the nominations and elections guidelines, and the addendum to the guidelines can be found at the national convention homepage: www.jacl.org/2012.

The nominations committee has released the candidates' statements and selected candidates' application responses for publication. The full text of all candidate statements and responses can also be found at the national convention website.

OFFICIAL CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS



Jeffrey Yoshioka (national president candidate): After obtaining my BS in accounting from San Jose State University, I became a certified public accountant. I have owned my own firm in San Jose for 15 years. I have been a member of JACL for over 30 years. I'm currently the president of the Silicon Valley chapter and for the past 18 years, I have been an effective leader as either the chapter treasurer or chapter president of San Jose JACL or Silicon Valley JACL.

I am running for JACL national president because I believe the JACL is at a crossroads. We need to be an organization that is led from the bottom up, with the members telling the leaders what they want and need in the organization. As national president, I will make sure that the leaders hear what is being said and act upon it.

I want to make the Program for Action a real roadmap for the organization. Starting with discussion at the chapter level, the members will be responsible for informing their delegates of their priorities. Remembering our past and planning for our future while setting the Program for Action will require compromise and careful planning at the annual convention. Implementing the Program for Action will be the goal of the national board to carry forth in the next biennium.

In the Silicon Valley chapter, we focus on intergenerational events, leadership development and exploring the Japanese American culture in fun and inviting ways. We develop and foster diverse memberships and networks as a good foundation for sustainability. We can do the same and even better for national and future generations. It will not be easy because of budget constraints, but together we can make the JACL a stronger organization. We need effective leadership. Please vote for Jeff Yoshioka for JACL national president.



David Lin (national president candidate): I currently hold the position of executive director, external affairs at AT&T. My primary responsibility is to build and nurture relationships with Asian American community-based organizations.

I received an MS degree in Computer Science, a MBA and a BA degree, all from Rutgers University. I am also a graduate of the Program for Management Development Executive Education from Harvard Business School.

My motivation to run for national president is exactly the same as why I volunteered to serve as the v.p. of membership in February 2010. And that is to support JACL so it can be a stronger, a more vibrant and influential Asian American organization for all of us and for all Americans.

JACL is a nationally recognized civil rights organization and I want to continue that tradition and take JACL to a whole new level by focusing on the following key areas: 1. Financial stability, 2. Membership, 3. Civil rights advocacy, and 4. Culture & heritage preservation.

Of these four areas, I think the most challenging issue that JACL must address quickly is the financial challenge we face. The fact is that our members are aging and the membership dues, as the largest revenue source, continue to decline. As such, we need to continue to diversify our revenue sources focusing

on getting grants and sponsorships.

Additionally, we need to continue to place an intense focus on our membership so we can maintain this revenue stream. In 2011, we lowered our membership decline rate to 2.8 percent, from 6 percent. We recruited the most new members in 5 years, and 4 out of 7 districts actually saw an increase. This is great news. However, maintaining and growing the membership is an ongoing effort and requires constant attention on membership retention and recruitment and we need to do just that.



Craig Tomiyoshi (v.p. for public affairs candidate):

My name is Craig Tomiyoshi, and I am a candidate for the national office for public affairs. I'm currently an account director at IW Group, Inc., an Asian American marketing/communications firm. Prior to IW Group, I worked in Japan primarily as an editor for a government educational foundation. I graduated from the University of San Diego in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in political science and sociology.

For the last three years, I've served as an at-large member on the Pacific Southwest District board. I've worked on several fundraising dinner committees, and was part of the planning committee for the national convention in Los Angeles last year.

Being involved in the Japanese American and Asian American communities is important to me. I've taken leadership and planning roles with organizations including the Nikkei Federation, Japanese American Community Services, and the Rising Stars Youth Leadership Program. I've also served as a guest trainer for Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics' Executive Leadership Program and Leadership in Action programs.



Jason Chang (v.p. for planning & development candidate):

My name is Jason Chang and I am running for my second term as v.p. of planning and development. This past biennium, it has been an honor to serve on the national board and learn the intricacies of our great organization.

The past two years have focused on a common theme of declining membership leading to deficit funding in our general account. We've had to make some hard decisions this past biennium and without change, more hard times lie ahead.

My platform this election will focus on development. The key will be developing new streams of revenue from multiple sources, complementing our annual giving campaigns and efforts to grow membership. Areas that I have targeted for development of new revenue are adding membership categories. You will hear more about this in the coming months. We will operationalize an online store that will offer JACL merchandise and even more products. With the use of the internet, the world becomes our market and our student JACL members become the innovators of creative thought. We will seek out new corporate donors and partnerships that infuse our general operations with the capital it needs to continue our mission.

I need your support. Initially I need your vote, but as we put these programs together and offer new membership categories and services, it's your support and interest that makes it successful. I look forward to seeing you at the national convention.



John Moy (v.p. for membership candidate):

As chair of the investment policy committee, I have come to understand some of the needs and wants of the JACL. As in any organization the more money it has, the greater its impact. An organization's lifeblood is its continuing

inflow of funds from both individuals and corporations. These funds allow the organization to have more reach and influence: from political policy to education. Not having enough funds is the most challenging issue that the JACL must address. My career

for the past 32 years in investment and financial business has been focused on goal setting and bringing in assets. The position that I seek will be the most challenging, but satisfying, if I succeed.



Matthew Farrells (secretary/treasurer candidate):

It is important the JACL must remain relevant for decades to come. How we will do this is the major question. I believe one way of ensuring the JACL can remain relevant is by overcoming our current fiscal challenges and

identifying long term solutions to those challenges. When I look at our funding sources, we have always been a membership-based organization and only more recently have we begun to shift to alternative sources of funding due to our declining membership base. Corporate and government grants, fundraising drives and estate planning are all vital sources of funding to consider that could provide substantial relief. Learning how to create relationships and sharing mutually beneficial partnerships with other organizations can be vital to securing these monies.

The other way to relieving the strain on our current fiscal situation is by taking on more broad issues to improve the rights of other groups facing human and civil rights injustices; while in turn, generating more interest in becoming JACL members from communities outside of the JA community. We have come a long way since our creation in 1929, I believe it is now time to help establish other under privileged communities. I believe these are two simple solutions to focus on when approaching overcoming our current fiscal challenges. These are only a few of the initiatives I hope to pursue as national secretary/treasurer.

As a graduate of the University of Minnesota and currently an analyst at Ameriprise Financial, Inc., a Fortune 300 wealth and asset management firm, I believe I have developed a skillset that is transferable to the national secretary/treasurer position and I look forward to serving every member of the JACL as a national board member.



Jeffrey Moy (national youth/student council chair candidate):

My name is Jeffrey Moy, and I am running for national youth/student council (NY/SC) chairperson. I graduated from the University of Southern California in 2008 with a double major in philosophy and psychology and

currently work as program manager of the professional development initiative at OCA. Essentially, my role is to work with young professionals by facilitating programs that teach them the skills they need to give back to the community.

One of the most pressing issues facing JACL is the lack of young leaders that can eventually take charge of this organization. JACL is in need of new ideas and fresh perspectives, and I intend to help the NY/SC continue to expand its national network in order to find more people willing to step up into roles where they can make change. Over the past two years, while working with the NY/SC as one of the EDC youth representatives, we have created a detailed strategic plan providing for continued growth of this network at the local, regional, and national levels.

My work experience will allow me to further strengthen the pipeline of young leaders we are developing, and keep them engaged for years to come. With my expertise, the NY/SC will continue to improve our youth summits, which empower and educate local community members, while maintaining our focus on recruiting more youth into the organization. I also look forward to continuing to help NY/SC members develop into leaders willing to embrace the responsibility of helping JACL continue the great work that it does.

CANDIDATES' Q&As

Please state your definition of leadership and your perception of the role of the JACL national board.

Jeffrey Yoshioka (national president candidate): I believe in leadership by example. I have been fortunate to have had many mentors in my life who have helped me

grow throughout the years. I listen to and solicit input from others before coming to an opinion. Leadership is also working with people and maximizing their strengths. As a leader, you need to assess an individual's weaknesses and strengths and put everyone in a position to succeed.

The national board acts on behalf of the membership while the national council is not in session. I believe that the direction should come from the membership, and the role of elected officers is to make sure that the priorities of the membership take precedent. The national president needs to be approachable so that people feel comfortable, but the national president also has an obligation to go out and solicit information, not just wait for it to come in.

David Lin (national president candidate): Leadership is having the vision to seize an opportunity in the disguise of a problem;

'Please state your definition of leadership and your perception of the role of the JACL national board.'

the ability to work with others as a team to develop solutions to the problem; and the skills to implement the plan to successfully solve the problem.

The role of the JACL national board should be one that: Sets strategic direction of the JACL; Ensures the organization is well run through the staff; Provides guidance and support to the districts and chapters; Represents the JACL to the community and to the public; and Acts as a steward of JACL's image and assets.

Craig Tomiyoshi (v.p. for public affairs candidate): One of the most important qualities of a leader is the ability and willingness to listen. Good leaders are willing to listen to a variety of viewpoints — even from people or organizations that traditionally have different perspectives than their own — to ensure they have the right information to make the best decision. Listening doesn't necessarily mean making decisions that try to appease the largest number of people; good leaders will make a decision that they think is right for their team or organization. This approach creates openness, dialogue and respect; people tend to respect decisions — even if it is not in sync with their own thoughts — if it's clear their voices were heard.

I believe that is one of the primary roles of the national board. Listening to the thoughts and needs from an extremely diverse JA community and making decisions that will benefit both the organization and community.

Jason Chang (v.p. for planning & development candidate): My definition of leadership is to serve as a role model in practice. Being a facilitator of the resources and tools the organization needs to be successful goes beyond serving as a spokesperson and into a cooperative role with equal working parts. My perception of the national board is that it's our responsibility to preserve the foundation that the JACL was founded in an evolving era of variable perspectives and influences. Our board should proactively help local chapters develop a medium to communicate the JACL message to new members who have a vague understanding of the road posterity has paved.

Leadership is a unique quality bestowed upon a handful of individuals. In the case of the JACL national board, we are in a unique situation. We have millions of dollars in endowments and restricted funding, and declining revenue year over year. Something needs to change within the infrastructure of the JACL or it will cease to exist. This is the time for strong leadership and strategic thinking to push change and make decisions that ensure the JACL mission is carried forward.

John Moy (v.p. for membership candidate): I believe the board has a responsibility to represent all Asian Americans with regard to their rights and privileges within the United States Constitution. It must stand proudly to insure that rights of minorities are not forgotten nor trampled. Leadership of the JACL board must provide a beacon to all those needing strength when their rights are not protected. The JACL needs to have a broader voice in the political arena so those that would try to take advantage of minorities will know the consequences. The JACL must maintain close ties with both their members and the leaders in government.

Matthew Farrells (secretary/treasurer candidate): My definition of leadership is: leading by example, developing leaders of the people you are leading to perpetuate the growth of the whole group, to provide vision and direction of an organization and to inspire and empower those around you to become their best. My perception of the JACL national board's role is one that embodies leadership and inspiration. It's a role that should influence and empower the whole organization, from other national board members to the prospective member at the grassroots level, by providing the guidance and tools to stride towards the JACL's vision by carrying out its increasingly important mission.

Jeffrey Moy (national youth/student council chair candidate): In my mind, a strong leader is someone who listens and understands the needs of the group, and finds solutions for these issues. The JACL national board at all times needs to be aware of what the community desires from the organization. However, being a strong leader also means prioritizing these needs and acting upon them when necessary. A great leader will use their judgment to act in the best interests of the group, even when the group may initially be opposed to those actions.

How would you implement the Program for Action in your elected office?

Yoshioka: The Program for Action is the roadmap from the membership. A national president needs to keep the program owners in check and on track.

I want to bring the organization back to the membership. By getting input at the chapter level, the organization becomes relevant to more people. The Program for Action needs to be discussed at the off-year annual conventions and priorities set, so that the national board can use it as the roadmap from the membership when making decisions.

Lin: If elected, I will work closely with the national board and staff to develop and implement a plan of action to address not only our current challenges, but to provide a forward looking view for the next 5-10 years. Specific steps to be taken include: Develop a strategic vision for the JACL to set the organization on the path of vitality and prosperity; Direct staff to implement approved programs efficiently and effectively; Ensure integrity of JACL finances; Monitor progress of the plans and make course corrections, if appropriate; Provides ongoing guidance and support to the district and chapters; Utilize all available channels of communications to deliver JACL value propositions to existing and prospective members; Represent the JACL to the community and to the public; and Act as a steward of JACL's image and assets.

Tomiyoshi: While all of the key initiatives outlined by the PFAC (Program for Action Committee) are critical and will need to be addressed by the vice president of public affairs, I think that two areas — funding and membership — are the ones that require particular focus and priority.

Building a consistent and reliable revenue stream and increasing membership are necessary to build and sustain effective advocacy, youth, education and leadership initiatives. It will be essential for the v.p. of public affairs to work with the national board and staff to build relationships with key stakeholders within the community and government, and within the corporate world. In addition, this individual must support and lead efforts to better understand the member, and develop a strategy to acquire new members and retain existing ones.

Chang: I believe that the greatest vehicle for promoting civil rights and social justice is grassroots through our members as well as making the JACL mission known to those who fight battles against these forms of injustice. In order to best act on this initiative, it's important to provide our local chapters with tools for generating membership, including brochures and electronic forms of media that encourage interaction.

John Moy: I would confer with the past national vice president for One Thousand Club, membership and services to understand what was done in the past that worked and didn't work; and, what thoughts he/she may have about today's membership and services. As an investment advisor, I have had to put Wall Street lingo into common English so investors could understand the many facets of investing. If one understands how the power of money can work for the common good, then one would tend to donate their time and money more readily.

Farrells: I will provide leadership in executing the JACL Program for Action in several major ways. First, I will push for programming at the national board level that is vital to grow awareness of our organization, issues, and mission throughout the communities we work and live. A few programs that I believe are truly effective at achieving the Program for Action's goals are Project: Community, Bridging Communities, Washington, D.C. Leadership Summit, and the preservation of the WWII internment camps. These programs create the means of providing education on advocacy, leadership, social justice, and community preservation. Second, I

will support the fundraising and budget allocation efforts to allow these programs to flourish and succeed. Without the proper funding of these crucial programs, we will set them up to fail.

Jeffrey Moy: The position of national youth/student chairperson is arguably one of the most important to implementing the Program for Action since the NY/SC is in large part responsible for educating the youth and creating new leaders to assist JACL in advocating for the community. I will aid in directing the NY/SC to educate students and young professionals around the country on issues they can work on, as well as providing opportunities for leadership development in the community and on the council.

How would you address the challenges facing the JACL today?

Yoshioka: One of the problems facing the JACL today is the declining membership. We need to get back to programs that are meaningful to the membership. By determining their wants and needs we can develop strong local chapters and increase membership. Each local chapter is different, but they can all have a say in the national vision.

If there is support for local chapter activities, we can leverage this support into providing leadership for the national organization.

In terms of money, if we are a membership based organization, and the members believe in our mission, then they will be more likely to give their time, money, and resources to help the national organization.

If we can show that we have a strong membership, we can leverage this into corporate support. However, I believe that any corporate money we receive needs to be aligned with the focus of our organization.

Lin: As you all know, JACL continues to experience financial challenges, so I will begin to address that overarching issue on day one. The fact is that our members are aging and the membership dues, as the largest revenue source for the JACL, continue to decline. At the same time, we have a number of great programs that need to be funded to sustain the ongoing operation of the JACL. As such, we need to continue to diversify our revenue sources focusing on getting grants and sponsorships. This also means that we need to go out of our way to solicit corporate sponsorships, both nationally and locally; and look for entry points to build relationships with foundations. Additionally, we need to continue our intense focus on membership retention and recruitment so we have that steady stream of revenue.

Tomiyoshi: I believe that while JACL is facing a wide range of challenges, I think the most important issue that needs to be addressed is relevancy. While the purpose of JACL is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and others facing injustice — and has been effective in doing this — I think what has become somewhat overlooked is the member experience.

Membership is JACL's core strength; it is what supports the organization from both a financial and influence perspective, and helps shape the direction of the organization. JACL needs to conduct an assessment of what its current and potential members need and want, and work to create programs that support both the organization's core mission as well as its members.

Addressing the relevancy question is a critical step that will help solve many of the other challenges, including membership decline and financial issues. If JACL can determine what would motivate people to maintain their memberships and attract new members, other challenges will become much easier to solve.

Chang: The JACL is in a unique situation, financially and in terms of membership. We need to seek out new forms of revenue to complement the annual giving campaigns and other restricted donations made to the organization. Membership is one aspect that needs to be rebuilt. Developing novel revenue streams, other than corporate sponsorships, are necessary to carry us forward into the future.

John Moy: For many years, my feeling has been that the JACL is deeply tied to its roots. In order to be relevant for today and the future, the JACL, in my opinion, must look at the younger generation. However, in order to fund more projects/programs to add membership, we will need more donations. I would like to see us double our efforts in this area. Focusing on a goal and having everyone participate should put us on the right track. Failure is not an option for to fail in this could spell a smaller JACL.

Farrells: To address the challenges the JACL faces today is a difficult task. However, it is a crucial task to ensure our organization remains relevant for decades to come. We are at a crossroads; the focus of our organization needs to change in several major ways. First, we need to focus on making the JACL relevant to young adults and allow the full integration of young adults into leadership positions at all levels of the organization. Second, we need to shift our revenue source from membership-based to grant/fundraising-based. This will relieve the pressure of a drastically declining revenue stream. Lastly, we need to focus on programs

that are core to the mission of the JACL in order to solidify the JACL's place as the premier Asian American human and civil rights organization.

Jeffrey Moy: Thanks to the strategic plan drawn up at last year's NY/SC retreat, we have a number of specific goals which include growing the number of youth members in JACL, providing additional leadership opportunities at the local and district level, and educating youth around the nation on what we do. My hope would be that these efforts will allow for an influx of youth into JACL, which will provide for a new generation of leaders that can take care of the organization for years to come.

How would you explain the purpose and role of the office you seek to someone outside of JACL?

Yoshioka: The role of the JACL national president is to be the leader of the national board and to direct the national director and executive editor of the *Pacific Citizen*.

The president needs to be knowledgeable in all areas including membership, finance, operations and civil rights.

The national president needs to make sure that we are fulfilling the mission of the JACL while the national council is not in session. Since JACL is an organization rich in culture and has a long standing history in upholding the civil liberties of all Americans, we need to make sure as we move forward as a country, that we do not forget the lessons and mistakes of the past. The unconstitutional treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II is a part of American history that must be shared with all Americans so that this does not happen again to any group.

Lin: In a word, providing leadership to the organization, and more specifically: Develop a strategic vision for the JACL to set the organization on the path of vitality and prosperity; Lead the JACL in executing that vision in the form of the biennial budget, with the approval of the national council; Ensure the organization is well run and financially stable; and Represent the organization in a professional manner with all stakeholders, e.g. elected officials, foundations, sponsors, non-profit organizations and other ethnic communities.

Tomiyoshi: One of the key roles of the vice president of public affairs is to actively engage and build relationships with JACL's key stakeholders. This includes elected officials, community leaders, new and existing funders and supporters, and current and potential members. The v.p. of public affairs should also take an active role in external communications on behalf of the national office, including media relations, branding and marketing efforts.

I believe that my 10 years of experience in the field of marketing communications has given me the necessary skills to effectively carry out the duties of this position.

Chang: As v.p. of planning and development I expect to seek out relationships and opportunities that are aligned with JACL initiatives. At the same time, I will be overly diligent ensuring that the initiatives and projects that have been carried by my predecessors are completed in a seamless manner.

John Moy: I tell people outside of the JACL that this organization is the oldest and largest civil rights organization concerned with issues of education and public policy of Asian Americans. Even though JACL means Japanese American Citizens League, it represents all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Farrells: The national secretary/treasurer position is one of great importance. As treasurer you oversee the organization's finances and are an integral part of national board meetings. Some major responsibilities include, but are not limited to, ensuring proper financial reporting occurs frequently to the national board and national council, working with staff to ensure the finances are in order to conduct day-to-day operations and ensure the proper recording and meeting notes of the national board meetings.

Jeffrey Moy: My role is to oversee the NY/SC, a body that educates students and young professionals on issues facing the greater APA community, and encourages networking and leadership development to create the next generation of JACL advocates.

How would you assist in or actively participate in raising funds for JACL?

Yoshioka: First, I would assess what funds are needed and look into all available options including corporate donations, fundraisers and grants. My experience and expertise has been to analyze the best course of action. I will assist where I can as national president and I will lead by example.

I would work with the national director to help with fundraising from corporate money that is in line with the vision of the member-

ship at large. With a stronger membership, we are more viable for corporation donations.

Also, if the membership believes that we are worth donating to, they will follow through with more donations. We need to work on developing a planned giving program. I feel that the Nisei and other generations would give to an organization that is building a strong legacy.

Lin: I will be doing the following on fundraising: Develop a fundraising plan jointly with the national board and staff; Engage national board members and staff in executing the plan; Set clear, challenging fundraising objectives for each board member and the national director so we can all contribute to the success of the organization; and report on fundraising results on a monthly basis and at each national board meeting to ensure progress

Tomiyoshi: Until JACL is able to successfully address the issue of declining membership, fundraising will need to be the primary source of operating funds to support the organization and its programs. I believe that assisting the organization in developing an effective fundraising strategy and helping to make new connections with funders will be one of the key strengths that I will be able to bring to the national board.

I am a firm believer that fundraising isn't the work of one or two individuals within an organization. It's more than just writing proposals or grants; it involves developing a comprehensive strategy that will help shift the mindset of the organization towards a more fundraising-focused model. This does not involve "selling out" or compromising values, nor does it mean neglecting the importance of membership. Rather, it means making fundraising a priority within JACL, and activating resources within the organization at all levels

Chang: The role of v.p. of planning and development is intricately involved in seeking new sources of revenue. From representing the organization amongst funders and working with staff to develop revenue-generating programs, it's a hands on approach.

John Moy: Managing money and raising funds through client acquisition is the strength of my success as a financial advisor. I am willing to see how it will translate in the JACL. My hope is, given time, I can come up with ideas that will boost our finances. One idea is to educate members to invest in donor funds and to name the JACL as beneficiary. Another is to find corporations that give matching dollars to its employees; then ask those employees who also are members of the JACL to donate through matching gifts. Another is to team up with corporate sponsors to donate cost savings to the JACL. For instance, asking Japan Airlines to donate funds if a certain number of JACLers travel using their airline. Or Hawaiian Airlines to donate funds for those visiting the islands or Las Vegas. Updating the membership is essential. A birthday recognition of those reaching 100 tied to some fundraising event held at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles could bring in funds. Holding chapter meetings at local Asian restaurants will help local restaurateurs. But then we need to ask them to donate advertising dollars in our newspaper.

Farrells: There are several ways I would assist or actively participate in fundraising activities. First, I believe the national board is responsible to lead by example and fundraise, as all members should (whether it is by recruiting new members or securing grant/corporate funding). I would pledge to raise an amount the national board would determine all board member would have to commit to. Second, I would encourage the development of new fundraising strategies and refocus on corporate/government grant funding as the desired source of revenue in the future. Lastly, I would utilize my own personal/professional network to identify potential sources of funding and work with the executive director to meet the requirements for funding.

Jeffrey Moy: I have several ideas around the issue of fundraising, but one that I am currently working on is creating local youth groups to drive membership to specific chapters. In my case, I am creating a JACL D.C. Young Professionals group to work with the large number of APA young professionals in D.C. that has largely been untapped by the chapter. This model is also being followed in Chicago, and is something that could help drive membership dollars to JACL.

How would you develop and/or improve relations with youth groups, corporate sponsors, organizations, and ethnic communities?

Yoshioka: Each of these groups is different and will require careful consideration as to how we can develop a stronger relationship. JACL has a long history that we can share with other groups. For instance, after the events of 9/11, JACL offered support to various Muslim communities and shared our experience as Japanese Americans during World War II.

I feel that we need to develop programs that are attractive to a wide variety of youth. We need to reinstate the youth conference

to get them together to share what they are interested in.

We need to encourage more intergenerational discussion and activities.

It will be imperative to use existing relations and work with people who already have a network of connections. Part of the challenge will be going to the membership and looking for their help with various corporate groups and sponsorships.

Lin: I will be doing the following to develop and/or improve relations with stakeholder groups:

- Develop a list of target organizations that JACL is or should be working with, with input from the national board and staff,
- Prioritize this list of organizations,
- Develop a relationship building plan for each organization,
- For each organization, assign responsibility for building/managing the relationship to either staff or a national board member,

'How would you explain the purpose and role of the office you seek to someone outside of JACL?'

- Report out at monthly and at the national board meetings to ensure progress.

Tomiyoshi: As with fundraising, improving relations with these organizations and communities is not the responsibility of just a handful of individuals. Every person within the organization, from executive leadership down to the member, needs to view themselves as an ambassador for the organization and work to both identify opportunities for JACL, and help build relationships.

These types of relationships — as well as the partnerships that result from them — tend to be more effective and long lasting versus ones that simply come from the top-down.

This type of change cannot happen overnight, nor will it happen on its own. It requires making relationship building a priority initiative, and effective communications to leadership and members to provide them with the tools to be able to become ambassadors for JACL. As a national board member, I hope to be able to share my expertise to help JACL explore an initiative or opportunity such as this.

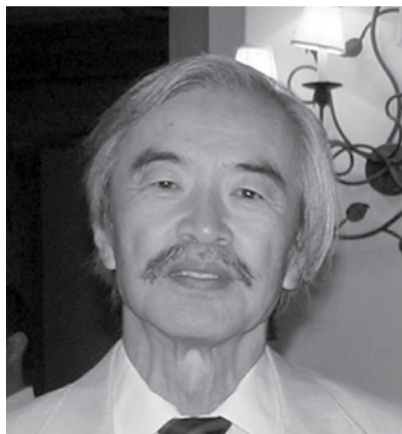
Chang: no response

John Moy: Having my son, Jeffrey, work in the youth group of the JACL helps me understand what today's youth group is searching for. We continue discussing the problems that exist and how to resolve these. If we want to grow our organization, it's important to have more important positions and activities for them. We could be more inclusive and reach out to gays and lesbians. I also believe that we should reach out to the NFL/MLB to engage in discussions with Asian American and Pacific Islander players and have them donate through their individual foundations to our organization. The same should be done for those in the arts and sciences.

Farrells: There are several ways I will develop and/or improve relations with other organizations and groups. First, I will take the approach that coalition building is crucial to successful advocacy effort of our communities. This, in turn, boosts the success of other AAPI and other special interest groups and benefits the broader American citizen community as a whole. Within this same vein, I believe that the JACL is in a unique place in history and in the prime position to take on human and civil rights issues that impact the broader community. I believe the JACL should assist other communities in their right to "have a seat at the table." Second, I will shift the focus from a membership-based organization to a corporate/government-financed organization. This will require special relationship building with our corporate sponsors. Lastly, I will continue to encourage a pipeline of involvement for youth and young adults.

Jeffrey Moy: Since I work for OCA, and regularly attend events held by other organizations such as NAPAWF and CAPAL, I am always looking for partnership opportunities, both locally and nationally. In addition, I work with a number of corporate sponsors and continue to discuss different possibilities for further collaboration. ■

COMMENTARY



THE TRUTH ABOUT WWII WILL SET YOU FREE

By Stanley N. Kanzaki

In the April 20 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, Ed Suguro wrote a letter to the editor and Paul H. Kusuda wrote a commentary about euphemisms used by the U.S. government to describe the unjust incarceration of Nikkei during WWII. They both favored the use of euphemisms, which is not the truth.

At that time there were 120,313 of us, of which two-thirds were American citizens, who were so incarcerated.

Suguro proposed a poll to be taken by those who were incarcerated on what the WRA camps should be called and gives some suggestions. His choice was “internment camp.” Technically only enemy aliens are interned in this type of prison. During WWII the U.S. government interned 14,000 Issei in 17 internment centers. This seems to be the only time the government did not use a euphemism. And to use that term to describe everyone who was incarcerated would make it seem like all 120,313 of us were enemy aliens.

The use of the term “concentration camp,” according to Suguro, is

too harsh and “conjures up images of the Nazi death camps.” His use of the word “conjure” does not seem appropriate but he did make the differentiation. One was a Nazi death camp and the other America’s concentration camp. History reveals there were other concentration camps in the Spanish American War, the Boer War in South Africa, the Philippine Insurrection, Cambodia, Bosnia and the 10 in the U.S. during WWII, which imprisoned 120,313 Nikkei. Those in America had all the physical make-up of a concentration camp.

Suguro said he polled some Issei — specifically the *obasan* and not the Issei *ojisan* since he stated they do not “express their feelings and emotions” — and they all had “positive feelings about the camps.” This is hard to believe for it was the Issei who suffered the most in the concentration camps. It’s not known how extensive or the number of the Issei *obasan* he polled. Was it done in *Nihongo*? But the final question is: was Suguro incarcerated during WWII in a concentration camp or “internment camp” as he likes to call it?

Kusuda said, “Let’s not rewrite history,” but history shows it is necessary at times to do so if the truth is to be known. The use of euphemisms as used by the U.S. government during WWII is not the truth. Why did they use euphemisms? It was to justify that which was not justifiable. Kusuda objected to the JACL’s POW Committee’s effort to “rewrite history.” The committee is working to bring truth to history.

Kusuda said his experience while imprisoned at Manzanar was positive. It was for many a physi-

cal and a psychological imprisonment. If he had the choice of being there or being free, which would have been his choice?

So then what is a concentration camp? This comes from a 1998 statement made after officials from the Japanese American National Museum and Jewish groups met to resolve their objections to the use of the term “concentration camp” in the title of the exhibit at Ellis Island, New York:

“A concentration camp is a place where people are imprisoned not because of any crimes they have committed, but simply because of whom they are ... All had one thing in common: the people in power removed a minority group from the general population and the rest of society let it happen.”

This is what happened to 120,313 of us during WWII. David A. Harris, then executive director of the American Jewish Committee, said in a *New York Times* editorial, “We have not claimed Jewish exclusivity for the term ‘concentration camp.’”

It’s been 70 years since President Franklin Roosevelt promulgated E.O. 9066 in 1942, which unjustly imprisoned 120,313 of us in America’s concentration camps. And did you know that he, along with President Harry S. Truman and other high U.S. government officials, called them concentration camps? Stop being brainwashed. Free your imprisoned heads from the desert where we were once imprisoned. Face the truth for the truth shall set you free. ■

Stanley Kanzaki is a member of the New York JACL.

COMMENTARY

COMMITTEE INTRODUCES NEW POWER OF WORDS HANDBOOK ON LANGUAGE, JA WWII EXPERIENCE

By Power of Words Committee 2

The Power of Words draft handbook, which aims to more accurately describe the World War II Japanese American experience, is now available online for public review.

Last April, the JACL national board unanimously approved PNW District Gov. Chip Larouche’s motion to distribute a draft of the Power of Words handbook to JACL chapters. The handbook is available online at www.jacl.org/powerofwords.

Guided by the Power of Words resolutions, which were passed at the JACL national conventions in 2010 and 2011, the draft handbook more accurately describes the events and actions experienced by JAs during WWII.

During this difficult period in JA history, the U.S. government strategically used euphemisms to inaccurately portray the forced removal and unjust incarceration of approximately 110,000 people of Japanese descent. Euphemistic terms like “evacuation,” “assembly centers,” and “relocation” masked the government’s civil rights violations and the incredible hardships experienced by JAs.

Written by the Power of Words 2 (POW2) Committee, the draft handbook addresses the problematic use of euphemisms and recommends preferred terminology to describe the incarceration of JAs during WWII.

Among other things, the draft handbook points out that the word “internment” refers to the confinement of enemy aliens in a time of war. Most JAs incarcerated in WRA camps during WWII were American citizens and therefore, according to the handbook, the term does not apply.

“A few thousand mostly aliens were held in DOJ camps, where the term

does apply according to the Geneva Convention,” according to the handbook.

The draft handbook recommends “incarceration” to more accurately describe JAs held in WRA camps.

“This term reflects the prison-like conditions faced by Japanese Americans as well as the view that they were treated as if guilty of sabotage, espionage, and/or suspect loyalty,” the handbook states.

The handbook also recommends that instead of “relocation camp,” the words “concentration camp” be used.

“Depending on the context, words with quotation marks ‘American concentration camp’ may be used,” according to the handbook. “Alternatives are incarceration camp or illegal detention center.”

The handbook does *not* aim to change original historical documents, and we do *not* intend to take on the role of the “word police.”

Rather, the handbook was created to promote greater understanding and awareness while recognizing an individual’s freedom of speech. By using more accurate and appropriate language, we hope to promote a more honest, real, and transparent understanding of this historic time period.

We invite JACL members and the public to get involved in three ways:

1. Provide valuable input.

Please read the handbook and provide feedback to the POW2 committee by June 8. This will give the committee time to review comments before the JACL national council votes on the handbook this July. Comments may be emailed to powerofwords@jacl.org or mailed directly to JACL’s national headquarters, care of the Power of Words Committee (1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115).

2. Sign the Power of Words supporter’s list.

We are creating a supporter’s list to boost efforts to replace misleading euphemisms about the WWII JA experience. If you support the substance of this draft Power of Words handbook, please send an e-

mail to powerofwords@jacl.org or send a brief letter to the JACL Power of Words Committee (1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115). We are reaching out broadly to people including JACL chapters and districts, historians, writers, academics, community groups, leaders, individuals, and many others. If you represent an organization, please include the name and contact information for the president or other official representative.

3. Make a donation to support the Power of Words handbook.

In 2011, the JACL national council approved Emergency Resolution 1, which had a fiscal impact form indicating that \$1,040 was needed to cover the expenses for national staff time and the publication of the final version of the handbook. This amount, which will be raised from other sources such as donations, will not impact the national budget. Contributions are needed to complete the work. Checks should be made payable to the JACL with a notation of POW2 in the memo line and sent to JACL headquarters. These designated funds will be used only for administrative, printing, and distribution costs associated with the POW2 handbook.

We wish to thank our supporters for their comments, care, and dedication. The POW2 Committee is also drafting a brief implementation plan with helpful suggestions on how JACL chapters, districts, national, and others can promote more accurate language. We look forward to finalizing the handbook and implementation plan for discussion at the 2012 JACL national convention in July.

National JACL President David Kawamoto appointed a representative from each JACL district to serve on the POW2 Committee. These representatives are: Greg Marutani (chair), Megan Gately (PSW), Sandra Grant (IDC), Lisa Hanasono (MDC), Hiro Nishikawa (EDC), Andy Noguchi (NCWNP), Dawn Rego (PNW) and Bob Taniguchi (CCDC). ■

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*

CALENDAR



Rhythmic Relations 2012: The Remix Show
HOLLYWOOD, CA
June 30, 8 p.m.
Ford Amphitheatre
2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East
 The best of taiko from the U.S. and abroad come together on one stage in this Taiko-Project event. Now in its fifth year, this taiko extravaganza comes with an innovative new twist by offering its own remixed versions of traditional taiko compositions performed by celebrated groups. Tickets prices start at \$20-\$25.
Info: www.taikoproject.com or 213/268-4011

>>NATIONAL

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

>>NCWNP

Memorial Day Service
SAN BRUNO, CA
May 28, 10 a.m.
Golden Gate National Cemetery (section R)
1300 Sneath Lane
 This JACL-sponsored event will feature keynote speaker Gary Hongo, retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force who assisted with the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Washington, D.C. Following the services, lunch will be served

at the JACL national headquarters at 1765 Sutter Street. To donate make checks out to "Nisei VFW Post #9879" in care of Quartermaster George Fujikawa 3017 Glynis Drive, Richmond, CA 94806.
Info: Patty Wada, NCWNP regional director 415/345-1075

Right from Wrong: Honoring the Lessons of the Honouliuli Internment Camp
HONOLULU
May 23, 10 a.m.-12 noon
Wahiawa State Library
820 California Ave.
 The presentation will include a short film on Honouliuli and a Day of Remembrance pilgrimage and personal testimonies.
Info: www.jcch.com

Food Bazaar
BERKELEY, CA
May 27, noon-4 p.m.
Berkeley Methodist United Church
1710 Carleton Street
Admission free, food \$2-\$10

Enjoy homemade Japanese cuisine, crafts, children's games and entertainment. A portion of the proceeds will be used to assist those in need and to promote family and youth activities.
Info: 510/848-4680

Japanese Cultural Fair
SANTA CRUZ, CA
June 16, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Mission Plaza Park
103 Emmet Street
Admission free
 Celebrating its 26th anniversary with traditional performances of folk dance, tea ceremony, taiko, martial arts, flower arrangement, koto music, Kyogen play theater, mochitsuki(rice pounding), Okinawan dance, and more.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Community Picnic
SANTA CRUZ, CA
June 23, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Aptos Village Plaza
100 Aptos Creek Road

The annual event features bingo, raffles and the presentation of the Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship. The featured entertainment will be Watsonville Taiko.
Info: wsc.jacl@gmail.com or www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org

The Eden Township Annual Bazaar Fundraiser
SAN LORENZO, CA
June 9-10, 3-8 p.m. and 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Eden Japanese Community Center
710 Elgin Street
 The Eden Township Annual Bazaar Fundraiser will feature Eden Aoba Taiko on both days. A raffle drawing to be held at 7 on June 10. Chicken and rib combination dinners, chicken dinners and other items will be sold. There will be games for children, bingo for adults, and a silent auction benefitting the Eden Athletic Club.
Info: Contact Ron Sakae at

510/276-0752, or Ed Oda at 510/538-6380

>>PSW

CBFSocal Camp Stories Awards Show
ARCADIA, CA
June 2, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
Santa Anita Park
285 W. Huntington Drive
 Honorees include Esther Takei Nishio, who was taken out of camp to attend Pasadena City College in 1944. There she experienced prejudice, but with the support of Quakers, fellow students and college administrators, Nishio went on to excel in her studies.
Info: www.cherryblossomfestivalsocal.org

Riverside JACL Scholarship Awards
RIVERSIDE, CA
May 20
First Christian Church
4055 Jurupa Ave.
 The Riverside JACL will be announcing the eight scholarship recipients for 2012 at the annual potluck dinner.
Info: Michiko Yoshimura 951/784-7057 or my141@sbcglobal.net

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TRIBUTE

James Fumio Murakami

September 7, 1926 – April 28, 2012

James Fumio Murakami, born in Santa Rosa on September 7, 1926 passed from this earth on April 28, 2012.

Jim grew up in Sonoma County. After the Pearl Harbor attack, he and his family were incarcerated first in Merced and then in Amache, Colorado for three years. After serving in the U.S. military, he entered then graduated from UC Berkeley. Jim owned his own electrical/mechanical engineering business in Santa Rosa for over 40 years.

Jim was national president of the J.A.C.L. (Japanese American Citizens League). He was instrumental in passing the redress legislation. He continued to be active in the local JACL chapter. Jim was a charter member and past president of the East Rotary organization.

In addition to attending the monthly Enman No Tomo gatherings where he visited with friends (and enjoyed playing poker), Jim also loved spending time with his grandchildren, family and friends, as well as striped fishing, reading, spending time in his garden and watching the Giants on TV with his wife.

He leaves behind his loving and devoted wife of 59 years of marriage, Margarette; son Alan (Renee), daughter Kimiye; grandchildren Michael, Mark, Danny, Ray, sister Fuji Kamatani and a host of relatives and friends.

A memorial service is planned for Sunday, May 20 at 3:00 at the Community Church, 1000 Gravenstein Hwy No., Sebastopol.

Donations can be made to the organization of your choice.

FORMER JACL NAT'L PRESIDENT JAMES MURAKAMI PASSES

Murakami served as president from 1976-1978 during the early stages of the Redress Movement.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

When James Murakami, former national JACL president, made the decision to help lead the Redress Movement during his tenure from 1976-1978, he solidified his place in U.S. history with the passage of the historic Redress legislation in 1988.

Active until the end, Murakami passed away April 28 while helping his son change the oil in the family's tractor. Murakami was 85.

Murakami grew up in Sonoma County, Calif. and at the age of 15 he and his family were first sent to the Merced Assembly Center and eventually to the Amache incarceration camp in Colorado during World War II for three years. The Murakamis were among tens of thousands of Americans of Japanese ancestry who were rounded



up after Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin Roosevelt.

It was his unconstitutional imprisonment that fueled Murakami's later efforts to help win redress for the Japanese American community. It would take more than a decade, but the legislation for an historic apology and redress payments was signed into law in 1988.

"One of the main things that he said to me was, 'Alan I hope this injustice that happened to the Japanese Americans never happens again,'" said his son, Alan Murakami of Sebastopol, in an interview with *The Press Democrat*.

A UC Berkeley graduate, Murakami owned his own electrical

and mechanical business, Murakami Engineers, for 40 years. In addition to his lengthy career, he devoted much of his time to JACL, having served as a Sonoma JACL chapter president in addition to his national presidency.

"Jim was a great friend who served the JACL well," said Floyd Mori, JACL national executive director. "It was my privilege to know him for many years, and I have valued his ideals and views. I would like to express the deepest condolences to the family from myself and the JACL as an organization. He will be greatly missed."

"We are grateful for the service that Jim gave to the JACL and his support of redress," said National JACL President David Kawamoto. "We will miss his presence at JACL functions."

Murakami leaves behind his wife of 59 years, Margarette, his son Alan, his daughter Kimiye Beane of Springfield, Mass., and sister Fuji Kamatani of Los Angeles.

Memorial services will be held May 20 at the Community Church of Sebastopol at 1000 Gravenstein Hwy. ■

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MIYAZAKI

>>continued from pg. 2

The March 26-April 5, 2012, issue was a great example of what the tiny *P.C.* staff does so well. It reads as a compelling mix of news and information for our diverse JACL membership, which represent a wide range in terms of age, interests and geography.

The *P.C.* is invaluable in keeping members abreast of issues facing the national organization. In Nalea J. Ko's enlightening and lengthy interview with Priscilla Ouchida, JACL's first female national director, we learned about her life and background, including early encounters with racism and her pioneering Redress work in the state of California. Ouchida, who has been active in JACL since the 1980s, outlined her visions for the future of the organization.

The *P.C.* does a great job of informing us about our own communities, while covering news of others whose interests we share. Story subjects in the issue included a high school band on Maui preparing for a performance at Carnegie Hall, Nisei veterans being honored in Monterey and Portland, and an obituary for Dorothy Katsuko Hamade, who will be remembered by her surviving family, including seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The story of incarceration during WWII will always be at the surface of our collective

history. In the issue were updates from ongoing projects at Tule Lake and Honouliuli, news of an upcoming symposium in New Mexico addressing the Department of Justice camps at Lordsburg and Santa Fe, and a moving commentary about remembrance by New York chapter member James Kumpel.

More than ever, we're aware that the concerns and interests of the Japanese American community are often shared with the broader Asian Pacific American community. The issue included stories on racist remarks directed toward NBA player Jeremy Lin, Asian Americans participating in the reenactment of the march on Selma to fight for voter rights, and Arizona chapter member Leslie Tamura's account of personally protesting the end of a Mexican American Studies program in Tucson.

Nalea J. Ko's report on HIV/AIDS in the APA community (funded by The California Endowment Health Journalism Fellowships, a program of USC's Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism) is a great example of important, original reporting.

In closing, I would appeal to your love of JACL, to your desire to stay connected with other members near and far, and to the goal of maintaining the high standard of news to which we've all become accustomed.

I rest my case! ■

Kevin Miyazaki is the Midwest District's Pacific Citizen editorial board rep.

'The P.C. does a great job of informing us about our own communities ...'



Mori visited a temporary housing center for the elderly displaced by the tsunami.

MORI

>>continued from pg. 2

Pitt mentioned Direct Relief International as "a really responsible and worthwhile organization. It has been around since about 1948, and they also work with the Japanese American Citizens League toward Japan's relief effort. One-hundred percent of the funds go to help, and it's an outfit I feel comfortable about supporting or giving funds to." Pitt also said of Japan: "It's a huge issue, but it's also one of the few times when a catastrophe on that scale happened to a place that wouldn't sink if others didn't step in and help."

In April I was privileged to make a trip to Japan accompanying DRI CEO Thomas Tighe and members of his staff to visit the projects funded by the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund. The initial objective of the fund was to reach out in a direct manner to

those who were impacted by the disaster. We have worked with nine local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide immediate and long-term sustainable initiatives to help the people in need in the hard hit areas.

Among the programs which the NGOs have provided with the funds furnished are: helping victims with cash for work programs, restoring damaged businesses, providing on site and mobile libraries, monitoring health and well being needs of the aged, improving insulation for temporary housing, training volunteers for daycare facilities, helping to build capacity to provide human services, and providing volunteer coordination.

We have been able to see the positive impact on thousands of people and the restoration of properties and public places. The resilience and enterprise of the Japanese people have been remarkable, but there is still much work to be done. It is encouraging to see the progress which our efforts have helped to accomplish. The many who made contributions can feel proud of the lives which are being improved through their monetary donations.

I experienced much gratitude from the victims of the disaster who sent their deep appreciation for caring people who helped to relieve disaster torn communities. Japanese government officials also expressed their appreciation. We would like to acknowledge the assistance of the JACL Japan Chapter and Meiji Gakuen University in the beginning stages of the relief effort. Thanks to all who helped. ■

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