



# Pacific Citizen

Newsstand: 25¢

Established 1929

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

\$1.50 postpaid (U.S., Can.) / \$2.30 (Japan Air)

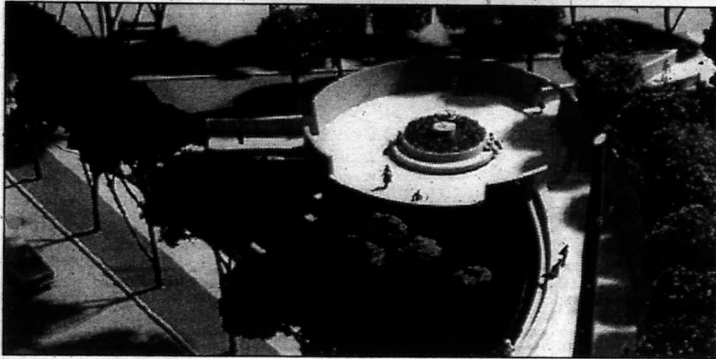
#2831 / Vol. 125, No. 7 ISSN: 0030-8579

JACL website: www.jacl.org / PC e-mail: paccit@aol.com

Oct. 3-16, 1997

INSIDE PAGE 7

\$8.7 million campaign opens for WDC memorial



**'SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN'**—The National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, to be just north of the Capitol, "strikes the right tone," the *Washington Post* headline intoned in its story with this picture above, and added it was "a good start." See story page 7

## OCTOBER: NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

### National advocacy seen as urgent in Asian American community

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Assistant Editor

LOS ANGELES—When Sansei Susan Shinagawa found the lump on her breast she knew she had something to worry about. Even a negative mammogram did nothing to allay her concerns.

Shinagawa wanted more tests to be done but her doctors and nurses told her she was being paranoid. She was too young to have breast cancer, they said. No one in her family had ever been diagnosed with the disease and besides, "Asian American women don't get breast cancer."

Asian American women don't get breast cancer. How many times had she heard that? A few months earlier the instructor at her health care class had said the same thing.

Still, Shinagawa was convinced

there was something terribly wrong with her body and she continued to fight her physicians until additional tests were performed. In the end, her concerns were justified; at age 34 Shinagawa was diagnosed with an early stage of breast cancer.

"That year, faced with the cold, hard fact that my doctors did not take seriously something I knew was happening in my body, was when I first became an activist," said Shinagawa during the Second Biennial National Asian Women's Health Organization's Conference at Los Angeles Regal Biltmore Hotel on May 30-31. She was one of the speakers at the workshop, "Research, Outreach, and Advocacy: A National Plan of Action Against Breast and Cervical Cancer in the Asian American Community."

And for the past six years Shinagawa has continued to be a dedicat-

ed health advocate not only for the AA community but for all minority and low-income groups, demanding better education and increased access to healthcare services. She is currently one of NAWHO's Breast Cancer Project co-trainers and is the chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Advisory Committee of the California Department of Health.

See **ADVOCACY**/page 6

### Immediate action for remaining Redress applicants urged

LOS ANGELES—The PSWDC JACL Civil Rights Caucus this week called for National JACL to press for redress for certain persons, i.e., Latin American workers and others who were not included as the Civil Liberties Act expires on Aug. 10, 1998.

It seems clear that the support of a nationally recognized civil rights organization such as the JACL would greatly help all of the efforts presently being made by those previously mentioned," Phil Shigekuni, member of the Caucus, declared.

"Time is of the essence. We urge President Helen Kawagoe and the National Board to do what is necessary to seek justice for the remaining World War II victims of our government. The LEC was formed to provide lobbying and other means of support for Redress. National JACL and LEC should do no less for our compatriots still in the fray."

Other members of the Caucus are:

Ken Inouye, Craig Osaki, co-chairs; Ron Osajima, Vice-Governor PSWDC; Kent Kawai, PSWDC Youth Rep.; Akemi Knight; Mike Matsuda; George Ogawa; Sam Shimoguchi; Xuan Vu. ■

of their ethnic origin." (See P.C. Sept. 5-18, 1997)

### The April 11 Incident

The Syracuse University students, three Japanese, three Asian American, and one White friend, say they entered the Denny's on April 11 and had been waiting a long time when they noticed several groups of White people being seated ahead of them. When they complained to the hostess, the students allege, they were told to leave and were escorted out of the restaurant by two security guards who are also off-duty Onondaga County sheriff deputies.

Once in the parking lot, the students say, a group of approximately 20 White males came out of the restaurant shouting racial slurs and proceeded to assault them. When some of the students

See **DENNY'S**/page 7

### D.A. says 'no evidence' of bias by Denny's against Syracuse students

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Assistant Editor

ALMOST five months after a group of mostly Asian and Asian American students alleged they were discriminated against at a Syracuse, New York, Denny's and assaulted in the restaurant's parking lot by a large group of White males, the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office says the incident never happened.

Following a lengthy criminal investigation, a report released in early September by the office of District Attorney William Fitzpatrick stated there was "no evidence that the students were discriminated against by Denny's, by the deputies, or that they were assaulted as a re-

### Little known story of Evacuation of Italian Americans in WWII unfolds

SAN FRANCISCO—In the words on three downtown monuments in Pittsburg, Calif., where the Sacramento River flows into San Francisco Bay waters, are bits of Italian American history, one relating the "secret stories" of the disruption of families of Italian origin, much like the internment of West Coast Japanese Americans.

And this week, an exhibit, *Una Storia Segreta—A secret story*, which has already appeared in 21 cities, according to UC Berkeley English instructor Lawrence DiStasi, made its debut in Washington, D.C., Sept. 29 in conjunction

with a measure introduced in Congress admitting that Italian American families were uprooted, fishing boats seized, and that curfews amounted to house arrest.

The Pittsburg exhibit, launched in 1994, includes photographs of Italian American men ready to board a train for an Army induction center and then a picture of a second group—a family being moved from their home.

The legislation, called the Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act, says that more than 600,000 Italian-born immigrants and their families were

affected in some way because of Pearl Harbor, when German, Italian and Japan-born residents, then classified as "enemy aliens," were detained and questioned by the FBI.

[About 6,000 Issei, or 12.5 percent of the Issei group, were apprehended in the first week of the war. In all, about 16,000, of whom were 1,200 German and Italian seamen stranded by the war, were arrested and appeared before the enemy alien control board, headed by Edward Ennis, for release, parole, or repatriation. The Issei who were de-

See **ITALIAN**/page 5

### FBI's role firing Issei, Nisei, railroaders, miners found

BY MICHI WEGLYN

The inordinate power wielded by J. Edgar Hoover, who ruled over the FBI for nearly fifty years, is legendary. If there was one man in political life that even Franklin Delano Roosevelt feared, it was Hoover. The President frequently bypassed Hoover's superior, Attorney General Francis Biddle, and dealt directly with the FBI chief. Hoover could be counted on to act decisively, to resort to police-state tactics, unfettered by constitutional conscience. Certainly, Hoover's agents-in-the-field knew better than to make potentially controversial decisions or to take action without first consulting "the chief." Whatever the situation, Hoover was in total control.

When evaluating the significance of World War II documents that expose the FBI or Hoover as players, I believe there is a need to focus a moment on the forceful, uncompromising character of Mr. Hoover. As we race against the Redress dead-

line, let's keep in mind that FDR gave Hoover's civilian agency prime responsibility for protecting our nation's vital industries and transportation networks, such as mines and railroads.

Thanks to Andrew B. Russell, a graduate student at Arizona State University who wrote his Master's thesis on Japanese Americans in See **RAILROADERS**/page 6

### Fingerprinting seen as delay for citizenship

WASHINGTON—Over the past year, the backlog for naturalization applications has grown significantly in the Asian Pacific American community, the waiting time currently averaging 21 months and expected to double. The number of applications has been fueled by anti-immigration measures, according to some experts who say immigrants fear losing benefits because they are not citizens.

How Congress resolves the delay See **FINGERPRINTING**/page 6

### 100-442-MIS Foundation on schedule toward meeting goal

GARDENA—There was a moment of jubilation this past week (Sept. 26) when the 100-442-MIS WWII Memorial Foundation learned it had reached the halfway point in raising the \$2.5 million fund-raising goal, Foundation executive director Debra Nishinaka-Skelton announced.

Contributing to the "point" were the Aug. 26 screening of *Beyond Barbed Wire*, the 88-minute documentary by MAC-AVA Motion Picture Productions of Monterey, the State legislature's approval of \$500,000 to fund the Foundation's educational programs, and the enthusiastic response of 500 at the Sept. 21 Festival in the Garden.



Brooks Firestone

Foundation chair Col. Young Oak Kim, ret., explained, "We're on schedule—for the groundbreaking in the spring, unveiling in October, 1998, and in the development of the educational portion of the project with such new partners as the CSU-Sacramento Japanese American Archival Collection."

Nishinaka-Skelton reminded "a sum of \$1.25 million must be raised See **FOUNDATION**/page 7



(Back row from left): Gordon Tokumatsu, David Kawamoto, Assemblyman Mike Honda, Assemblyman Nao Takasugi, Carol Kawamoto, Helen Kawagoe, Ai Muratsuchi, (front row from left): Robin Morishita, Dr. Roy Nishikawa, Alice Nishikawa, Stewart Kwoh.

### Support for youth in PSW district not talk, but \$15,000

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Assistant Editor

TORRANCE, Calif.—The Pacific Southwest District of JACL is putting its money where its mouth is.

Instead of just complaining about JACL's aging membership and lack of young leadership, the PSW District is giving approximately \$15,000, proceeds from its awards dinner at the Torrance Marriott Hotel on Sept. 20, towards the funding of youth programs.

"JACL recognizes that we, as well as the larger community, need a new generation of leadership to make sure that what happened during WWII will never happen again," said PSW Regional Director

Ai Muratsuchi. "That means getting young Asian Americans interested in becoming more politically active and in taking over JACL."

The money raised at the event will be used by the District to recruit and train young Asian Americans to become the future leaders of JACL and the larger community. The biennial National JACL Youth/Student Conference and the leadership conferences in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento are just some of the organization's youth development programs.

"It [supporting youth] is something people talk about," said national youth/student council chair Hiromi Ueha, "but this way the See **YOUTH**/page 3



## Impromptu JACL youth council summit airs upcoming issues, programs & needs

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI  
Assistant Editor

LOS ANGELES—When the National JACL Youth/Student Council wants to hold a meeting or have a discussion with its members from across the United States, their budget dictates that phone conferences are the norm.

But when many of them discovered they would be in Los Angeles for the recent Pacific Southwest District's Awards Dinner, they used "the opportunity to hold a rare National Youth/Student Council Planning Summit."

So on Sept. 21, various council and youth members met at the Torrance Marriott Hotel to talk about

issues and current projects, the remaining biennium, and next year's national JACL convention in Philadelphia.

It was an opportunity to "understand where we the youth council are coming from and to be on the same page," said national youth/student council representative Nicole Inouye. "We have to have good lines of communication because ultimately we all want the same goals."

"Now that the [June] youth conference is over, we'd like to focus on other things now," said Hiromi Ueha, national youth/student council chair. We want to "get things going for the next biennium."

Joining Inouye and Ueha were: Suzanne Sasaki, Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District youth rep.; Amy Matsumoto from the Eastern District; Daniel Teraguchi, Intermountain District youth rep.; Ross Kakinami, Central California District youth rep.; Kent Kawai, PSW District youth rep.; Kelly Wicker, Pacific Northwest District youth co-rep., and the new PSWD youth co-rep., Brian Ikeda and Kei Nagao, who begin their terms in November; Patricia Tsai, CC Regional Director; Deirdre Howard, JACL Administrative Assistant; and Karen-Liane Shiba, national vice president of membership.

PNWD youth co-rep. Jonathan Matsui and ED youth rep. Michelle Amano joined the youth summit by phone conference.

The youth delegation's trip to Los Angeles was made possible through donations of the various Districts and National JACL.

The youth council discussed the irony that the scholarship program isn't a productive source for youth

membership, considering the recent awarding of more than \$80,000 in national JACL annual scholarships to high school graduates, college undergraduate and graduate students. They noted that many only join JACL to qualify for the scholarships and do not remain members once the money has been awarded.

Suzanne Sasaki recently sent out more than 80 letters to past scholarship winners from her chapter to see if they would be willing to once again support JACL. She received only two responses, she said, and both individuals were non-committal.

"You have to use them as a resource," said Amy Matsumoto of the scholarship recipients. "You can't just give them money and they don't give back something in return."

The youth council discussed the need for JACL to keep in touch with past awardees even if they leave the area for various colleges and universities. Scholarship winners should also be required to follow up with the organization. Deirdre Howard, national staffperson in charge of administering scholarships, said she's currently looking into developing a JACL scholarship alumni association.

The current biennium is the first time the national youth/student council has been given a specific line-item in the national JACL budget, said Tsai, the national staffer in charge of youth programs. Currently, of the initial \$6,200 set aside for the youth council for 1997, \$5,000 remains.

The council discussed several youth projects that could best use the money. The District Youth/Student Handbook that had originally been put together by Wicker and Matsui of PNWD needs to be updated, said Ueha. The handbook provides general information for the district youth reps including past youth activities and past youth council resolutions.

The council proposed adding a section on recruiting youth and students to the Chapter President's Handbook. "We'd like to add a section on what worked and what didn't work, and where to get started," said Ueha. Revising the youth/student membership brochure is another project the council plans to work on.

There's less than a year remaining before the national convention in Philadelphia and the council is organizing several events, including the Min Yasu Memorial Oratorical Competition and the youth/student luncheon.

The council agreed that they want to attract not only local but national youth (as well as JACL members and non-members) to the conference. But they also realized the difficulty in getting youth to attend an event during summer vacation months.

Possible topics for the Min Yasu Oratorical Competition were discussed and a final four were selected: Media and the portrayal of AAs, multicultural issues and the 2000 Census, hate crimes and race relations; and youth leadership.

The council still needs to select a keynote speaker and a possible vision award recipient for the youth/student luncheon. They agreed that the keynote speaker needs to be someone who can attract a wide audience; an individual who's of interest not only to the JA community but to the larger AA community, who's relevant to both JACL members and non-members, and someone who can speak to youth. The council agreed to obtain biographies on the possible choices for keynote speaker and award recipient and to make final decisions at a later date.

Whether to hold separate youth workshops or to integrate youth in the regular workshops during the convention was discussed. Topics still need to be decided, speakers selected, and arrangements made for rooms and equipment. Tsai suggested that one possibility is an internship and fellowship workshop where various AA organizations from the area would be invited to speak to the youth.

The next youth/student council meeting will take place on Nov. 9 by teleconference. ■

### From the JACL staff

By Karen Yoshitomi, PNW regional director

## Deadline nears for 1997 Legacy Fund grants applications

THE National JACL Legacy Fund Grants Committee recently announced the commencement of the 1997 Legacy Fund Grants Program. Application forms are now available by request through the JACL Pacific Northwest regional office in Seattle.

The Legacy Fund was established in 1990 as a perpetual endowment, from which the earnings have been used to implement JACL's mission, purpose, and biennial Program for Action. The purpose of the Grants Program is to encourage and assist chapters and/or districts in carrying out the organizational goals set forth by the National Council.

Every year, 10 percent of the interest earned by the Legacy Fund is

made available for programs and activities which are consistent with the goals of the JACL. This year nearly \$21,000 is available for distribution through the Grants Program. In addition, the maximum amount for a single grant has been increased from \$2,500 to \$3,000. Last year, 15 grants were awarded totaling \$18,700.

Projects which received funding included: youth leadership development conferences; video and film projects; and historical projects which focused on the Japanese American experience in the United States, including the documentation of oral histories.

The grant application review committee is comprised of a representative from each district. Gary Mayeda, National Vice President for Planning and Development, will be this year's Committee Chairperson.

Proposals for the Legacy Fund Grants must be consistent with the JACL Program for Action. Applicants must include detailed information with regard to the local, state, and/or national implications or impact of the project; describe local chapter/district needs; and provide a budget and timeline, including a detailed plan for the implementation of the project. Grants are not awarded to capital projects.

Applications are available through the JACL Pacific Northwest District office in Seattle, Wash. Contact either Karen Yoshitomi or Nobu Sugai, 206/623-5088, for applications. Applications may also be requested via e-mail at JACLPNW@msn.com.

Completed applications should be sent to the Legacy Fund Grants Committee, c/o JACL Pacific Northwest Regional Office, 671 S. Jackson St., Suite 206, Seattle, WA 98104. Applications must be received or postmarked by Friday, Oct. 17, 1997.

Applications are available through the PNW regional office.

Deadline for applications: October 17, 1997



Members of the JACL youth council meet for an impromptu meeting after the PSWDC Awards Dinner at the Torrance Marriott Hotel.

## Support for youth in PSW district not just talk

(Continued from page 1)

[PSW] district is actually doing something to attract youth to JACL.

"It's important for the districts and members of JACL to take that first step," she said. They need to "make the youth realize that what they're saying means something."

More than 400 people, both young and old, attended the awards dinner appropriately themed "Remember Our Past, Empowering Our Future." They showed their support for JACL's youth programs with their pocketbooks as they bid for items in a silent auction and purchased door prize tickets.

National JACL President Helen Kawagoe was joined by several national board members and staff including vice president of membership Karen-Liane Shiba, youth/student council representative Nicole Inouye, Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific Governor Alan Nishi, national administrative assistant Deirdre Howard, and Central California Regional Director Patricia Tsai.

Emceed by KNBC-TV news reporter Gordon Tokumatsu, the District honored Dr. Roy and Alice Nishikawa for their combined 110 years of JACL service. Stewart Kwoh, president and executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California, received the civil rights award, and the corporate award was given to American Express Financial Advisors, Inc. Assemblers Mike Honda (23rd District) and Nao Takasugi (37th District), the only AAs in the California State Legislature, gave the keynote addresses.

"There's less white hair here (for the event), and that's a good sign," said Assemblyman Honda who spoke with the Pacific Citizen. Supporting the younger generations "is a good place to put our money. We have a lot of bright API youth in our

community," he said, and "we can expect to reap dividends from the event and continued dividends."

"The Nisei are getting on so we've got to support the youth," said award recipient Dr. Nishikawa, who's been a member since 1936. "Who else will take over JACL?" He added, "The legacy we want to leave is a strong and viable JACL. Not only for the next decade but for several decades."

Assemblyman Takasugi echoed the importance of investing in the youth. "This is the legacy that the Nisei generation has to hand down to the Sansei, Yonsei, the youth," he said. "They are the leaders of tomorrow and they are going to carry on the torch. I can't think of anything more important that JACL can do."

Throughout the evening, various speakers and guests encouraged young AAs to become more politically active and to consider pursuing careers in politics. They stressed the need for increased AA representation, even though the current campaign finance hearings and the resulting media coverage that has failed to distinguish between the few Asians who are alleged of wrongdoing and the larger AA community has left many AAs with a distaste for political participation.

"Those who've done wrong need to be punished," said Takasugi, but AAs shouldn't let the current campaign scandal discourage them from taking part in the electoral process. "We should continue to remain politically active at all levels of politics," he said. "We should be even more spurred to take part."

"It's not fair for people to target our communities because of what we look like," said Honda. "I think we've learned a lot from the incident." He encouraged AAs to remain politically active and stressed

the need for the community not to abandon making political contributions. We need to let people know that AAs know how to do things properly, he said. "It's important to voice our choice [of political candidates] through our contributions."

Stewart Kwoh said, "We have to look at this [campaign fund-raising scandal] as a temporary set-back."

AAs need to move forward, he urged, for there's still much work to be done in the area of civil rights and the AA community. "We haven't done enough in terms of educating our community about civil rights issues. The community needs to build stronger institutions, both a nationally and locally, he said, noting that many of the existing AA civil rights organizations are painfully understaffed. There's also a need for the AA community to work in conjunction with the larger community, he said. "We need to reach out to non-Asians and get them interested in our issues."

But this discussion of youth and the need for their increased involvement in JACL and mainstream politics has been a topic of conversation for many years, noted PSWD Governor David Kawamoto. He recalled that as a youth, his father, a Nisei, would tell him that he and other young JAs needed to take over the leadership of JACL. Now he finds that he too is looking towards the younger generations. "I'm not getting any younger," said Kawamoto, "and we need the Yonsei and Gosei to get involved."

But even now, a question that he continues to be asked is, "Do we still need JACL?" and it's disappointing, said Kawamoto. With the AA community facing various issues like anti-affirmative action initiatives and a rise in anti-Asian hate crimes, the need for organizations such as JACL is not only relevant, but essential.

And there are some AA youth

who are beginning to pay attention. Kei Nagao, 19, and Brian Ikeda, 20, recently joined JACL; their first event was the National JACL Youth/Student Conference at UC Irvine last June. This November they became the new youth co-representatives for the PSW District.

"I joined JACL because I was always looking for an opportunity to join the community," said Nagao who is currently in her second year at UCLA. "I wanted to give other youth the opportunity to see what's out there," she said.

"The JACL has realized that a lot of the members are older now ... and they want to support the younger leaders," said Nagao. "By giving us money they're showing us support."

"A lot of what JACL has done and is planning to do, I don't want to see it dying," said Ikeda, who's in his fourth year at Cal State University, Fullerton. "As youth we need to take the initiative to continue the work," he said. "So why not start now?" ■

### Utahn remarks on youth conference

SALT LAKE CITY—Mt. Olympus JACL Youth/Student members found the 4th Biennial JACL National Youth/Student Conference enjoyable, as more than 100 students convened at the UC Irvine campus June 20-22. "Coming from an area where Asian American faces are somewhat scarce, it was a very unique experience to interact with a large group of Asian American young people in one setting," remarked Todd Tokita.

The eye-openers for many were such topics as "Asians and Politics," stereotypes, identities, combating racism, and internment, at the workshops and even in impromptu discussions during breaks. ■

### 'Beyond Barbed Wire'

SAN FRANCISCO—The local JACL chapter hosted the reception and benefit screening this week (Oct. 2) of the acclaimed documentary, "Beyond Barbed Wire," at the Kabuki Theater. Wendy Tokuda of KRON-TV emceed.

The film recounts the World War II unit of Japanese Americans who fought to prove their loyalty, earning nearly 10,000 Purple Hearts to become the most decorated in American military history. These stories begin with the bombing of Pearl Harbor and continue through Italy and France, building to the courageous rescue of the Texas "Lost Battalion" in Northern France ... told by the men who saw "beyond the barbed wire" to a better America. ■



**East Wind**

Bill Marutani

**The aging of the Nisei**

**A**MONG PUBLICATIONS that I've been receiving is one entitled "100th/442nd Newsletter." Consisting of 16 or so pages, it is a well done publication with its neat layout, editing, subject matter, consisting of interesting bits of information not readily found elsewhere. Anyone who has ever undertaken the responsibility of gathering news items, writing and editing, deciding where a particular article should appear, and making it all come out even, knows that it involves a lot of energy, planning and commitment.

My hat's off to the editor of the "Newsletter."

I WAS NOT a member of the 442nd, even though I was trained as an infantryman. My rifle company (a mixed bag of trainees from mid-America) was rapidly shipped out to Europe to help in the containment of the Germans who had launched a formidable counterattack in the winter of '44 in what was known as "The Battle of the Bulge." Instead of heading for Europe with my fellow infantry trainees, I was diverted to Ft. Snelling to begin months of training in *nihongo* (Japanese language). In that basic infantry training company, there was another Nikkei by name of "Yoshio Minami." All the other members of our infantry training company were Euro-Americans, all taller than Yosh or I. On long training marches, Yosh and I were aware that our non-Nikkei training companions were trying to set a grueling pace to test how long our (short) legs would hold up to theirs. Yosh must have also grown up on a farm; neither of us Nikkei faltered. Yosh shipped out with the infantry company headed for Europe. Over the years, I've wondered whatever happened to him. (Yosh: If you see this and remember me from our basic training in 1944 at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, I'd sure like to hear from you.)

GETTING BACK to the 442nd newsletter of July 1997. At page 15 was reprinted a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Center at Los Angeles. The letter reported on the outcome of a medical survey involving some 64 veterans, presumably fellows from the 442nd, average age 68 years old. Geriatric problem findings: 8% mood problems, 9% memory problems, 5% under-active thyroid, 20% with risk factors for osteoporosis, 67% elevated cholesterol, 8% diabetes, and 10% with high blood pressure. That's quite an assortment. I'm an (unwilling) subscriber to a few maladies on this list, but thanks to modern medical care they've been pretty much kept under some semblance of control.

Things could always be worse.

I DON'T KNOW if there are certain aging patterns that are peculiar to the Nisei whose present health may have been formulated by a diet dissimilar to other Americans. Many of us Nisei were raised on comparatively spartan diets, consuming seasonal produce growing on the farm—*ninjin* (carrots), *mame* (peas), *jaga-imo* (potatoes), *to-ma-to* (you can guess on this one) as well as other vegetables not consumed by the general American public, such as *fuki* (butterbean), *go-boh* (burdock), *natto* (fermented beans), *fu-nyu* (fermented to-fu). This simple fare, free of saturated fats and cholesterol, supported longevity. The material wealth subsequently enjoyed by the Nisei opened the doors to the rich foods that undid the benefits of those earlier simple fare. ■

After leaving the bench, Marutani resumed practicing law in Philadelphia. He writes regularly for the Pacific Citizen.

**Rudy Tokiwa retells impact of Nisei GIs to boost Redress**

BY STEPHANIE LAI Intern, Pacific Citizen

**O**N Sept. 11-13, the "Voices of Japanese American Redress Conference" took place at the UCLA Sunset Village Conference Center. Personalities of the so-called "Redress Hall of Fame" assembled there included Rudy Tokiwa, of Sunnyvale, Calif., a veteran of the 442nd, and congressional lobbyist in the first National Coalition for Redress and Reparation's trip to Washington, D.C.



Rudy Tokiwa

Tokiwa spoke on the second day of the conference about his experiences in the war and the redress movement. "I think they were the ones who gave the most," Tokiwa mused, on the impact of the 442nd, 100th Battalion, and MIS efforts in the redress movement. All of the organizations that argued for redress used the example of these men's selfless loyalty to the United States to discredit the justification of the internment.

Tokiwa told a heart-wrenching story of the death of a fellow soldier who was a Japanese student staying in America when the war broke out who died in the war. After that he asked for the audience to say a prayer for the boys of the 442nd who didn't come home.

Tokiwa is a very active member of the redress movement. In the first NCRRC lobbying trip to Wash-

ington, first-hand experiences with internment and the war were needed in speaking to congress about the need for redress. He went to tell the story of the 442nd, the only all-Japanese American regimental combat team in WWII and also the most highly decorated unit for its size in U.S. Military history, with nearly 9,500 Purple Hearts, seven Presidential Unit Citations, 57 Distinguished Service awards, and one Congressional Medal of Honor.

Tokiwa has made a total of six lobbying trips to Washington. He is a founding member of Go For Broke Inc., which is working to raise money for a WWII memorial in Washington. He continues to speak at high schools and colleges about his wartime experiences, internment, and redress.

Before passage of the Civil Liberty Act of 1988, he secured French redress support from Bruyeres in the form of 4,000 letters from thankful townspeople who had been liberated from Nazi control by the 442nd.

His redress money was used to take families of soldiers who died in the 442nd to Europe to show them what their bravery had accomplished. Tokiwa has truly made an impact in the redress movement, as have all the men of the 442nd, and continues to do so. ■

Stephanie Lai has concluded her reporting internship at the Pacific Citizen and commenced her freshman year at UCLA this past month. We've asked her to report on new Asian American affairs and topics on the Internet.



Diablo Valley JACL scholarship winners (from left) are Damon Horn, Shelly Aono, Katherine Vo and Francisco "Frank" de la Rana Jr.

**Diablo Valley JACL awards new Geo. Fujioka Memorial scholarship**

PLEASANT HILL, Calif.—The George S. Fujioka memorial scholarship, administered by the Diablo Valley JACL, was recently awarded to Damon Horn, Contra Costa College honor student, who will attend UC Berkeley to pursue a degree in environmental engineering. A volunteer calculus tutor and judo instructor, he resides in Pinole. Other scholarship awardees honored at the annual chapter scholarship banquet at Pacific Fresh Restaurant were:

\$1,000 Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki Endowment Fund Scholarship — Francisco de la Rana Jr., '93 UC Davis graduate in genetics, will be a junior this fall in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at University of San Francisco. The award was established in 1993 for a student in a Bay Area college or university planning a health science career and who has demonstrated leadership and involvement in school and community activities.

**South Bay JACL Egashira fund boosted**

TORRANCE—The Kichi Egashira Memorial Scholarship Fund has received a large donation of \$39,112 from Ichio Egashira, significantly increasing the endowment. Egashira established the perpetual scholarship award program in 1987 for students in the sciences, in memory of his brother Kichi, who was an engineer. Administered by the South Bay JACL, the scholarships in recent years have been over \$5,000, with individual awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,150. ■

Special \$500 award, Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki Endowment Fund Scholarship — Katherine Vo, Oakland, sophomore pre-med biology major at USF. Named among the "best and brightest in the Class of 2007" by the USF Alumni Magazine; her family moved from Vietnam in 1991; she graduated #1 with a 4.0 GPA in her class of 220 students at Oakland Tech High School Health and Bioscience Academy.

\$1,000 JACL Chapter scholarship — Shelly Aono, graduate of Northgate High, Walnut Creek, enters UC Berkeley this fall. She excelled in academics, sports (varsity diving, junior varsity basketball and softball), extracurricular activities and community service (Concord Obon, Taiko Drum). ■

**Four minority elderly group councils organize**

LOS ANGELES—The National Asian Pacific Center on Aging has received funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for a three-year community organizing project, "A Voice For Minority Elderly," a collaborative project involving the National Hispanic Council on Aging, National Council on Black Aged, and the National Indian Council on Aging.

"This project is urgently needed as senior citizens increasingly join health maintenance organizations," commented Clayton Fong, NAPCA executive director. "Minority senior citizens have unique needs and issues that are often not addressed by health care bureaucracies." ■

**Two Orange County graduates appointed latest Masaoka Fund Congressional fellows**

WASHINGTON—Scott D. Sugino, 23, of Fountain Valley, Calif., and Waiyi Tse, 22, of Westminster, Calif. have been named recipients of the 6th Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship



Sugino

from the Congressional Fellowship awards for the 1997-1998 term. The announcement was made by Dr. H. Thomas Tamaki, chairman of the Fund. "Scott" will serve his fellowship in the office of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) beginning in the fall of 1997 and Waiyi will serve hers in the office of Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii), beginning in the spring of 1998," said Tamaki. "We are pleased to have selected two outstanding applicants for this year."

Sugino is a cum-laude graduate of Harvard University where he majored in Government, and Tse is a graduate in English Language and Literature of Smith College. They will serve approximately three and one half months, each receiving a stipend of \$7,500 from the Fund.

The Fellowship Fund honors the late Mike M. Masaoka for a lifetime of outstanding public service-promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity. The major goal of the Masaoka Fel-

lowship Fund is to encourage public service, granting awards to educate or train recipients for leadership in public service.

Sugino received his B.A. in June 1996 and since then has assisted in the development of a Hungarian church in Budapest. He also participated at United Nations refugee camps helping to establish a church assistance program.

He graduated from Fountain Valley High School, Calif., in 1992 and was voted Student of the Year, was a National Merit finalist and member of the varsity tennis team.

Tse received her B.A. Degree in May 1997, was active with the Asian American Students Association at Smith and was a Getty Intern at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Los Angeles, during the summer of 1996. She was also involved with the Five College (Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, Smith, and University of Massachusetts-Amherst) Students Association, Pioneer Valley, Mass. She is a graduate of Valley High School, Santa Ana, Calif., and was salutatorian of her graduating class. ■

**TV newscaster Jim Hattori a 'hit' at Fremont JACL grad luncheon**

FREMONT, Calif.—Fremont JACL held its annual Graduation/Scholarship Luncheon at Nijo Castle Restaurant May 18. Invited were the graduates, but also for this occasion, all past scholarship winners since 1967, when the first award was made. Those who lived too far a distance or who had other commitments submitted brief summaries of their lives to date and were placed in an album and circulated. As expected, there were engineers, computer specialists, medical doctors, dentists, optometrists, marketing specialists and managers, owners of consulting firms and businesses etc.

One of the most interesting letters came from KOZO Productions, which specializes in producing surfing videos, according to Gail Tomita, scholarship chairperson. James Hattori, weekend anchor and weekday reporter for San Francisco's KRON-TV4, spoke of his background and experiences. He be-

gan as a reporter trainer at KGTV, San Diego upon graduation from USC. He had jobs at Spokane and Houston and a stint as a CBS correspondent from 1988 to 1996, and covered the Panama Invasion, Exxon Valdez oil spill, NASA Shuttle Mission, Persian Gulf War and the Kobe Earthquake.

Active with Asian American Journalists Association, Hattori was gracious and accommodating—signing autographs and posing for pictures with graduates and others eager to be snapped with a celebrity.

This year's scholarships and awardees were: Masutaro Kitani Scholarship—Erin Yamashita; Joseph Kato Scholarship—Timothy Nagata; Sumitomo Bank Scholarship—Jennifer Nakai; Union Bank of California Scholarship—Jennifer Nakai; Frank Kasama Scholarship—Royce Mori; Tom Kitayama Scholarship—Reina Fuji. ■



FREMONT JACL WINNERS—(from left) Alan Mikuni, pres., Timothy Nakata, Royce Mori, Reina Fuji, James Hattori of KRON-TV4, Erin Yamashita, Jennifer Nakai.

**Cleveland JACL honors scholars**

CLEVELAND—On Sunday, June 23, Cleveland JACL held its annual scholarship luncheon at Shinano Restaurant to recognize this year's high school and college graduates.

Daniel Andow won the annual \$1,000 scholarship award for academic excellence and community involvement. An honor society member graduating at Eastlake North High School, now at Cleveland State University, he majors in engineering and business administration. Most proud of Daniel are his parents Steve and Carleen Andow, and grandparent Tomj Andow.

Other scholarship winners include: Jim Bruner, grandson of Jim and Miori Hosaka, who plans to attend Ohio State University and major in landscape construction; Richard L. Ford Jr.,

son of Richard and Ruth Ford, and grandson of Shig Igarashi, will attend Lakeland Community College, majoring in Criminal Justice; Daniel Yano, son of Gary and Mary Lou Yano, will major in accounting at the University of Akron.

Previous scholarship recipient Jonathan Sakai described his four years of mechanical engineering at the University of Akron. His sister Heather, last year's winner, was assistant editor of the college newspaper at Baldwin-Wallace, and may be in the field of social work or dance therapy.

Victor Furuki spoke of his freshman year at Ohio State University where he studies naval science. Oliver Warden, grandson of Ike and Masie Yamauchi, received his masters degree from Tech School of Arts of New York University.—Cleveland JACL Newsletter ■



From the Frying Pan

By Bill Hosokawa

The man who knew the right buttons to hit

**A**SIDE from its many obvious values, the recent Voices of Japanese American Redress Conference at UCLA provided a very important insight into the way the Washington power structure needs to be utilized—manipulated might not be too strong a word—to promote a particular cause.

In this case it was redress for Japanese Americans for mistreatment during World War II, and the insight was offered by Grant Ujifusa who directed strategy for JACL's Legislative Education Committee.

Ujifusa entered the drama after most of the heavy duty preliminary work had been done. The Japanese American public, which had been of many minds on Redress, finally seemed to be in agreement that it was a good idea. The Commission on War-time Relocation and Internment of Civilians had filed a report devastating to the federal government and had recommended a public apology and payment of token remuneration. Now the big job was to get Congress to pass a bill implementing the Commission's recommendations and persuade the President to sign it into law.

The time for street rallies was past. The time had come for help from someone who knew how Washington works. That person was Grant Ujifusa who understood Washington inside and out, and who could open doors through his work as co-editor of the much-respected "Almanac of American Politics."

In his report at the UCLA conference, Ujifusa told how he was able to bring conservative elements and liberal elements of government together by citing the 4th Amendment to the Constitution. Liberal or conservative, the power brokers had to agree that it had been a bum idea for the government to strip Japanese Americans of their rights, that action having been detailed starkly in the Commission's report. Then he cornered

big backers of Soviet dissidents and asked: "Human rights in Russia, what about here?"

In other cases, Ujifusa shrewdly linked Redress with Jewish interest in Israel and managed to connect the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans with the right to life movement. With yeoman support from Norm Mineta, Bob Matsui, Dan Inouye and others, Redress was approved by Congress with votes to spare.

But now the problem was to get President Reagan to sign against the advice of his political aides. Ujifusa had four pipelines into the White House. The one that worked was Gov. Tom Kean of New Jersey who had an author-editor relationship with Ujifusa. Rudy Tokiwa got June Masuda Goto to write a moving letter to Reagan reminding him of the day he, as a young Air Corps officer, attended burial rites for her brother, Sgt. Kaz Masuda.

That made it clear Redress was about military sacrifice and the federal government disrupting people's lives. Reagan overruled his advisers and Redress became reality.

Ujifusa dropped a lot of names. He seemed to sense doubts in some of the UCLA audience naive about the way things really work in Washington. "Am I-telling you the real story?" he asked. Then he invited the skeptics to write to the political and administration leaders he had mentioned, and ask.

Street demonstrations and letter-writing campaigns have their place in the American system. But what makes things happen, Ujifusa made clear, is careful pushing of sensitive buttons behind the scenes. One of us, not an elected official, had the know-how to push the right buttons.

Hosokawa is the former editorial page director of the Denver Post. His columns has appeared regularly in the Pacific Citizen since 1942.

PHOTO BY YAS TOKITA



**CAROUSEL PRESENTATIONS**—Ms. Dorothy Anderson (right), presents one of six slide carousels to Terry Nagata of the Salt Lake Chapter. Marion Horn (left) is president of the Wasatch Front North Chapter. On the wall is the proclamation by Utah Governor Leavitt recognizing the 1996 JA Centennial Program.

American Express underwrites slide program of Utah JA Centennial history

**SALT LAKE CITY**—Floyd Mori of the Mt. Olympus Chapter first used the slides in a presentation of the JA History Book Project at the PNWDC/DIC Bi-District meeting in Seattle on July 20. The images show highlights of the Utah JA Centennial History Book, which Ted Nagata completed in a whirlwind six months in the first half of 1996.

written by American Express Public Affairs Office for the State of Utah. Dorothy Anderson, manager of public affairs for American Express, presented six carousels of slides to the three JACL chapters in Utah: Wasatch Front North, Salt Lake and Mt. Olympus.

The slides may be borrowed from any of the Utah chapters and from the National JACL Credit Union. —Yas Tokita ■

Time capsule burial marks Utah JA centennial finale



The Utah group attending the time capsule program last Aug. 23 pose near the burial site at the Japanese Peace Garden in Salt Lake City. A copy of this photo will be placed in the time capsule.

BY YAS TOKITA

Story and photos

**SALT LAKE CITY**—It started off as an evening to have chow mein at the Uno residence. Senior Judge Raymond Uno had invited a small group of Salt Lakers to plan for a Japanese American celebration of the Utah State Centennial in January 1996. There was some skepticism because Ray likes to think BIG. After a lot more chow mein and four more meetings, the ball was really rolling.

Meeting every other week into the month of August, the program, evolved into a golf tournament, a Kanjo fashion show, an outdoor picnic, and a banquet at the Hilton Hotel. Counting the attendance at each function, the total turnout was around 2,000.

In six months, Ted Nagata put together a history book containing photos, narratives, and text of the JA story in Utah. The centennial celebration was the biggest, most successful event by a minority group in Utah's year-long program to commemorate its Centennial. Actually, the genesis of the history book was an Iseai appreciation banquet held 30 years earlier in which Ray was commiserating with Ted that it was unfortunate that as the

Iseai passed on, their history was being irretrievably lost.

Fast forward to the present. It was a typical hot afternoon in Salt Lake City. The temperature hit 97 degrees and attendees gathered around in pockets of shade at the Japanese Peace Garden on Sat., Aug. 23. The time capsule was to be buried with photographs of the gathering, the JA History book, and other memorabilia at some date in the future.

Senior Judge Raymond Uno, who was the originator of the project, said:

"The burial of the time capsule will be the final event of the Utah JA Centennial Program. The Utah State Centennial program was celebrated during 1996 and the Japanese American Centennial program was the largest and most successful of the ethnic programs celebrating the State Centennial. The time capsule burial is one of the events of the Mormon Sesquicentennial celebration, commemorating the arrival of the Mormon pioneers into the Salt Lake Valley, and the 50th

anniversary of the International Peace Gardens."

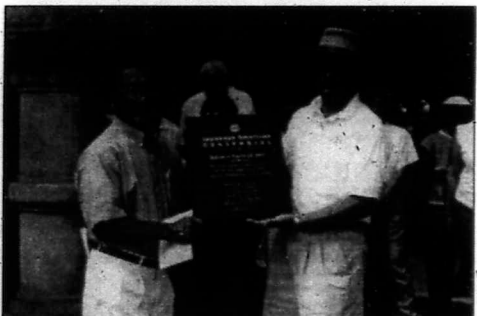
Hazel Harrison, chairperson of the International Peace Garden, extended the welcome. Ted Nagata, producer of the Utah JA History Book, recounted the events that led up to the final chapter—the Time Capsule burial. Yas Tokita spoke on behalf of the JACL, Lou Tung spoke on behalf of Governor Leavitt, and Terry Nagata made acknowledgments.

Members of the Japanese American community spent considerable effort preparing the Japanese Peace Garden for the event.

The time capsule will rest at an appropriate burial site—the Salt Lake City International Peace Garden—for 100 years, to be reopened in the year 2097. ■



Masazo Shiba, a 95-year-old Iseai, was the most senior attending the time capsule burial ceremony. He came to Utah around 1918 and worked on a farm at the Kennecott Copper Mine.



**J.A. TIME CAPSULE**—Judge Raymond Uno (left), and plaque designer Ted Nagata hold the "headstone" which will designate the time capsule burial site at the Japanese section of the International Peace Garden.

Evacuation of Italian Americans in WWII

(Continued from page 1)  
tained went to the WRA camps or were rejoined by their families at Crystal City, Texas.]

Nearly 2,000 people in Pittsburg were "unjustly banned from their homes, work and communities" because they were labeled "enemy aliens" and forced to abandon their homes on the waterfront and other restricted areas and had to maintain two homes until the ban was lifted.

One of six children, now vice president of the Pittsburg Historical Society, Rose Scudero was 12 years old when she had to leave town with her mother for nine months, from February until October when the ban was lifted. "I don't want an apology or money. But the government should acknowledge what happened," she told an Associated Press reporter.

DeStasi was also told about Rosina Truvato of Monterey, who learned she had lost a son and a nephew at Pearl Harbor and the next day was ordered from her home. DiStasi has amassed scores

of stories about the restrictions imposed from Feb. 24 to Oct. 12, 1942.

[General de Witt idled 2,000 men operating Italian fishing boats in Fisherman's wharf on Feb. 24, which soon extended to include The East Bay from Oakland to Martinez. The number of Italian nationals subject for relocation was staggering: 52,000 in California in 1942.]

The relocation was widespread, but it hit Pittsburg particularly hard because of its large Italian American community of 2,000 in a total population of 7,000. Most were in the U.S. legally and had lived here for years.

Until Pearl Harbor, there was little or no concern over the loyalty of Germans or Italians. The Pittsburg American Legion Post was named after an Italian American, David Solari, the only soldier from town who was killed in action in World War I.

Joe DiMaggio, baseball's famed "Yankee Clipper," was born in nearby Martinez and raised in San Francisco where his father, Giuseppe, was a fisherman for 50

years but never became a citizen. He couldn't even visit his son's North Beach restaurant.

Italian and Japanese families living adjacent to the Alameda Naval Air Station and Coast Guard facility had to move out.

Then San Francisco Mayor Angelo Rossi, of Italian descent, called on the Army to lock up all the Japanese but favored Attorney General Earl Warren's promise not to condemn wholesale those of German and Italian descent. Rossi declared, "I am also strongly of the conviction that Japanese who are American citizens should be subjected to a more detailed and all-encompassing investigation." Before the Titan Committee investigating the Evacuation that was about to come, he pleaded for Italian aliens. [The Titan Committee noted the plight of German and Italian "anti-Axis refugees on the West Coast.... the process of becoming citizens has been lengthened in the case of enemy aliens since the war."]—NK ■

(More in Hosokawa's column in last issue.)

## FBI's role firing Issei railroaders, miners found

(Continued from page 1)

wartime Nevada, I have been made privy to some remarkable materials that clearly expose FBI involvement in mass layoffs of Japanese workers.

Fumie Shimada of Sacramento discovered Russell's thesis while searching for information related to the Southern Pacific Railroad's dismissal of her father and data that might help prove the rigidly controlled nature of her family's subsequent "relaxed internment" in Reno, Nevada. We owe much to Ms. Shimada and Mr. Russell for bringing to light what I consider some "smoking gun" documents, long sought by those Russell refers to as "the forgotten victims." He does not support the Office of Redress Administration's (ORA's) sweeping assumption that the government played a role in the "off" Based on considerable research, his conclusion is that "the federal government was, in part, responsible for the dismissal of most of them." Excerpts from documents uncovered by Russell's pioneering research speak volumes:

**December 8, 1941**—Minutes from a meeting of the White Pine County Council of Defense held that evening show that mine workers in Ruth, Nevada, a company town owned by Nevada Consolidated Copper, had introduced a resolution demanding immediate confinement of Japanese fellow workers under guard. A call to Nevada Governor Edward Carville and the FBI brought news that the Japanese were to stop work immediately.

The minutes further reported: "Guards will be posted and an attempt will be made to hold the Japanese together until further notice... The FBI did not want wholesale discharges or dismissal since the federal agency didn't want the Japs to spread" (emphasis added).

**December 11, 1941**—(The day Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.) A letter written by H.M. Peterson (an official of the Nevada Northern Railroad) stated: "Mr. W. Howard Gray, (the attorney for Nevada Consolidated) and representative (of the FBI) gave me (the following) instructions: All Japanese, German and Italian in our service must receive no pay after today in any form until we are so advised by Mr. Gray." Further instructions from Peterson asked that a check be made of naturalized citizens and that "aliens are to be removed from work today and asked to remain at home until the situation is clarified."

**December 12, 1941**—A letter written by J. Bean (another Nevada Northern official) to Mr. Daniel Jackling (CEO of Nevada Consolidated Copper Corporation—or Kennecott, Western Mines Division, which also owned the Nevada Northern Railroad) reveals that the removal of 14 Japanese section workers between McGill Junction and Coburn is causing a virtual stoppage of track maintenance between those points until such time as the Japanese can be removed from our section living quarters and, we are able to get relief forces on the job. A number of the Japanese who worked for the Copper Company at Ruth and McGill are being held in their living quarters for the time being, or "until the Federal government decides what they are going to do with them. Understand from representatives who are here that (a) decision should be reached within the next ten days (emphasis added). In the meantime we will bring the Japanese off the line between McGill Junction and Coburn and house them with the Japanese at Ruth and McGill..." Dismissed railroad workers, in other words, were to be confined and placed under guard along with the Ruth and McGill mine workers. Documents reveal that some of these workers were, in fact, American born, but authorities made little distinction among White Pine County "Japs."

**December 18, 1941**—A letter to Mr. Beem from H. M. Peterson discloses that Mr. Gray (Kennecott attorney) had "talked to FBI representative (Olsen) this morning about our Italian aliens who have been here many years in our service and who had taken out first papers for naturalization." Olsen counseled that if such Italian aliens "had made no statements in support of the Axis nations or against the United States, it would be wise to put them back to work, but this would not apply to Japanese" (emphasis added).

The unfair government tactics and practices exposed in these documents were typical of the callous, clearly racist wartime treatment meted out to the Japanese and they may not have pleased the U.S. Attorney General. But Biddle knew

better than to rebuke the FBI chief's arbitrary style. Already, Hoover's public and media image ballooned larger than life; he made Americans feel safe and protected.

The worst-assault against Japanese railroad workers occurred in February 1942, as devastating military defeats continued to mount upon Allied forces in the Pacific Theater. During one of the darkest weeks of the war, President Jefferson of the Union Pacific Railroad capitulated to the "Yellow Peril" fear and hysteria of his workers who belonged to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. The railroad president seemingly requested and got the "green light" to lay off Japanese workers from Hoover on February 11, and subsequently from Attorney General Biddle. A letter from Jefferson to Commanding General, Seventh Corps Area, dated February 11, 1942, stated: "I talked with Mr. Hoover of the FBI and subsequently talked with Attorney General Biddle and... I was given to understand that they saw no objection." On February 13, the Union Pacific Railroad fired every last one of its Japanese workers, affecting men working as far east as Wyoming and Nebraska.

Within that harrowing week, all western railroads followed the lead of the Union Pacific (at about the same time—February 19, 1942, FDR struck back at all "Japs" closer to home with Executive Order 9066). Private companies were finally secure in the knowledge that the government sanctioned "preventive measures" to prevent desertion and sabotage.

By February 18, most Japanese had been fired from such lines as the Santa Fe, the Western Pacific, Northern Pacific, Southern Pacific, the Great Northern and others. Families served with overnight eviction notices became America's first horde of the homeless. Not only was their material loss incalculable, but valued pre-existing relationships suffered from sudden termination. Children were yanked in and out of schools as their families searched for work. Essential psychiatric, medical, and dental care were cut off, and I have been told that many of this group were turned away when they attempted to enter the WRA camps.

Only through the Freedom of Information Act will we be able to find out the full extent of this long-veiled wartime "Trail of Tears."

The documents provided by Russell have caused not only ORA functionaries, but also librarians, researchers, and community members to start searching for additional World War II Council of Defense records.

Perhaps Russell will delve even deeper into this sadly-neglected chapter in American history for his Ph.D. dissertation. Moreover, let us hope that documents like these will at last lead to redress payment for all of the victims of the government-sanctioned railroad layoffs—before time runs out. ■

## Fingerprinting seen as delay for citizenship

(Continued from page 1)

is before the House and Senate appropriations committees considering bills by the State, Justice and Commerce departments, staff attorney Jayne Park at the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium pointed out this past week (Sept. 15).

A provision in the bills requires, INS, rather than local providers, to conduct all fingerprinting services effective Oct. 1, 1997. NAPALC hopes the provision is removed. Continued funding of INS staff, which expired Sept. 30, is also a part of the bill. An extension to Oct. 23 is anticipated.

Fingerprint and FBI background checks are conducted to assure the applicant has five years of continuous residence, can speak sufficient English, shows good moral character and no serious crime on record. ■

## OCTOBER: NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

### National advocacy seen as urgent in Asian American community

(Continued from page 1)

Services' Breast Cancer Early Detection Program.

Shinagawa is the API cancer survivor representative member and chair of the Cancer Survivorship Task Force of the Intercultural Cancer Council, and is on the board of directors of the Breast Cancer Fund. She is also an American Cancer Society-certified Breast Health Facilitator and a member of the UCSD Thrivers Network.

For five years Shinagawa had been free of breast cancer until she had a recurrence earlier this year. She's currently undergoing chemotherapy for leptomeningeal carcinomatosis, a cancer of the cerebrospinal fluid.

"My prognosis is not a good one," she said. Her doctors have given her only 10 months to two years to live and she's already reached nine months. But "I never give up hope," she said. "I'm going to be the other statistic that lives longer. I'm too feisty to go that easily."

And although the harsh treatments have made walking difficult, forcing her to use a cane, and she's not at all happy that the chemotherapy has also caused her to gain 35 pounds, Shinagawa's efforts in cancer advocacy haven't diminished. Her goal remains the same: to deliver the message that AA women can get breast cancer too. "It's a myth that there's no risk" for AA women, she said. "If you are a woman, you are at risk for breast cancer."

When Shinagawa was first diagnosed she believed her doctors when they told her she was a statistical anomaly. According to available national statistics, even though the possibility of a woman developing breast cancer in the general population of the U.S. throughout her life is one in eight, an AA woman has only a one-in-20 chance, the lowest for all ethnic groups.

But according to Shinagawa, these numbers are inadequate and skewed, helping to perpetuate the myth in the AA community and amongst health care professionals that AA women don't get breast cancer. And because AA women aren't seen as being at risk, government funding for research has been lacking, she said.

For AA women like her, born and raised in the U.S. with a very Americanized lifestyle and diet, the national statistics simply don't apply, said Shinagawa: Their risk for developing breast cancer is the same as in the general population.

One of the biggest reasons AA women continue to show the lowest incidences of breast cancer, she said, is because 70 percent of the AA community is comprised of immigrants. Some recent studies have taken this factor into consideration and are shedding new light on the issue of breast cancer and AA women. Results from one study showed breast cancer rates for the AA community were 60 percent higher than the rates in the women's native countries, said Shinagawa. Another study found that immigrant AA women living in the U.S. even for as few as ten years had an 80 percent higher chance of developing breast cancer than newly arrived immigrants. And American-born AA women, with at least one grandparent also born in the West, had higher breast cancer

## Call me 'Indian'

Sundari Bala was born in India, a Roman Catholic Tamilian by faith from Bangalore and among two other minorities, the Goans and Anglo-Indians. In Canada she is called "East Indian," a distinction from "West Indian" and "American Indian" that stems from the mistake that Columbus made. For sake of clarity, she prescribes those from India be known as "Indians," American Indians as "First Nations" (those in Canada are so titled), and those called West Indians or from the West Indies as "Caribbeans." —ES ■



Susan Shinagawa at NAWHO's second biennial conference in Los Angeles.

rates than White women living in the same communities, she said.

Cancer has already become the leading cause of death for AA women, said Shinagawa. And as the AA community continues to grow at phenomenal rates, and as its members get older and become more culturally assimilated, the incidences of breast cancer are going to continue to increase, she said. Thus, better training programs for health professionals who work with the AA community and increased government funding for cancer research become vital.

Women need to be their own best health advocates, said Shinagawa. She believes strongly that breast self-examinations should begin in high school. Women should also have their family doctors do an annual or biennial clinical breast exam. And women over 40 should have annual or biennial mammograms and, for those over the age of 50, annual mammograms, she said.

When women've been diagnosed

with breast cancer should try to learn as much as they can about the cancer and the various treatment options that are available to them," said Shinagawa. And, although it's difficult, seeking out other women who are going through the same thing and talking about it can be helpful. "That was the best thing I ever did," she said.

But, unfortunately, Shinagawa continues to see a reluctance to talk about cancer in the AA community. "Cancer is still considered to be a contagious or fatal disease," she said, "so they're afraid to talk about it because they don't want to be ostracized."

"None of them talk about it openly," said Shinagawa referring to the AA women she's met who've been diagnosed with breast cancer. Even her mother has a difficult time talking about her daughter's breast cancer with friends. But, she said, "I thought it was very important to talk about it."

Shinagawa recently celebrated her first year of marriage to Rob Norberg and currently lives in San Diego with her husband and step-daughter Claire.

She has successfully maintained a positive attitude throughout her ordeal with breast cancer and its recurrence but she admitted that the only thing she hates about dying young is "going before your parents." Dealing with cancer has taught her it's not how many years you live that's important but that you live a quality-filled life, she said. For her, it's more important to help others than to live the next fifty years. ■

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## D.A. says 'no evidence' of bias by Denny's against Syracuse students

(Continued from page 1)

tried to get the security guards to intervene and help their friends, they refused. The assault ceased only when two Black individuals came out of the restaurant and intervened. By then, two students were beaten unconscious.

The security guards have said they did not step in to help the students because they thought it was better to call for back up and wait for police officers to arrive.

The report from the District Attorney's Office contradicts the findings of an independent federal Civil Rights Monitor, Sharon Lybeck Hartmann, that was released in August. In the monitor's report it was found that the Denny's employees had discriminated against the group of students and several recommendations were made including firing the manager, not rehiring the two security guards, reprimanding the hostess and giving all of the Syracuse Denny's employees non-discrimination training.

The report from the district attorney's office says the students waited only about twenty minutes at 2:40 a.m. on April 11, the normal waiting period for this usually busy period at Denny's restaurants. Several Denny's staff also said there were no tables available to seat a group

of seven at the time and those who were seated ahead of them were smaller parties of two and four.

The district attorney's office also concluded that there is not enough evidence to pursue assault charges, that several witness accounts of the incident in the parking lot were found to be inconsistent and unreliable and that the injuries the students reported "were not serious enough to constitute a crime."

This decision was made even though two of the students positively identified one of the males, Christopher Warnock, as being involved in the incident. And Warnock himself has admitted to being involved in the assault. The D.A.'s office said it did not recommend charging Warnock because it was not clear which student he hit.

The civil-rights lawsuit filed by the students' attorney Elizabeth Ouyang of the New York-based Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund against Denny's, various restaurant employees, Onondaga County, and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department is still pending. Federal authorities are conducting a preliminary review to determine whether a civil rights investigation is needed. ■

## JA National Museum's annual fall dinner honorees selected

LOS ANGELES—NBC-TV's "Today" news anchor Ann Curry 1997 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Gold Medalist Jon Nakamatsu, Mikasa, and Kenwood U.S.A. Inc. will be honored for their achievements by the Japanese American National Museum at its annual fall dinner on Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Century Plaza Hotel.

The dinner's theme is "Building New Traditions: Recognizing Japanese American Excellence," with Curry and Nakamatsu becoming the first recipients of the Museum's Awards for Excellence. Coporate Leadership Awards are to be presented to Mikasa and to Kenwood U.S.A. for their support of the Japanese American community.

Curry is seen by millions of Americans as news anchor on the "Today" show and as a substitute host. She is also a daytime anchor for MSNBC cable outlet and sometimes as an anchor for the Sunday edition of NBC Nightly News. She began her career in Oregon and spent several years working at the CBS affiliate in Los Angeles, where

she won two Emmy awards.

She joined NBC News in June of 1990 and was a NBC Chicago correspondent before becoming the anchor of the "NBC News at Sunrise" early morning news show from 1991 to 1996. In March 1997, she was named the news anchor for the "Today" show.

Nakamatsu, a former high school teacher who taught German for six years in Sunnyvale, surprised the experts by becoming just the third American to ever win the gold medal at the Van Cliburn competition and the first in 16 years. The only participant who hadn't studied at a music conservatory or even majored in music in college, Nakamatsu still has the same piano teacher who began instructing him when he was just six years old.

Selected by a jury of experts, Nakamatsu was a crowned favorite at the competition held in Fort Worth, Texas. He will be featured in a new documentary about the Van Cliburn competition titled "Playing with Fire," which will air on PBS stations in October. ■

## J.A. Memorial Foundation launches campaign for \$8.7 million by end of '99

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On the eve of a nationwide fund-raising drive, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation project received ringing endorsement from the *Washington Post*, one of the country's most influential newspapers.

A comprehensive story by staff writer Benjamin Forgey said of the Memorial which will record the Japanese American struggle to overcome injustice:

"This important American story should not be forgotten—not only because of the tragic consequences for those directly affected, but also because it can serve as a potent reminder. We cannot let such a thing happen again to any group of American citizens. A monument in the nation's capital is an ideal means to this end."

Forgey's story appeared on Sept. 20 under a headline that said "A Place to Reflect on a Civil Wrong" and "Japanese American Memorial Plan Strikes the Right Note." It was pegged to a public meeting on the Commission of Fine Arts, which reviews all Washington monument proposals.

Forgey reported that the Commission made some suggestions for revising the design submitted by architect Davis Buckley and gave the project its "declaration of approval."

"This is a giant step forward," declared Melvin Chiojioji, a retired rear admiral in the Navy Reserve and Washington businessman who is chairman of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF), a nonprofit group formed to make the memorial a reality. The memorial was first proposed by Go For Broke, an organization of Nisei veterans, and NJAMF was chartered in 1995 to carry on its work.

Chiojioji said a nationwide drive begins on Oct. 1 to raise \$8.7 million. The sum must be in hand by the end of 1999 or the triangular

site approved by Congress for the monument, only about 606 yards from the Capitol, will revert to the government.

"Our goal is a sizable sum," Chiojioji said, "but we have made a running start with a contribution of \$500,000 from George Aratani, Los Angeles businessman and philanthropist. In addition, Shiro Shiraga, Northbrook, Ill., civic leader, who has helped raise roughly \$250,000 in the Midwest area, is personally pledging \$100,000. Chicago businessman Herbert Stern is also pledging \$100,000. The Thomas Masuda Foundation in Chicago and the law firm of Masuda, Funai, Eifer & Mitchell, Ltd., are jointly making a pledge of \$200,000 to match the amounts raised in the Midwest on a one-for-two basis."

JACL President Helen Kawagoe said, "Large donations are welcome, but we are also encouraging broad participation. This is an opportunity of a lifetime for every Japanese American to have a part in a historical event. The National JACL has already endorsed this memorial."

The fund drive within the general Japanese American community is co-chaired by San Francisco attorney Cressey Nakagawa, former national president of JACL, farm operator Bob Sakata, in Brighton, Colo., and Seattle businessman Tomio Moriguchi, assisted by local area chairmen.

NJAMF is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions qualify as tax deductible gifts.

Chiojioji emphasized that the Foundation is not building a war memorial but a monument to recognize the contribution of all Japanese Americans to the greatness of a nation that can admit its errors and move to correct them.

"The design," Forgey wrote, "still needs some work but the idea behind it is exemplary. This is a commemorative monument whose time has arrived... It is not an unnecessary memorial. To the contrary, it is

long overdue. It promises to do what commemorative art should do—teach by touching deep feelings about the world we live in."

Buckley's design concept, developed with a group of leading Nisei architects including Hideo Sasaki, Gyo Obata and Nob Nakamura, features a curving pathway with a stone wall on one side and reflecting pool on the other.

Etched into the wall will be a brief history of Japanese Americans, an account of their travails and their ultimate triumph.

Forgey wrote: "Another major element of the design is a pool of water with rough-hewn rocks protruding like mountainous islands, a clear reference to the distant origins of this immigrant population... The water flows over this edge, and there are benches nearby from which visitors can contemplate the gentle waterfall and the place and its many messages."

Bronze bas-relief panels by Nina Akamu, a world-renowned artist, depicting the Japanese American experience will be part of the wall. Another center of interest will be a symbolic statue, also by Akamu, of two bronze cranes entwined, one reaching toward the sky and the other struggling to escape a barbed wire entanglement.

Forgey observed that the statue and a proposed bell, a slender aluminum tube in a metal sheath, within a limited space may cause "confusion" and "symbolic conflict." But, he said, "these are relative quibbles in relation to the overall importance of this undertaking."

Peter Okada, Kirkland, Wash., is chairman of the Memorial Facilities Standing Committee. William Hosokawa is charged with preparing the inscription for the memorial.

Information: NJAMF, 2445 M Street, N.W., Suite 250, Washington, D.C. 20037, 202/861-8845, fax, 202/861-8848. Cherry Tsutsumida is the executive director. ■

## 100-442-MIS Foundation on schedule



**ARDENT SUPPORTERS**—Holding their certificates of appreciation for support of the Go For Broke Monument are (from left) Darren Wellington, Firestone Vineyards; Los Angeles Deputy Mayor William Violante; Assemblyman Nao Takasugi; Assemblyman Mike Honda; Col. Young O. Kim; David Kim, Anshuser Busch; George Takei; William Allin, AT&T, and Japanese Consul General Shotaro Yachi.

(Continued from page 1)

over the next seven months."

Over 950 attended the Sacramento premiere of *Beyond Barbed Wire*, event chair George Oki of the CSU-Sacramento JAAC reported. KXOA-FM broadcaster Tom Nakashima and KXTV news anchorwoman Sharon Ito shared podium duties. The film combines historic footage with more than 50 interviews with Nisei veterans and their families (see Aug. 1-14 P.C.).

At the Festival of the Gardens in Van Nuys, state Assemblyman Brooks Firestone of Santa Barbara proclaimed, "This is a historic day, because soon, these men (the Nisei soldier) will again be a part of a new history. The Go For Broke monument will memorialize the symbolism of their sacrifices... Their achievements will be made a part of the great story of America."

Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan and Councilwoman Rita Walters have endorsed and congratulated

the Foundation's undertaking along with corporate sponsors Anshuser Busch and AT&T. Keeping the program on schedule was masterful emcee George Takei.

Assemblymen Nao Takasugi of Ventura and Mike Honda of San Jose and other civic and business leaders eloquently implored the Sunday afternoon crowd under a huge circus-sized tent before munching on a spread prepared by Wolfgang Puck's ObiChine to bring their dream closer to reality.

Entertaining during lunch were kotodans from Yoko Awaya Music Conservatory, followed by a 45-minute concert by Hiroshima, the Asian American jazz contemporaries.

The Festival concluded with Japanese artists—Fujima Kanuma troupe, Koshin Taiko drums, Matsutoyo Sato minyo group, organ and sumi-e by Jane and Yoko Shibata—performing throughout the 6-acre Japanese Garden behind the Sepulveda Dam. ■

## 'Bigotry Watch' joins Asian American plea

WASHINGTON—Leaders of five groups, the National Conference of Christians and Jews), Anti-Defamation League, National Council of La Raza, National Urban League and Leadership Education for Asian-Pacific (LEAP) have signed a "statement of Bigotry Watch" in support of the unprecedented complaint filed with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. American organizations and three individuals (see P.C., Sept. 15).

Serving as a "wake-up call to all who believe in the First Amendment," the statement said, "Segregating any group and seeking to exclude them from participation in the political life of our country is counter to all the guarantees that protect each of us."

Signing were: Sanford Cloud Jr., president & CEO, the National Conference; Abraham H. Foxman, national director, ADL; Raul Yzaquiere, president & CEO, La Raza; Hugh B. Price, president & CEO, Urban League; and J.D. Hokoyama, president, LEAP.

"As Bigotry Watch, a collaboration of human relations and civil rights organizations committed to fighting bigotry wherever it rears up and to promoting understanding and respect among all, we unequivocally support those seeking redress for the Asian community," the statement said and underlined as an initiative of national voices for an inclusive 21st Century.

"We call on all Americans to commit themselves to treating one another with respect, to increasing their knowledge about those different from themselves and to participating in the President's national conversation on race," the statement added. ■

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## Very Truly Yours

By Harry Honda

## Who were the pioneer MISers from the camps?

THERE'S more to be told about the 6,000 linguists who served in WWII's Military Intelligence Service — sometimes called the Yankee Samurai, the Un-sung Heroes, the MISers, our Nisei GIs of the Pacific Theater — and it appeared that the MIS-Rocky Mountain Reunion in Denver over the Sept. 10-14 weekend was like "a last hurrah." The program sailed along the lighter scale — camaraderie, dinners buffet-style and then some: tours downtown, great shopping, Rocky Mountain National Park, the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, the Denver Mint, karaoke, a seemingly nonstop supply of sushi, premium macadamia nuts from Hawaii and other Hospitality Suite appetizers — and skipping the workshops or panels that had spotlighted previous reunions.

Nonetheless, Reunion co-chairs Noboru Furuiye, Kent Yoritomo, and their cohorts made certain those who came (and there were over 400 registered) would cherish the hope of getting together again next year in Honolulu at the all-AJA (from WWII to "Operation Desert Storm") veterans reunion with the Sons & Daughters.

The memorial service at Fairmont Cemetery was highlighted with prayers by Rev. Kanya Okamoto of the Denver/Tri-State Buddhist Temples and retired Methodist churchman/WWII veteran Rev. Roy Katayama. The JA CL side to this is that the Mile-Hi Chapter started the annual Memorial Day service in 1946 and the monument was raised some years later.

It was news, to me anyway, to learn from Nisei Post 185 senior vice commander Tom Masamori that the design of the Nisei war memorial was duplicated for the Naval Academy at Annapolis. The Nisei Post seeks the Navy's acknowledgement that the original was designed to honor the Nisei war dead. Tom also remembered that George Nakamura, who died of wounds received in battle at Palawan, the Philippines, and he were classmates at Santa Cruz High School.

At the Defense Language Institute in Monterey are three buildings dedicated to the MIS war dead: TSgt. Frank Tadakazu Hachiya (1920-1945) at Leyte, the Philippines; Cpl. Yukitaka "Terry" Mizutani (1920-1944) at Aitapo, New Guinea, and Sgt. George Ichiro Nakamura (1919-1944).

It was not only timely but proper for Opening Night reception buffet emcee Tom Haga of Pueblo, Colo., to ask for a moment of silence in memory of Mother Teresa and Princess Diana. Tom, now an active AARP volunteer in Colorado, served with the British 14th Army in India.

Four veterans who had

served in India, including Arizona JA CLer Masaji Inoshita, were introduced. And Mas was among the first 29 Nisei to volunteer for Camp Savage from Gila River Relocation Center in November, 1942. A member of this group, Col. Harry Fukuhara (ret.) manages to gather them at MIS reunions. Their circumstances and of those who were spirited from other camps are buried as tragedies too personal to recall. Their families were bullied and ostracized.

It's a chapter that awaits to be told in full.

Others in Gila River camp contingent were, as called from *Yankee Samurai*:

Shoso Nomura (Dixie Mission veteran), Ben Sugeta (Merrill Maulders), George Masu Nakamura, Hiroshi "Bud" Mukaya (who played college football at St. Mary's prep), Frank Mori, John "Nana" Fujimoto, Shizue Kunihiro, Sam Takahara, Hilo Fuchiwaki.

San Fernando Valley author James Oda, in his *Heroic Struggles of Japanese Americans* (1980), lists the 14 men in the first group from Manzanar who left on Dec. 2, 1942:

Keichi K. Amino, Frank K. Ishida, Ichiro L. Okibane, Karl G. Yoneda, William Y. Murata, Shori Hiraide, Koji Ariyoshi, Sho Onodera, Nobuo Yamashita, James H. Kaminishi, Henry T. Ueyhara, James S. Oda, Harry Yamashita and Yoshiki Hirabayashi.

As recorded in Tad Inokuchi's *John Aiso and MIS* (1988), ex-Terminal Islander Min Hara of New York volunteered and left Poston on Nov. 20 under cover of darkness. "Only eight of us enlisted from America's largest concentration camp due to strike action at that time," Joe Harrington's *Yankee Samurai* (1979) carries the eight names:

"Roy Takai told how he, James Sano, Yumiji (Jimmy) Higashi (one-time JA CL regional director), Juichi Nishi, Tom Tsuyuki, Sam Rokutani, Minoru Hara and Pat Nagano (of San Luis Obispo) had to be smuggled out of Poston after dark because a big strike was taking place against the camp rule."

Was it the same at the other camps in Minidoka, Anfiche (Harry and Ken Akune), Rohwer, Jerome, Topaz, Heart Mountain and Tule Lake?

Again from Harrington, listing some of the group from Tule Lake are:

S. Bill Doi, Noboru Yamada, Harry Iida (of Salinas), Satoshi and Victory Nishijima, Masao B. Ishikawa, Charles Nagano, Tom Taketa, Eddie Fukui, George Nakamura, Tom Ogas, Aki Hayashi, Selen Yagawa, Jim Sagimura, Paul Hayashi, Gus Hika-wa, Fumio Yokobe, Frank Okawa and John Tanikawa (then 41 years old, a Purple Heart and Croix de Guerre veteran from the first World War).

While it may be the "last hurrah," the San Francisco-based National Japanese American Historical Society launched its oral history program talking to the MISers who volunteered from the camps. Inoshita was told to allow two hours, but it was something like 3-plus hours. Indeed, there is more to be told. The Civil Liberties Public Education Fund approved \$25,000 for this particular proposal.



## Letters

## Redress story stands as fact in Nikkei-identity

Yes, indeed, the "Voices of JA Redress" conference was well done. It was fascinating to hear each person's perspective on Redress recounted during the three days.

However, I was struck by a juxtaposition in the *Pacific Citizen* (Sept. 10-Oct. 2) reporting on the conference. On the front page with the "Voices" article was a story about a Pacific Southwest District meeting of college-age students informally talking about what they saw as the most important issues affecting them. It seemed clear that these youths did not relate to the past experiences of their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. In fact, one person was quoted as saying something to the effect of not being able to connect with what happened during World War II to his relatives.

So, we had at the top of the page the story of how our community fought for and attained Redress from our government for the injustice visited on them by the internment. And below that, the story on the conference with the young people saying they could not relate to what happened during World War II.

A lot of very worthwhile projects were funded by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, (CLPEF). The main goal of the fund, as I understand it, is to promote an understanding of what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II. Certainly, we need to educate the American public with the story of our wartime travail. But, at the same time, let us not neglect devising ways to reach youths within our own communities.

The young people at the conference talked about issues relating to identity. Granted our community has included in it many multi-racial persons, and also those who have arrived from Japan. Nonetheless, we have a powerful story to tell to our youth: We went to internment camps and offered up men and women who fought valiantly for this country in order to prove our loyalty. And there were some who stood by the constitution and resisted the injustice. Many years of struggle, involving all sectors of our community, resulted in a redress payment and a presidential apology. This has to be compelling stuff which can serve to bolster a positive sense of identity in our youth regardless of whether they happen to have anyone in their families who endured the camp experience.

If, for whatever reason, the story is not passed on in our individual homes, then it is up to our churches and other social institutions to do the job. We dare not neglect this crucial task.

Phil Shigekuni  
San Fernando Valley JA CL

## Monuments face deadlines

I heard General James Mukoyama speak to the Military Intelligence Service Veterans at their (Denver) reunion Sept. 13. He is held in high esteem by our Nikkei community because of his military

record, a Purple Heart earned in Vietnam, the youngest person to make Brigadier General in U.S. history, and also for his willingness to speak at gatherings to praise the Nisei soldier and to acknowledge his debt to them for paying the way for him.

He is a member of both the board of directors of the Patriotism of Japanese Americans in World War II Monument in Washington, D.C., and the board of governors of the Go For Broke Monument in Los Angeles.

In recent addresses he has vigorously promoted the Washington, D.C., monument. He cites the urgency of the need to raise nine million dollars by 1999 to meet a deadline imposed by the Federal government. The implication is that, if we fail to do so, the opportunity to tell our story in our nation's capital will be lost forever.

As much as I respect General Mukoyama, I must point out the fact that the other monument, the Go For Broke Monument, also has a similar urgency because of a deadline.

The Go For Broke Monument is the only monument with a message that meets the needs of the Nikkei community, emphasizing its theme of honoring the Nisei soldier by listing 15,000 of them by name, including special recognition to those 800 who did not return home.

They are the true patriots and heroes in our civil rights struggles of World War II, as attested to by President Truman when he thanked the Nisei soldiers in 1946. The best way to honor and thank an important benefactor is to do so while he is able to acknowledge this repayment of, not posthumously. The Go For Broke Monument is under a similar urgency to reach its goal. The reality of its deadline is seen in the obituaries of our Nisei veterans we read daily.

We must complete both monuments soon by supporting both as equally important and urgent.

Art Gonai  
Seattle, Wash.

## Wyoming railroad family tried to 'settle' at Minidoka

We are writing as Japanese citizens who were not interned [and] regarding denial of redress ... Those not interned have suffered double discrimination: first, as in our case, our lives were turned upside down in a period of 24 hours, we were thrown out of our home (by the tracks), our property was destroyed, we did not have enough to eat, and our dignity was stripped, and second, to be denied redress because we were not interned.

Union Pacific was planned as a lifelong commitment for my father, his brother and their father before them. There was no question when my parents married, they would live in Wyoming and work on the railroad until my father retired. (It was certainly a difficult adjustment for my mother, who was born and raised in Bellevue, Wash. ... My father was prosperous: a new automobile, the growing family, respect

of the community and crew, his flourishing skill as a master artist.

Ousted overnight from the only home we had ever known ... we moved into a chicken coop on acreage owned by a black family. At elementary school, [we] had almost daily confrontations with our classmates ...

Our family visited Minidoka to visit relatives. Even I, at age 5, could tell that life at the camp was better than our predicament—the internees at least had milk, food and housing. My parents applied for admission, and were refused entry to Minidoka or any other internment camp.

There's no question that the mass ouster of railroad workers had official sanction, and the U.S. Government must offer reparation to all who suffered tremendously as a result.

The rash and inhumane order by the U.S. Government requires indemnity to the entire Japanese population affected by such a directive.

Paul Hironaka  
Jon Hironaka  
Seattle, Wash.

## 'Every member bring...

As your JA CL Membership Development chair, I'm asking that every member bring in a member (EMBM).

If we want to be a very reliable organization we must have commitment of each member. For example, voters in California passed a Proposition 209 that prohibits affirmative action. Now I understand it is going national.

Another bill, H.R. 7, which prohibits children born in the U.S. of undocumented parents to become citizens was defeated. All the civil rights organizations got together and applied pressure, so we must remain very vigilant. But I understand H.R. 7 still has a chance to become law.

If everyone does a little, it will accomplish a lot.

Dr. Frank Sakamoto  
Englewood, Colo.

## Pacific Citizen

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\* Except for the National Director's Report, news and the "Views" expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect JA CL policy. The columns are the personal opinion of the writers.

\* "Views" reflect the active public discussion within JA CL of a wide range of ideas and issues, requiring clear presentation though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the Pacific Citizen.

\* "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgment. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.





## Voice of a Sansei

BY AKEMI KAYLENG

### Mr. Toad's ride lurks in the Magic Kingdom

Southern California. The 1950s. Samuel and Michelle are living the American Dream. Their house, in that exclusive neighborhood light years removed from the Japantown of their childhood, looks like a photograph in one of those interior decorating magazines. The various textures are skillfully played together to create that look of visual interest, strikingly holding your attention, while remaining in harmony with the supporting accessories. How did they achieve that lovely effect? It must be the colors. That's right, the colors. The colors are all in the same family, even though of different intensities. What a lovely house.

And what lovely people. Samuel and Michelle (formerly Saburo and Misao) are dressed to perfection in the season's contemporary fashions. For Samuel, an elegantly cut Italian suit over a cashmere pullover. The look which says casual, yet ready for serious business. Michelle is charming in her silk tunic and pant set, elegantly finished off with gold mounted pearls.

They're all ready to go to the M.D.'s convention, gliding down those elite neighborhood streets in their beige Cadillac. Samuel worked very hard, and today is Chief of Surgery at our local hospital. Michelle, too, is the sort of worldly person who finds other highly educated professionals enchanting. She holds an MBA from Stanford, and while she enjoys supervising subordinates at that famous corporation, their level of education could never match hers.

Except they aren't going. Samuel brusquely brushes the topic aside, with the kind of intensity which says that "trivial, silly" topic is really quite substantial. Michelle shows her feelings more. Human anguish is cracking fissures in the lacquered perfection of her face. "We just can't socialize with them," she says, like the ugly girl who got an invitation to the party thrown by the popular high school kids. The ugly girl so wistfully wants to belong, be a part of their world... but she knows their glamour will make her contrasting inferiority too painful to bear. Michelle's feelings showed, like chemical stains on the photo studio glossy her corporation shot for inclusion in their report to the stockholders.

The American Dream home of

### America's 'melting pot'

Example of the linguistic legacy of the Dutch is the American expression, *nitwit*, Dutch for "I don't know"—*Ik niet wiet*. Another Santa Claus. From *Sinter Klaas*.—J.L. Dillard, *American Talk*.

Samuel and Michelle is deathlike in his frozen perfection, like a still photograph in a magazine. There is no true life in a photo. Now real, visceral gut life is breaking through, like the diseased flesh under Michelle's makeup. We're on Mr. Toad's Ride at Disneyland, jerking idly through blackened corridors, feeling burning steam and sinister chills, aware we're going through an awful lot of something, but with no comprehension of what the hell that something is. Then suddenly! We know! A bogeyman lights up the ride with blinding fury. Then he's gone. We are still. We are back in that frozen perfection of that photo in the interior decorating magazine.

**Southern California.** The 1990s, almost the year 2000.

Dave, a Sansei-Yonsei, just got back from visiting his grandparents. He always gets a chuckle out of the old folks. They will never be like him, a guy who could just as well be Anglo. They are different, and will always ask about things which Dave just doesn't consider very important. Still, they are his endearing Nisei grandparents, and people like them have something to do with his reasons for being an activist in a community going through changing times.

Unlike Saburo and Misao, Dave knows two very important things. We can only move forward as fast as we are able to. In ways we feel comfortable with. And we have to openly acknowledge that problems are part of any transition process, and air our feelings about those problems.

Saburo and Misao did too much, too fast, blindly grabbing up a White Anglo way of life which did not feel right for them. They refused to admit they were having some very understandable adjustment problems, and denied everything. The outside world saw that charming and impressive couple. Saburo and Misao were living on that hell ride through blackened corridors, interrupted by their brushed aside problems bursting out screaming. "You cannot deny us!" When the hell ride did calm down, their home was as cold and desolate as a department store display. That's what happens when you force yourself to do things you aren't ready for, and deny there's anything wrong.

Saburo and Misao were our heroes of the fifties. Today we know better. Our true leaders are people like Dave, who are so much more sensitive and wise. ■

*Akemi's a strange blend of hyper-Anglo and old world Japanese.*

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## Voices

### Incident at Alice Griffith

(The lead article in the San Mateo JACL Newsletter, Kokoro, of September, 1997.)

BY KATE MOTOYAMA

**M**OST of my students (at the College of San Mateo) have never endured the pain of discrimination—or so they claim. At the same time, I have sometimes been in the company of these same students when they are maligned for being young, buffeted by sexist commentary, subjected to homophobic remarks, or injured by racism. And sometimes they are the ones who need to interrogate limited ways of construing the world.

Many of my students do not offer resistance to discriminatory intent, word, or action. This is why I was moved by Asian residents' acts of resistance in San Francisco's Alice Griffith public housing project. These individuals have come forward to seek relief from what is, in their view, an ongoing history of racial attacks. The San Francisco Housing Authority has been trying without success to integrate the projects since the 1990s.

*The Pacific Citizen* (Aug. 1-14) reported that Asian Law Caucus attorney Gen Fujioka is representing a dozen victims of racial violence, including six Vietnamese families who have repeatedly requested transfers from the predominantly black housing project. Previously, in 1993, Fujioka helped families sue the housing authority for failing to protect them. The PC noted: "In one case, Hoa Pang, 25-year-old mother of two children, reported that while she was pregnant other residents at the development repeatedly threw rocks and bottles at her, calling her 'Chink' and 'Chinese bitch.'" Yet, the *San Jose Mercury News* also reported a resident's reaction that "one Asian family exaggerated claims of racism in order to be eligible for housing elsewhere."

City officials have differing opinions as to whether the incidents qualify as hate crimes. Supervisor Amos Brown who held a barbecue for Double Rock residents to discuss the alleged incidents stated, "There's no racial cleavage out there whatsoever." He added, "It's a problem of crime." Fujioka, however, said, "The housing authorities continue to steer Asian families into these same developments without making any changes to improve conditions... The result is that Asians are denied equal access to public housing."

The Alice Griffith Incident ostensibly makes me think of my students and their lack—in their eyes—of experience with discrimination. I am reminded of discussions we have had on affirmative action, particularly as applied to the Asian American community in the contested area of admission to (San Francisco's) Lowell High School or UC Berkeley.

In these areas of our lived experience, is recognition of race or ethnicity discriminatory? How do we assess the extent of existing discrimination and achieve group level

equity? My students have strong opinions on this issue, even though they may not think that discrimination ever happens to them, personally speaking.

Most particularly, and this is where the JACL Curriculum Project is important, they do not invoke an irrefutable history of institutionalized discrimination. This shared legacy of oppression is what makes me think that Blacks and Asians have much in common despite/so-called scientist Harry Kitano's observation, "Scratch a Japanese-American and you will find a WASP."

History teaches us that against the model minority stereotype developed by Caudill and De Vos, Blacks and Asians are, in Gary Okihiro's words, "a kindred people." Okihiro, professor of history and director of Asian American Studies at Cornell University, states in his intriguing essay, *Is Yellow Black or White?*: "We share a history of European colonization, decolonization, and independence... We share a history of oppression in the United States, successively serving as slave and cheap labor, as people excluded and absorbed, as victims of mob rule and Jim Crow."

Many coolies died while being transported across the Pacific, as did many Africans in the Middle Passage. If these laborers made it to the Americas, they were sold in open market, shackled with chains, beaten and often killed. Many times, migrant Asian laborers were run out of town and their camps, set up by necessity outside of the towns, were burned and destroyed. One interesting case is the California Supreme Court's ruling in *The People vs. George W. Hall*, where because of established precedent whereby "no black or mulatto person or Indian, shall be allowed to give evidence in favor of, or against, a white man" Asians likewise could not testify in a court of law. The Chinese testimony was thus inadmissible, and Hall's conviction was reversed.

The outcome of another ruling, the case of *Gong Lum v. Rice*, was based on the "separate but equal" doctrine of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the

U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1896 decision. In these parallel cases, the courts held that Blacks and Asians could be barred from "white-only" schools. Gong Lum was unsuccessful in integrating Mississippi's Jim Crow schools. That was to happen in 1954 with *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The Alice Griffith Incident troubles me because there is common cause on the part of Blacks and Asians. We are not the same, either, and there has been a contested history between our communities. On the other hand, our struggles have helped to democratize America, and many are the instances of mutual aid and assistance.

• In 1927, Lemon Lee Sing, a 68-year-old Chinese laundryman in New York City sought permission to adopt Firman Smith, an abandoned African American child he found sleeping in the hallways.

• In 1869, the first Japanese settlers arrived in California and established the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony near Sacramento. Among the sojourners was Masumizu Kunoosuke, who married an African American woman, raised a family, and operated a fish store for many years. [Ed. Note: She was the daughter of a Freedman (freed slave) father and a Blackfoot Indian mother.—S.O. Williford, *Los Angeles Times*, March 30, 1970.]

• In 1915, a Filipino band played under the baton of African American conductor Walter Loving at the San Francisco Panama-Pacific International Exposition.

Against this context, it is unfortunate that the Alice Griffith Incident polarizes Black and Asian American communities. Without detracting from the seriousness of the alleged hate crimes or the courage of the residents who took action, I hope we remember that history, economics and politics shape our communities' experience. ■

*Motoyama is professor of speech communication and director of the Mentoring Project at the College of San Mateo. She is an active member of the chapter co-chairing a picnic this Sunday with a Hawaiian touch.*

### Call for artists: Public art at Pike Place Market Seattle to honor Issei farmers of Pacific Northwest

SEATTLE—Along with a consortium of organizations and individuals, Pike Place Market-Public Development Authority, and Wing Luke Asian Museum, four JACL chapters—Seattle; Lake Washington, Puyallup Valley, and White River Valley—will commission a public artwork commemorating Japanese American farmers to be located at historic Pike Place Market.

Today Pike Place is the centerpiece of Seattle's history of commerce and tourism. Each year, nine million people pass through the market, many unaware of the con-

tributions of the Japanese American farmers and their subsequent internment. This public artwork project seeks to change that, as well educate residents and visitors from around the nation and the world.

Funding for this project is provided in part by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund and Seattle JACL.

For a prospectus, write to: Seattle JACL, c/o Janice Yee, 2538 S. Eddy St., Seattle, WA 98108; or e-mail: [Public\\_Art\\_in\\_the\\_Pike\\_Place\\_Market@uno.com](mailto:Public_Art_in_the_Pike_Place_Market@uno.com) or call Jill Beppu 206/528-7488. ■

## CLPEF plans National Day of Remembrance in 1998

WASHINGTON—Ten years after the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, Japanese Americans and friends are planning to gather in the Nation's capital for a "National Day of Remembrance."

"Next year will mark the 10th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988," says CLPEF Board Vice-Chair Susan Hayase. "Because Congress mandated the CLPEF to educate the public about the lessons learned from the incarceration, it is appropriate that we make February 19, 1998, a day to reflect on those lessons in the Nation's capital." (CLPEF had previously announced a similar commemoration for this year, but it was cancelled.)

Many communities have used Feb. 19 to reflect on the lessons learned so that similar events never happen again. It has been used as a time for healing wounds suffered from the issuance of Executive Order 9066 promulgated by

President Franklin Roosevelt.

The Board of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund on July 14 asked for public comment on plans developed by an advisory committee drawn from residents of Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago, Seattle, and California. Among the "brainstorming" ideas discussed at the June 28th meeting:

- (1) A ceremony or event which informs the public about the incarceration and lessons learned from it;
- (2) Recognition of members of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and others;
- (3) Recognition of community activists who brought the issue of redress to Congress and the President;
- (4) Public preview of some of the projects being funded by the CLPEF; and/or
- (5) Production of a public service announcement to be aired on national media networks.

"Days of Remembrance are now recognized as tradition, observed wherever Japanese Americans live," says Frank Abe, an organizer of the first Day of Remembrance in Seattle. "We've won redress. Now we need to make sure people remember why. Washington, D.C., is where national policy is made, and that's where we need to get our message across."

"It would be wonderful if we could find a way to institutionalize February 19 as a Day of Remembrance in all 50 states through endorsement of groups such as the National Governors Association, the National Council of State Legislatures," noted National JACL director Herb Yamanishi of San Francisco. "If every state were to issue a proclamation or issue a resolution, people from throughout the country could get involved."

"We shared many excellent ideas at this meeting, but now we need to hear what kind of event would

bring people out from all parts of the country to Washington, D.C., next February," says Cynthia Sakoda Acott of Chicago, JACL chapter president. "We want to hear from our own communities on how this event should be staged."

The CLPEF Board was also asking for public comment to frame the program for "A National Day of Remembrance." The program is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Smithsonian Museum. The advisory committee and the CLPEF are particularly interested in:

- Cost-effective ideas on how to inform the American public on this issue on or around February 19, 1998;
- Possible foundations which may fund DOR activities;
- Names of individuals and organizations that did take a stand in 1942 stating that the exclusion and detention of Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens was wrong.

• Suggestions on symbolic ways people could be involved in the DOR ceremony (e.g. candlelighting ceremonies, wearing replicas of name tags that were issued to families during the exclusion, etc.);

• Who may be attending the DOR activities.

At the meeting were: Mike Ishii, Brooklyn; Frank Abe, Seattle; Marlene Toniai, Oakland; Sus Kitashima, San Francisco; Bob Sakana, Washington, D.C.; Richard Katouja, Los Angeles; Brad Taketsuchi, San Jose; Cynthia Sakoda Acott, Chicago; Gary Jin, San Jose; Herb Yamanishi, San Francisco; and CLPEF executive director Dale Shimasaki, grant director Martha Watanabe, deputy consultant Julie Hata and intern Dina Shek.

Comments on plans for "A National Day of Remembrance" should be directed to the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, 1730 K Street, NW, Suite 410, Washington, D.C. 20006; fax 202/653-2815, e-mail [clpef@worldnet.att.net](mailto:clpef@worldnet.att.net). ■

# L.A. Nikkei to celebrate 90th birthday of Fred Wada, 'father of Keiro Home'

LOS ANGELES—Philanthropist, sports fisherman, community leader and Olympic dignitary—Fred Isamu Wada, 90, is all of these and best known locally to many as the "father of the Japanese Retirement Home." He was born Sept. 18, 1907, in Bellingham, Wash., and orphaned at twelve. He has lived here the past 50 years.



Fred Wada

Due to his extensive ties to so many Wada will be honored at a special birthday party Oct. 12 at the Quiet Cannon at the Montebello golf course, hosted by:

Keiro Services, Wakayama Kenjinkai, Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai (federation of Japanese prefectural associations), PANA-USA, and Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California; George Aratani, Tom Kohitani, Tomio Ito, Norihiko Kanai, Ichiro C. Takeda and Akemi Miyake, celebration co-chairs.

Wada, who spent his youth in Japan, established a produce cooperative for Issei farmers in prewar Oakland and rather than accept imprisonment in a relocation center, he, his wife Masako, and three children—Grace, Fred and Mary (Edwin came later)—led 130 other Japanese Americans before the March 29, 1942, deadline to voluntarily relocate inland to Keetley (Wasatch County), Utah, for the duration to raise "food for victory," as his barn roof proclaimed in big letters. (Not all to establish the colony were farmers, incidentally. Among them were merchants, auto mechanics, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, pharmacists, four nurses and four gardeners.)

After the war, he re-established his produce business in Los Angeles and was instrumental in sponsoring a Japanese youth team starting in Hirohoshi Furuhashi in 1949 in competition with Olympians. They also performed in Latin America, their record-setting feats boosting the morale of Japanese in the Americas. Wada continued to par-

ticipate in Olympic-related activities, which culminated in having the 1964 Games in Tokyo. His international accomplishment led to his appointment to the Los Angeles Harbor Commission. He was named to the Organizing Committee for the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

In 1971, he resigned from the Harbor Commission to pursue his interest to formulate a community-wide movement to provide hospitalization, nursing and retirement facilities for senior Japanese Americans. Two incidents, foremost in his mind, were recalled: while in Brazil during an Olympics mission, he had seen how Jewish immigrants were caring for their aging population through housing and medical services, and his bout with cancer surgery, which gave him insight for a long-term nursing facility sensitive to the cultural needs of the aging Issei.

Donor Fred Wada's name appears at the Museo Amano in the Miraflores district of Lima, on a huge wall map of Peru showing the sites where the Issei pioneers Amano found and preserved weavings and ceramics of various ancient cultures. One of Wada's game fish from Peru, the dorado, is stuffed and adorns one wall at Keiro Home. (Call 213/980-7512 to verify where it hangs now.)

Wada was a member of the 1961 group that purchased the Japanese Hospital—then in Boyle Heights—after which it was sold to acquire City View Hospital (currently the Keiro Nursing Home) above Lincoln Park. In 1969, along with co-founder George Aratani, he spearheaded the fund-raising campaign for Keiro Nursing Home, both putting up their homes as collateral to co-sign a note for the \$500,000 necessary to complete the project.

Minami Keiro Nursing Home was opened in Gardena in 1973, followed by purchase of the Jewish Home for the Aged in 1974, present site of the Japanese Retirement Home and Intermediate Care Facility, under expert negotiations of Fred Wada to complete his vision of "Umbrella of Care."

For information for the Oct. 12 celebration starting at 11:30 a.m., call Keiro Services Public Affairs, 213/980-7512.—HKH ■

## P.C. Bookshelf

### History

• Carol Van Valkenburg, *An Alien Place: The Fort Missoula, Mont., Detention Camp 1941-44* (1995). Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., 713 S. 3rd St. West, Missoula, MT 59801, paper, 117pp, photos, appendix, \$10.95.

FIRST of all, our thanks to Homer Yasui of Portland for sending the P.C. Archives a copy of this book after its mention in one of Bill Hosokawa's columns last year.

For the appendix, the author photocopied eight pages of names (we counted 386) of Japanese who were detained at Fort Missoula during WWII. The list was declassified in 1985. While she leaves to speculation the significance of these names, many Nisei may recognize this as a roster of Issei community leaders who were arrested as dangerous enemy aliens by the FBI soon after Dec. 7 and shipped to western Montana. It behoove families and friends of these Issei to learn more about the group and of the times through *An Alien Place*.

There were 24 priests interned at Missoula who received permission from the camp commander in the winter of 1943-44 to hold Buddhist services at gravesites just found by the Hawaiian group, for 50 Japanese railroad workers who had died in the 1900s and were buried at the city cemetery. "They burned incense at each grave. Their tears fell, not for the young men who had died without having their dreams realized, but in gratefulness that the town residents had cared for the graves for so many years, and especially now, knowing the ethnic origin of those buried." The quotes were reprinted from Patsy Saiki's

*Gambare!* (1982), a collection of stories about the 1,500 Hawaiian Nikkei who were interned during WWII.

Subsequently, other Japanese have visited Missoula to pay their respects at those gravesites, including the wife of Ambassador to the U.S. Takakazu Kuriyama in October 1994. She was grateful that their employer, the Northern Pacific Railroad, fulfilled the immigrants' wishes and etched their tombstones in Japanese.

In the afterword, Van Valkenburg comments, "What the evidence [of U.S. treatment of the Issei detainees] does show is that many were arrested because the government thought they were the most influential members of the Japanese community in the states. The United States government had, in effect, made success a crime."—HKH ■

### New INS employment

#### card has holograms

SAN FRANCISCO—The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) recently introduced a new Employment Authorization Document I-766, being issued to those who are authorized to work temporarily in the United States.

The new card has several security and quality control features to prevent any false reproduction. It contains holograms, a number and bar-code that is in bas-relief from the surface, and microprinting words and titles.

The new look of the document should not present any complications for new employees, the Asian Law Caucus indicated. ■

## JACL joins 3-year gala to celebrate 'cah50mia'

SACRAMENTO—As the State of California begins to celebrate the 150th anniversary (1958-2000) of statehood, an initial list of 59 organizations on the Council of Asian Pacific Islanders Together for Active Leadership (CAPITAL) and a partial list of individuals of the California Asian Pacific American Experience (CAPE) are raising funds to commemorate their contributions of the past, present and future, during the Statehood Sesquicentennial.

Among the 59 organizations along with the *Sacramento Bee*, are National JACL, Florin JACL and Sacramento JACL. Nikkei members with CAPE include:

Dr. Richard Ikeda, Frank Iritani, Randall Ishida, Gene Itogawa, Brian Masunaga, Ray Nakamoto, Dr. Eileen Otsuji, Stuart Sato, Audrey Tsuruda, Hach Yasamura.

CAPE's first "CelebrateAsian Gala" set for Thursday, Sept. 25—a dinner and program at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Sacramento—launches the project that will culminate with an original musical in the spirit of Rodgers & Hammerstein (portraying the legacy of the Asians in California over the past 150 years, complemented by a multi-media presentation, displays, artifacts and photographs.

Confirmed guests attending the \$100 dinner include George Takei, Pat Suzuki, former UC Berkeley Chancellor Chang-Lin Tsen, Son Tek Oh, Lina Fat, Alec Mapa, Lauren Tom and Sesquicentennial Commissioner Beulah Quo.

Information and RSVP: CAPE Design, 73424 Folsom Blvd., Suite C, Sacramento, CA 95826; 916/381-2888. ■

### Cellist Yamakoshi performs in Spain

BARCELONA, Spain—Cellist Brian Yamakoshi performed at the Pablo Casals Museum here on Aug. 20 in a memorial concert for the late Yoritoyo Inoue, celloist and father of composer-pianist Akira Inoue of Japan.

Brian, the son of the late Noby and Aya Yamakoshi of Chicago, performed with Inoue and a group of other cellists. Both Brian and Akira have played in ensembles in Tokyo, Italy, Tunisia, and at Peter Gabriel's Real World in England. ■

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OBITUARIES

Takito Yamaguma, 97, Issei JAACL president

A naturalized Issei citizen who was elected Downtown L.A. JAACL chapter president in 1964...



Yamaguma is remembered for initiating the Mother of the Year JAACL luncheon...

with the state banking officials. He was decorated in 1972 with the Order of the Sacred Treasure...

A golf buff with three hole-in-one shots under his belt (1935, 1958, 1960), active with Omote Senke...

Roy Takeno, 84, a lifelong journalist

DENVER—A lifelong Nisei journalist and world traveler, Roy H. Takeno literally died with his boots on...

wartime stint as editor of the Manzanar Free Press, relocated to Denver where he assisted WRA help...

Nisei evacuees resettled, joined the JAACL staff as Mountain Plains regional director...

Ichinohe dance group in 28th season

NEW YORK—Saeko Ichinohe Dance Co. is projecting "Part II: The Tale of Genji" for their 1997-98 season...

San Jose Nikkei survives Alaska floatplane crash

SAN JOSE—Only one of four buddies, Brian Aoki, 34, of Sunnyvale, on a fishing trip to Alaska...

Yuki Kamayatsu, 89, 23-year PC staffer with circulation

OXNARD—Longtime Los Angeles resident Yuki Kamayatsu, 89, died Sept. 23 at Glenwood Care Center...



OXNARD—Longtime Los Angeles resident Yuki Kamayatsu, 89, died Sept. 23 at Glenwood Care Center...

Resettling after the war in Los Angeles, the Kamayatsus operated their lunch counter business...

The Kamayatsus were JAACLers from 1930, both having met at the first national convention in Seattle...

Predeceased by Charles (1980), surviving are daughter Aiko Abe Sandberg, 2 g.c. 2 g.c. sister May Sakaguchi...

Zempukuji, Tokyo

Said to be founded by Kobo-Daishi (774-835) and home of the Jodo-Shinshu Buddhist sect...

The Accidental War

World War I was so called by the German High Command for having misinterpreted the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand...

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Alkmya, Kay Shina, 78, Gardena, Sept. 5; Chicago-born WWII veteran with the 442nd RCT...

Hogawa, Hirojo Yoshitsu, 82, Sacramento, Aug. 27; Courtland-born, survived by wife Ruth...

Iwasaki, Kazuo 'Pancho', 78, Santa Monica, Sept. 7; Salt Lake City-born, survived by son Greg...

Karasawa, Sue Suyeko, 75, Long Beach, Sept. 7; Hanford-born, survived by sons Robert, Gary...

Katsumata, Hiroshi, 75, Carmel, Sept. 1; survived by wife Tomiko, sons Wayne, Eric...

Maryuma, Fuji, 91, Alameda County, Aug. 26; survived by daughters May Kiyotani (Foster City), Judy Ogata (San Lorenzo)...

Matsui, Fumiko, 74, San Francisco, Aug. 27; Kauai, Hawaii-born, survived by sons Tetsuro, Roger, Alan...

Miyamura, Dan Tochio, 82, Torrance, Sept. 3; Sacramento-born, survived by wife Marjorie...

Morioka, Hiroshi (Hank), 64, San Francisco, Aug. 26; survived by wife Glenda, children Sonya Murphy...

Nagai, Tomiye Betty, 82, El Monte, Aug. 27; Riverside-born, survived by son M. Donald, 5 g.c. 3 g.c. brother Bill Ito...

Nakayama, John S., 76, Oakland, Aug. 22; Berkeley-born WWII army veteran, survived by son David (Maryland), daughter Suzanne (Oakland)...

Nase, Hisako Kay, 70, West Los Angeles, Aug. 31; Santa Monica-born, survived by sons Ted Tetsuo, Ken, Mike...

Nishina, George Shochi, 73, Torrance, Sept. 3; Yakima, Wash.-born, survived by wife Hannah...

Ogami, Lillian Shigeko, 82, Kingsburg, Aug. 22; survived by son David Ogami, 1 g.c. brothers Edwin, Wayne, Fred Nagano...

Osako, Shingo John, 18, Torrance, Aug. 27; Inglewood-born, survived by parents Kyohai and Kyoko...

Oshio, Irene Shizue, Gardena, Aug. 27; San Francisco-born, survived by son Kenji...

31; Hawaii-born, survived by daughter Shelley Taj. 1 g.c. brother Richard Nakamura, sister Eleanor (Hawaii)...

Ryuto, Suzuyo, 92, Stockton, Aug. 29; Aichi-born, survived by sons Masaru, Takeshi, daughters Michiko, Setsuko...

Sakamoto, Tsuruji, 83, Oakland, Aug. 22; survived by son Masatoshi, daughters Yuko Naito, Fumiko Sakamoto...

Shinabukuro, Larry T., 75, Las Vegas, Sept. 4; Honolulu-born, survived by wife Hideoke, brothers Joe (Los Angeles, Kyoshi) (South San Gabriel)...

Tanaka, Yuriko, 82, Chatsworth, Sept. 4; Brodbeck-born, survived by husband Takeshi, Ted, sons Eikandar, Brian, daughters Betty Tanaka, Helen Nakamura...

Teressawa, Atsuko, 71, Los Angeles, Sept. 7; survived by husband Tokio, sisters Satoko Kikuchi, Fujiko Ushiyama, Sakiko Inoue (Japan)...

Torigoe, Yuki, 102, San Jose, Sept. 1; Okayama-born, survived by sons Dr. Settsuo, Dr. Kenji, daughters Yoshino Matano, Toyoko Nakaminishi (Japan)...

Tsuda, Tomiko, 84, Brea, Sept. 5; Berkeley-born, survived by sons Tomio, Takashi, Shoh-jo, daughters Miyoko Shimizu, Yuriko Yamada, Fumiko Tsuda...

Uchida, Kenichi, 78, Aug. 21; San Pedro-born WWII Army veteran, former president of Ogdun JAACL...

Uenaka, Shigeko Lillian, 88, Cupertino, Aug. 30; survived by sons Itaru, Kenji, Paui, 7 g.c. 8 g.c. siblings Makoto Kadotani, Sadaiko Kubo...

Uno, Robert Masayoshi, 52, Moreno Valley, Sept. 1; Newell-born, survived by wife Yukiko, two sons, one daughter, brother Richard Masao, father-in-law Masanobu Nako...

Watanabe, Clyde Katsuo, 50, Carson, Aug. 27; Fresno-born, survived by mother Tetsuyo Watanabe (Carson), brothers Donald (Wilmington), Ronald (Carson), sister Elizabeth Tambara (Buena Park)...

Yada, Fred Yoneo, 81, Los Altos, Sept. 6; Acampo-born, survived by wife Yoneko, four sons, daughter Janet Biggs, 2 g.c. sister Tsuneko Ito...

Yatabe, Akiro, 80, Oxnard, Sept. 8; Los Angeles-born, survived by wife Anna, daughter Barbara Ann, son Michael, 1 g.c.

Yoshizaki, Toshio, 78, East Los Angeles, Sept. 3; Los Angeles-born, survived by wife Alice Sunao, son Patrick, daughter Susan Umehiko, 4 g.c. brothers Minoru Frank, Tadashi, sisters Helen Toyama, Yukiko, Toshiko, Dorothy Shibusawa, brothers-in-law Hiroshi Oshima, Shoji Oshima...

Osako, Shingo John, 18, Torrance, Aug. 27; Inglewood-born, survived by parents Kyohai and Kyoko, sister Linda Mika, brother Kohai Kenny, grandparents Eiji and Emiko Osako, grandfather Tokuji Suzuki (Japan)...

DEATH NOTICE

GRACE MIYOKO UKAI HAWAII, Calif.—Grace Miyoko Ukai, 95, passed away on Sept. 12...

DEATH NOTICE

HAMA KATAGIRI WHEELING, Ill.—Hama Katagiri, nee Matsushita, 79, beloved wife of Joe, passed away on Tues, Sept. 16...

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## Filipino Veterans Equity bill seeks benefit restoration

LOS ANGELES—The Filipino Veterans Equity bill (HR 836) has mobilized support of Asian Pacific American organizations, it was announced this past week (Sept. 22) by Bill Watanabe, director of Little Tokyo Service Center, who reported the bill has 167 co-sponsors in the House as of Sept. 9.

"We are steadily reaching the magic number of 218 (one over half), sufficient to force the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to hold a hearing on the bill," he explained in appealing for support.

The Filipino veterans, who were promised military benefits for service since July 26, 1941, by both Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, have been denied for 51 years. More recently, their plight became public as they held vigils at the White House as well as at local MacArthur Park in front of the statue of General Douglas

MacArthur.

There were 142,000 Philippine Scouts who fought the Japanese during WWII under the U.S. flag and were entitled to benefits given to other foreign-born veterans who served under the U.S. flag—French, Japanese, Italian, German and other Allied veterans. But in 1946, the benefits were rescinded for Filipino veterans except for those who had died, were maimed, or separated for physical disability.

HR 836, co-authored by Reps. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.) and Bob Filner (D-Calif.) has been languishing in the House committee chaired by Rep. Bob Stump (R-Ariz.).

The Senate companion bill S. 623, co-authored by Hawaiian Senators Daniel Inouye and Dan Akaka, was heard last July 26 before the Senate Veterans Affairs committee. "I consider it a moral obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of the Filipino veterans," Sen. Inouye declared.

The White House is opposed to the Equity bill, according to ACFV (American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, Inc., 1440 N. St. NW, Washington, DC 20005, 202/246-1998), advocates for the bill. —HKH

## Two students sue over racial slur in yearbook

HONOLULU—Two African American students pictured with an accompanying racial slur in the 1997 yearbook of Kalaheo High School in Windward Oahu filed a multi-million dollar lawsuit against the state education and school officials Aug. 6 in the U.S. District Court, the Honolulu Advertiser reported.

Myles Sanders Jr., Robyn Wade and another (not a party in the suit) were allowed to appear in the yearbook with the caption: "I like pigs feet I like hog molla? Where da collar greens? Who got da chitling (sic)?"

Both students are no longer at Kalaheo, each seek \$14 million in punitive and compensatory damages. Named as defendants are the State Board of Education and its chair, Karen Knudsen, schools superintendent Hernan Aizawa, former acting Kalaheo principal Glenn Nakamoto and yearbook supervisor Kathy Okuma. Released in May, the suit demands all 830 copies be recalled, mandatory courses on African American history be taught in public schools, and sensitivity training for teachers, staff and students. —AB

## Judge sides with New Otani Hotel

LOS ANGELES—The New Otani Hotel & Garden won the latest round of its four-year battle with Local 11 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union when Administrative Law Judge Timothy D. Nelson, who presided over a National Labor Relations Board trial, ruled the hotel has not committed unfair labor practices.

Local 11 claimed that three cleaning women, 16-year veterans of the hotel, were fired in 1995 because of involvement in union activities. The hotel said they were terminated for time-card infractions. Local 11 officials said they plan to appeal the decision in Washington.

## Test-cheating scam alleged

LOS ANGELES—A ringleader with a Japanese surname, George Kobayashi, but whom the Associated Press identified as Po Chiang Ma, 45, of Arcadia, was indicted with seven others Aug. 12 on one count of conspiracy and 70 counts of mail fraud. He had been charged earlier with a test-cheating scam conducted between June 1993 and October 1996 for the Graduate Management Admissions Test, Graduate Record Exam, and Test of English as a Foreign Language.

Kobayashi allegedly had paid experts to take the tests in New York and phone the correct answers to Los Angeles. The answers were then placed in code on pencils that were issued to students who had been flown to Los Angeles to take the tests, the investigators said. ■

### Fort Dearborn

A landmark plaque at the bend near the mouth of the Chicago River by Lake Michigan marks the site of the U.S. Army post that in 1803 was the first permanent establishment in the area. It was named for Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War under President Jefferson. ■

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CANADIAN ROCKIES/VICTORIA (8 days) JUNE 10  
TAUCK CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS (7 days) JULY  
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DANUBE RIVER CRUISE (10 days, deluxe MOZART Riverboat) AUG 30  
BEST OF HOKKAIDO (11 days) SEP  
EAST COAST/FALL FOLIAGE (11 days) OCT 4  
JAPAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE (11 days) OCT  
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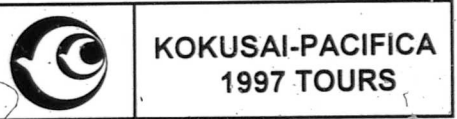
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25.	Branson/Ozark Christmas Tour	11/28-12/03	B&Y Sakurai	\$1,079

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13.	Grand Tour of Europe	06/23-07/11	J&M Kobayashi	\$2,975
14.	Nova Scotia & New England Coast	06/27-07/08	B&Y Sakurai	\$1,949
15.	Alaska Land & Cruise	06/25-07/06	H. Mochizuki	\$2,875
16.	Hawaii 4 Island Cruise	07/04-07/12	T. Kanegai	Fr \$2,100
16a.	AJA Vets Hawaii Convention	07/02-07/06		
17.	Scandinavian Tour	07/09-07/23	Y. Sato	\$2,895
18.	Alaska Salmon/Halibut fishing	07/11-07/19	G&P Murakawa	\$2,650
19.	Japan Hokkaido/Tohoku Tour	09/21-09/30	R. Ishii	\$3,285
20.	Japan Ura-Nihon Tour	10/05-10/14	G. Murakawa	\$2,895
21.	Branson & Nashville Tour	10/17-10/24	H. Mochizuki	\$1,649
22.	New England/Fall Foliage	10/03-10/10		\$1,769
23.	Okinawa/Kyushu Special Tour	10/12-10/21	Y. Sato	\$2,895
24.	Japan Basic Tour/Fall Foliage	10/19-10/28	T. Kanegai	\$2,895
25.	Spain & Portugal Tour	10/04-10/17	B&Y Sakurai	\$1,956
26.	Florida in Depth	Oct.	R&N Takeda	
27.	Canada/New England Fall Foliage	10/15-10/26		\$2,099
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