

OCT. 7-10, 2011



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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JABBAWOCKEEZ UNMASKED

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

They Were Concentration Camps

Thank you for the wonderful commentary, "JA WWII Experience is About 'American Concentration Camps'" that appeared in the Sept. 2-15 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*. It made me go to the Internet to find President Roosevelt's words and this is what I found.

In response to a reporter's question about the West Coast "evacuation," the president said: "... it is felt by a great many lawyers that under the Constitution they can't be kept locked up in concentration camps." (Nov. 21, 1944, FDR Library, #982.)

"I'm for catching every Japanese in America, Alaska and Hawaii now and putting them in concentration camps. ... Damn them! Let's get rid of them now!" (Congressman John Rankin, Congressional record, Dec. 15, 1941)

"I have made a lot of mistakes in my life. ... One is my part in the evacuation of the Japanese from California in 1942. ... I don't think that served any purpose at all. ... We picked them up and put them in concentration camps. That's the truth of the matter. And as I look back on it — although at the time I argued the case — I am amazed that the Supreme Court ever approved it." (Tom Clark, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, *San Diego Union*, July 10, 1966.)

"They were concentration camps. They called it relocation but they put them in concentration camps and I was against it. We were in a period of emergency, but it was still the wrong thing to do." (President Harry S. Truman, with Merle Miller, 1961)

Just wanted to share this with you all. I will never stop being sad. Thank you for the wonderful *Pacific Citizen*.

Yoshie Tanabe
Honolulu, HI

Pledge of Allegiance

Since John Tateishi is so proud of changing the wording of the Pledge of Allegiance (*Pacific Citizen*, Aug. 19-Sept 1, 2011), why stop there? As JACLers, let's start a campaign to eliminate the words "In God We Trust" that is imprinted on all U.S. currency (except the Susan B. Anthony dollar). I think it's pretty clear why this organization is losing members.

Fred Shinoda
San Leandro, Calif.

The Score Update

The national JACL board has 28 points compared to my 13. Larry Oda, Stephanie Nitahara, Matthew Farrells, David Kawamoto, Kerry Kaneichi and Gail Sueki have all scored points. I think their all-star board member, Chip Larouche, deserves a shout out for scoring 11 points.

I'm hoping to make a comeback. Many of us have never been asked to show more financial support in annual dues and this may be the opportunity to do it. Take my grandparents for example. They have been regular JACL members their whole life. After reading my recent column they upgraded their membership. If you want to upgrade, call 415/921-5225 or pozaki@jacl.org. The contest ends Oct. 24. Stay tuned for updates.

Phillip Ozaki
Membership Coordinator

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Send signed letters with your name and address to:
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or
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The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 250 E. 1st Street, Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA
POSTMASTER: send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

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Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif and mailing office.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Winning Economic Model



By Floyd Mori

For most of my working life, the issues that I have faced have centered around economics and financing projects. My first career out of college was as an economics professor at Chabot College. During my tenure at that college, I was elected to the city council and then mayor of Pleasanton, Calif., where budgeting and planning for the future of a high growth city was the major focus. This local government experience launched me into an unexpected career in public service where I spent three terms as a full-time California State Assemblyman where my main assignments centered within the major economic issues of the day. During that time I had assignments on the Revenue and Taxation and Education Committees and was chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Government Administration, the Legislative Audit Committee, and the

Agricultural Labor Relations Board Oversight Committee.

My third career was spent consulting large multimillion-dollar mergers and international partnerships where I dealt with some of the Fortune 500 companies. While much of the work dealt with maintaining "relationships," part of it entailed working with detailed profit and loss statements and future potential profit. I also owned and operated a golf equipment company which meant dealing in small business matters. The common theme of all of my professional work has been the need to visualize the future through the eyes of understanding the past and identifying the key current economic engines to move effectively into the future.

Recently I was able to see the movie, "Moneyball," which tells the story of the transition of Major League Baseball from an old-fashioned tradition laden institution to a modern technology and data driven financially efficient winning organization. By using current information and data, a team with a limited budget could outplay the teams with unlimited budgets. I mention this movie because the JACL is the team with



PHOTOS: HIRO NISHIKAWA



Wat Misaka (top, right) gives his acceptance speech while JACL President David Kawamoto (top, left) and National Director Floyd Mori look on. (Left) MC Denise Nakano with Deni and Norman Mineta.

Gala Honors Sports Leaders

The JACL honored outstanding individuals who have made a name in sports at its Sept. 29 "Salute to Champions" gala in Washington, D.C. Honorees included Rep. Eni Faleomavaega, NBA pioneer Wat Misaka, MLB history maker Don Wakamatsu and Tsueno "Cappy" Harada (posthumously).

Faleomavaega has served in Congress representing the territory of American Samoa making him the longest serving and only Samoan American in the Congress.

Misaka was the first person of color drafted to play in the National Basketball Association (NBA).

Wakamatsu was the first APA manager in MLB history. Harada is credited with advising Japanese baseball officials and building a "baseball bridge across the Pacific."

Denise Nakano, NBC Philadelphia news anchor, served as the event's emcee. ■

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JACL MEMBERS Change of Address

If you've moved, please send new information to:
National JACL
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA
94115
Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in delivery, please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)

AAs Criticize Bill Mandating E-Verify to Weed Out Undocumented Workers



PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

About 7,905 new United States citizens took the oath of allegiance on Sept. 28 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

The Legal Workforce Act, if passed, would make it mandatory for employers to use E-Verify prior to hiring an employee.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Editor's Note: This is the second in a three-part series taking a look at citizenship and immigration in this country and its impact on the Asian American community.

The debate in Congress is heating up over a bill that would mandate employers nationwide to use a verification system to filter out undocumented workers, but some critics say the bill would target the Asian Pacific American community.

The Legal Workforce Act would require that employers across the nation use the electronic employment eligibility verification system, or E-Verify, a free federal program that verifies if an employee is legally allowed to work. The bill would require employers to use it before hiring an employee.

Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, introduced the Legal Workforce Act in the U.S. House on June 14. Smith introduced an amended version of the bill, HR 2885, on Sept. 12.

The bill was approved 22-13 in congressional committee on Sept. 21. Supporters of the bill say E-Verify is necessary, considering the economic climate and unemployment rates.

"With unemployment at nine percent, jobs are scarce," Smith said in a June 14 press release. "Despite record unemployment, seven million people work in the U.S. illegally. These jobs should go to legal workers."

In 1986 the Immigration Reform and Control Act was enacted, creating Form I-9, the employment eligibility verification. About ten years later under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act a pilot program was created to verify employment eligibility, which E-Verify was based on.

As of June 2011 about 271,460 employers were enrolled in E-Verify, according to the E-Verify website. Supporters say the program effectively verifies the eligibility of workers.

But some say the bill would specifically target the Asian American community.

"The Legal Workforce Act disproportionately harms the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, particularly AAPI workers, small business owners, and the more than

eight million foreign-born lawful workers," said Rep. Mike Honda, D-California, in a statement to the *Pacific Citizen*. "Through the flawed E-Verify program, such workers are 20 times more likely to receive erroneous tentative non-confirmations when, in reality, they are work-authorized."

Critics of the program say E-Verify is a flawed program that targets all employees, legal or not. They say employers receive false ineligibility reports, or tentative non-confirmations, when using E-Verify. The program relies on databases from the U.S. Social Security Administration and U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

These errors could occur, say some critics, for a variety of reasons such as a misspelling in a name.

"It targets everybody," said Connie Choi, a staff attorney at the APA Legal Center, or APALC. "Specifically for the Social Security database, 70 percent of the errors that come out of those databases are for U.S. citizens. And so it's not just going to be affecting immigrant workers or undocumented workers, but it's really going to be affecting every one of us."

Fane Mahe, 55, says she knows firsthand the downfalls of E-Verify. The mother of four, who is Tongan and Fijian, got her citizenship in the 1990s.

While working as a security officer in 2009, she says her employer used E-Verify to confirm her work eligibility. The system, she says, falsely red flagged her social security number. Mahe was sent home for a week without pay.

"I was depressed and I was worried because I just lost my husband," Mahe said, adding that she had previously worked for the U.S. Post Office. "At the time my pay was just \$11 and then they pulled me out. I was asking them, 'Well, you pull me out are you people going to pay me?'"

Mahe said she never received compensation, but did return to work with the help of APALC.

"I think her story specifically is one of many in which people can kind of essentially fall through the cracks and suffer financially as a result of getting kind of caught up in the system when they really shouldn't be," Choi said.

Based on cases from October 2009 to September 2010, 98.3 percent of employees are automatically confirmed as eligible to work through E-Verify, according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. About 1.7 employees are flagged as ineligible to work. Of those employees who are flagged, 0.3 are later confirmed to work "after contesting and resolving the mismatch."

But an independent study commissioned by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and conducted by Westat found different error rates. According to that study released in 2010, 96.4 percent of all cases were authorized to work and 0.5 were eligible after contesting a mismatch claim. The remaining 3.1 percent were found ineligible to work because they did not file a claim, were unaware they could contest the claim, or were found unauthorized to work.

Some undocumented immigrants say the Legal Workforce Act will not only weed out their job application, but documented citizens as well.

"I think it's terrible that they would try to pass something like this. It's basically an intrusive national ID system for legal residents, and would cripple small businesses with additional burdens and costs," said Jong-Min, an undocumented citizen who did not wish to use his last name. "Plus, it is *not* a foolproof program, meaning U.S. citizens would be out of work as well through the program's errors!"

Groups such as the Tea Party Nation and Republican Liberty Caucus, among others, have also denounced the Legal Workforce Act.

The Tea Party Nation and the Republican Liberty Caucus, along with other conservative groups, urged Congress to vote against the Legal Workforce Act. They said E-Verify violates individual civil liberties, puts a burden on small business, and encourages identification theft, among other things.

Critics of the Legal Workforce Act also say the program is too costly to employers.

"It's going to be a very, very expensive program to implement," Choi said. "I think a lot of these kinks need to be worked out before we go to mandatory E-Verify system."

Some say the push to pass the Legal Workforce Act is fueled by fears of joblessness.

The unemployment rate in August of 2011 was at 9.1 percent, with 14.0 million reported to be unemployed, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The jobless rate in August for whites was 8.0, 16.7 for African Americans, 11.3 for Hispanics and 7.1 for Asian Americans.

"During the time of unemployment someone has to be blamed," said Dennis, who asked to be identified by his first name, an undocumented 19-year-old college student. "They're just blaming us."

The Legal Workforce Act was referred Sept. 23 to the House subcommittee on immigration policy and enforcement. ■

Protesting Pastries for Affirmative Action



PHOTO: CHRISTINE FUKUSHIMA

UC Berkeley students show their support for SB 185 during an anti-affirmative action bake sale by the Berkeley College Republicans.

The “Increase Diversity Bake Sale” sponsored by the Berkeley College Republicans sparks protests and increases awareness about affirmative action.

By Christine Fukushima
Correspondent

BERKELEY, Calif.—When the clock tower struck twelve, they fell to the floor.

For the next few minutes, the shouts and arguments that had been going on for hours ceased and only the whirring blades of helicopters overhead could be heard as protesters, television camera crews and students passing through the university’s main walkway on their way to class stopped to watch the silent protest.

Clad in black, hundreds of members of “The Coalition,” composed of Cal students belonging to various multicultural organizations on campus, had organized the counter-protest held at the same time as the Berkeley College Republicans’ “Increase Diversity Bake Sale.”

Meant as a satire against California Senate Bill 185, which counters the state’s ban on affirmative action, the original text on the bake sale’s Facebook event page garnered national media attention for the Berkeley College Republicans.

Its controversial pricing scale for pastries advertised: “White/Caucasian: \$2.00, Asian/Asian American: \$1.50, Latino/Hispanic: \$1.00, Black/African American: \$0.75, Native American: \$0.25 and \$0.25 OFF FOR ALL WOMEN! Hope to see you all there! If you don’t come, you’re a racist!”

Like many other students at UC Berkeley

and elsewhere, second-year Maria Vallarta was “shocked and mad” when she saw the proposed price scale.

“I was like, ‘wow, \$1.50, that’s how much my struggle is worth? Thank you.’ It was just really offensive to me. It really shows how ignorant people are,” said Vallarta, who supports SB 185.

The bill would “authorize the University of California and the California State University to consider race, gender, ethnicity, and national origin, along with other relevant factors, in undergraduate and graduate admissions, to the maximum extent permitted by the 14th Amendment.”

Vallarta and other proponents of the bill point out that the language of the bill only allows UCs and CSUs to consider factors such as ethnicity in the admissions process instead of requiring them to, and that it does not establish a quota system, which would be unconstitutional.

But opponents of SB 185 argue that any inclusion of race and ethnicity in the admissions process is in itself “discriminatory,” says Alexander Salazar, a first-year UC Berkeley student and Berkeley College Republicans member.

Although he wrote about his grandparents’ experiences as immigrants to the United States in the personal statement section of his UC application, he doesn’t think that what they endured had “anything to do with [his] race.”

Instead of race and ethnicity, he thinks that admission to UCs and CSUs should be based on merit. He cites his own involvement in extracurricular activities and his high GPA for his admittance to Cal.

“Race is just a blanket statement of someone. In my opinion it doesn’t mean any-

thing,” Salazar said.

“I’m glad that America has afforded me this privilege through my merit, not through some bureaucrat up in Sacramento or even the [UC] regents holding my hand, which I think is very unfair,” he added.

Berkeley College Republicans vice-president Derek Zhou agrees.

“Basically we’re trying to move society forward [to] get past race,” he said during a brief break from selling cupcakes and arguing with pro-SB 185 students who approached the busy bake sale, which made \$800 by the end of the day, as reported by UC Berkeley’s campus newspaper.

“Let’s not just forget about it because of the history, we all know what the history is, but really [let’s] try . . . to look past it because you’re not going to solve the problem of judging people by race by judging people by race,” Zhou added.

But proponents of SB 185 contest that the current system of admissions at UCs and CSUs is not truly merit-based.

Vallarta, for example, doesn’t think that she worked harder than her peers to get to college. Instead, she credits her parents’ encouragement for her decision to pursue higher education and believes that many of her friends from high school would have benefited from a policy like SB 185.

“If you come from a broken family and if you go to a school like mine that’s under-resourced and underprivileged where the teachers don’t really care about you and if you live in a society that constantly distrusts you and looks at you like a delinquent, it’s like where are you going to turn? Where are you going to go?” said Vallarta.

So instead of going to college, most of her friends from high school dropped out or

joined gangs, she says.

In 1996, California banned affirmative action in its college admissions process with the public voting in favor of the California Civil Rights Initiative, or Prop. 209.

Florida, Michigan, Nebraska, Texas and Washington are also among the states that have banned affirmative action, though Michigan’s ban was overturned by the Supreme Court’s Sixth Circuit this past July.

When Prop. 209 was passed in California, the general Asian Pacific American population on UC campuses such as Cal increased, though some ethnicities under the “Asian American” umbrella remained underrepresented.

“The few Filipinos that were able to achieve access to the university were those of the middle/upper-middle class, a small group that does not represent the entire Filipino community within the greater L.A. area,” said University of California, Los Angeles student Anne Alvarez by email, explaining how the passage of Prop. 209 affected the Filipino American population at UCLA.

Alvarez’s work with Filipino students in low-income areas in Los Angeles, as well as the struggles of her own cousins to go to college, has motivated her to support SB 185.

Likewise, it is her high school friends who encouraged Vallarta to wear black and join the protest against the Berkeley College Republicans bake sale.

She believes that the passage of SB 185 “would show them that their struggles will be taken into account. It’s like saying, ‘I know what you’ve gone through and it sucks but you can use your struggle and turn it into something beautiful’ and that beautiful thing would be going to college,” she said. ■

Asian American Students Struggle With Rising Tuition



The UC system made \$813 million in cuts during the 2009-2010 academic year leaving many students, including APAs, struggling to pay their increased tuition.

Many college students are taking on extra jobs, more loans or even deferring their education to cope with this new reality.

**By Christine McFadden
Correspondent**

Oregon State University fifth year senior and marketing major David Truong opened his mail last Spring to find an unexpected and unwelcomed surprise.

“My federal grant got cut last spring by \$2,000,” said Truong. “They were reviewing my financial aid. I didn’t know about it until week three or four that they cut that much money.”

In June, Oregon’s House passed a budget that cuts the Oregon University system’s state support by 11 percent over the next two years, according to *The Oregonian*. As a result, tuition was raised by an average of 7.5 percent by the State Board of Higher Education.

Luckily, Truong was quickly able to compensate for the unexpected lack of funding. He won \$1,000 in the lottery and received \$1,200 from his insurance after his car was hit. However, he acknowledges that he will not be that “lucky” in the future.

“We had to redo the [financial aid] package,” he said. “I ended up getting like \$500 less a term now.”

Truong took out a loan. The thought never crossed his mind that he would put off finishing school for financial reasons.

“Our tuition has increased by 7-8 percent this year, [but] I have to finish,” he said. “There’s no way I’m going to have two terms left and not finish school.”

With steadily increasing tuition rates and continuous cuts to university budgets, Asian Pacific American students from across the nation are struggling to pay for higher education. Many are taking on extra jobs, taking out more loans and even deferring their education to cope with this new reality.

“... College is expensive and I took a year off of school to work, save money, so I could go to college,” said Jennie Saechao, a student at Concorde Career Institute in Northeast Portland.

Saechao does not rely on her parents as a source of funding.

“They can’t help me because they can barely manage their own bills,” she said. “They struggle day to day trying to work for their money. So, in my case, tuition is an issue.”

Asian American Groups Struggling

According to the *The Daily Campus*, the University of Connecticut’s student newspaper, state funding to the university has dropped from 50 percent to 32.2 percent in the past two decades, while simultaneously, student tuition has jumped from 17.6 percent to 32.3 percent.

“The amount of programming and the quality of programming that we’ve been able to do has definitely been affected over the years,” said Sheila Kucko, assistant director of UConn’s Asian American Cultural Center. “Now it’s very hard to do a program without co-sponsoring with other departments on campus.”

APA students are the largest minority group on the UConn campus, making up 9 percent of the student body.

The changes in funding percentages places UConn into the same category as a West Coast school that made national news last year over budget cuts: the University of California, Berkeley.

According to *The Economist*, this is the first year that the Berkeley students will have to pay more tuition than their state allocates in funding.

The UC system made \$813 million in cuts during the 2009-10 academic year, with almost \$150 million cut to UC Berkeley, according to the university. This year, UC Berkeley’s target cut is \$80.8 million out of the \$500 million statewide reduction. APA students make up 45.7 percent of UC Berkeley as of fall 2010. About 64 percent of undergraduates receive financial aid.

Scholarships Slipping Away

According to the National Center for Education Statistic’s 2011 report, 66 percent of all undergraduates received some type of financial aid. Seven percent received aid through work-study jobs averaging \$2,400 in wages, 8.7 percent were APA.

Vivian Ngo, a senior at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU), a liberal arts school south of Tacoma, Washington, has additionally faced difficulties with financial aid and part-time jobs.

In 2010, Washington state governor Chris Gregoire proposed suspending the work study program for a year — a thought that scared Ngo.

Ngo, who had the same job for the past three years at nearby Gray Middle School as an after school program instructor, had to stop this year due to her conflicting

schedule. She currently works at the Boys & Girls Club and spent the summer working as a resident assistant, where monetary constraints were additionally present.

“They were really aware of what hours ... had to be cut out of the day and the budget,” Ngo said.

Her federal pell grants have also been cut.

“It’s kind of big just because [of] my family’s financial situation,” said Ngo. “The reason why I’m at PLU is because of the financial aid and scholarships.”

A double major in Geoscience and English, Ngo’s two older brothers are also in college. Her brother Lyon attends Portland State University and another brother, Nick, graduated from OSU last spring.

Ngo says that in addition to rising tuition at PLU, this year she is also paying the same price living off campus as it would have taken to live on campus.

“I’ve seen a lot of people drop out just because of money,” she said. “Some are just done, others are going to community colleges.”

Kenny Kao, a senior at Stanford University in electrical engineering, went to boarding school in Pennsylvania but is from Taiwan. As an international student, he faces separate challenges with tuition costs.

Stanford’s student health plan, Cardinal Care, changed in 2010 requiring international students to pay in 12-month increments. Students not on campus for summer quarters would have to pay the full \$3,000 regardless of the health care plan.

Although the university has since amended payments including allowing for international students to opt out if their domestic coverage satisfies university criteria, Kao is still upset.

“On principle, I think it’s unreasonable,” said Kao, who paid \$1,128 for health insurance on his most recent Stanford bill instead of the usual \$800 for Cardinal Care that he shelled out in past payments. “It kind of screws up the budget.”

Kao is pursuing a master’s degree at Stanford nonetheless. Ngo is putting off more school after graduation due to high costs.

“It’s probably going to be more heavily weighted than before,” she said of money being an influence in post-undergraduate plans. She hopes to find a job at an organization like AmeriCorps and work there for a year or two.

“There’s not as much money and scholarships and it’s a lot more difficult,” she continued. ■

Heart Mountain Internment Photos Donated to Washington State

By Nicholas K. Geranios
Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash.—A Japanese American boy stands outside the barracks of the internment camp, looking at the distinctive shape of Heart Mountain in the distance.

The poignant, long ago moment is captured in one of a huge collection of photographs from the Heart Mountain internment camp for JAs that has been donated to Washington State University.

The black and white photos were taken by George Hirahara and his son Frank, who were among about 1,000 residents of the Yakima Valley who were incarcerated at the internment camp in Wyoming during World War II. They were donated by Patti Hirahara, Frank's daughter, who wanted the historic images to be available to as many people as possible.

"It has spurred lots of inquiries from organizations who want access to the photos," said Hirahara of Anaheim, Calif., about her donation. "I've got requests from families who wanted to see the photos to look for family members."

Some of the photos were previewed recently at the campus library.

Hirahara, who was born after the war, said three generations of her family — her great grandfather, grandfather and father — were interned at Heart Mountain.

The approximately 2,000 black and white photos depict life in the camp between 1943 and 1945, and are said to be the largest collection of photos from Heart Mountain, which was located near Cody, Wyo. About half will be available online starting in October 2012, thanks to a \$49,000 grant from the National Park Service.

Trevor Bond, head of WSU's Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections, said the photos are remarkable.

"The sharp quality of the images will allow researchers to examine minute details in the photographs, such as the food on the table or the crops grown in the Heart Mountain compound," he said.

During WWII, Heart Mountain became a temporary home for more than 10,000 people from Washington, Oregon and California during the war.

The Hirahara family was housed in Barrack 15, and most of the photos were of activities around the barracks and of other internees from the Yakima Valley.

Internees were allowed to have cameras starting in 1943, and father and son began taking pictures as a hobby. George built a darkroom.

Both Hiraharas had outgoing personalities, and other internees began asking them to take their portraits, in formal and casual settings, WSU said.

After the war, George returned to the Yakima Valley, taking the photos with him.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

George Hirahara built a darkroom in Heart Mountain during World War II.

He became a U.S. citizen in 1954.

Frank's only child, Patti, discovered the photos in her grandparent's attic in Yakima, in the early 1990s, and had them shipped to her home in Anaheim.

A journalist and public relations executive, Patti lent some of the photos over the years for displays at the Anaheim Public Library and a city museum.

She also donated items from her family's Yakima roots to the Yakima Valley Museum for an on-going exhibit about Japanese pioneers in the valley. That exhibit will run through 2013.

But Patti still had the large collection

of photos from the internment camp, and wanted to preserve it for future generations.

Because her father attended WSU, she contacted the school and arranged the donation earlier this year. Reaction was immediate after the gift was initially announced.

"We never expected this collection would draw this much attention," she said.

She has been working with survivors of the camps and their families to identify the people in the photos.

"A network of survivors is helping me," she said. "People want to make sure this story is told correctly." ■



Dan Choi has been at the forefront of fighting the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Army Officer Discharged Under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Will Re-enlist

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

An Asian Pacific American Iraq War veteran who was discharged from the Army for coming out as gay on a national television news show says he wants to re-enlist now that the ban on gays and lesbians serving openly in uniform has been lifted.

Dan Choi, 30, was discharged in 2010 as a lieutenant from the Army National Guard.

"Going back to the military will be a vindication," Choi told Politico.

Repeal of the 18-year-old legal provision known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" — under which gays could serve as long as they didn't openly acknowledge their sexual orientation — took effect Sept. 27.

Service members who were discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" will be allowed to re-enlist, but their applications will not be given priority over those of any others with prior military experience who are seeking to re-enlist.

Choi, who is Korean American, has been

at the forefront of fighting the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Last November, he famously handcuffed himself to a fence outside the White House to protest the policy. Placed on federal trial in the nation's capital recently on a charge of failing to obey an order to leave the area, a judge put his trial on hold Aug. 31, and he claimed a victory.

For his activism, Choi was honored with JACL's Outstanding National Leadership Award July 9.

"West Point taught me honor," said Choi at the event. "We don't always understand the meaning of honor. Sometimes it's used as a punch line relegated to Hollywood. Well, honor is real and honor lives whenever we sacrifice on behalf of justice, when we sacrifice on behalf of those who cannot stand up for themselves."

In 1993, the JACL national board adopted a resolution in support of ending discrimination against LGBTs in the military. ■

Date Set For Gold Medal Ceremony



President Barack Obama signed the Congressional Gold Medal bill last October.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

A date has been set for the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to Japanese American veterans of World War II.

Veterans from the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service will receive the honor in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 2.

The House voted Sept. 21 to approve the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the event. The Senate passed the measure earlier this month.

The National Veterans Network (NVN), a coalition of 25 JA veterans and civic organizations, will be hosting three events in honor of the gold medal ceremony including a Nov. 2 gala dinner and a Nov. 3 ceremony at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

"It is an incredible moment for generations

of Japanese Americans to celebrate and honor the contributions these brave veterans have made to the American story," said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, NVN chair.

Congress last year voted to award the medal collectively to those who served in the three segregated units. President Barack Obama signed the legislation shortly afterward.

The veterans volunteered to go to war even though they were branded "enemy aliens" and rendered ineligible for the draft.

The 442nd RCT included the 100th Battalion, one of the most highly decorated units in U.S. military history. The MIS, who is credited with helping hasten the end of WWII, was honored with a Presidential Unit Citation in 2000.

The gold medal is Congress' highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions. ■

WHY I'M A JACLER

Dynamic Leader in Wasatch Front North JACL

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Why I'm a JACler" celebrates members who make a difference in the organization and the community. In addition to highlighting remarkable JACLers, "Why I'm a JACler" aims to encourage activism and raise the visibility of the JACL and its mission.



For Marion Hori (front row, center) JACL is a family affair.

Marion Hori knows how to save a sinking ship.

In the 1990s when her chapter, the Wasatch Front North JACL, long suffering from low membership numbers and inactivity, was being threatened with absorption into another local chapter, she knew she had to do something.

Membership was down to about 25, but members wanted to keep their own chapter and their own identity. They needed a leader.

Marion's husband, Tom Hori, had an idea. "He turned to me and said, 'Well you're not doing anything,'" she said with a laugh.

Marion, a Nisei from the Ogden, Utah area, had just retired from working at Hill Air Force Base after 30 years of service as a quality assurance specialist. And her children Lance, Jaclyn and Crystalyn were blossoming into adults.

"I raised my hand and said I would do it," she said. "Someone had to do it."

Marion was elected chapter president and dove into the most important task: raising membership numbers.

"When she gets involved, she wants to push everything. That's why the chapter has flourished under her leadership and involvement," said Tom.

**Marion Hori, 70
Wasatch Front
North JACL
Nominated by Larry
Grant, former IDC
district governor**

The Wasatch Front North JACL has weathered the storm with a current membership count of about 75, according to Marion.

Her secret to success is buoyed by a deep JACL family tradition. Marion's JACL membership spans the same length as her marriage — almost 50 years. Tom helped establish the Wasatch Front North chapter after working on the Redress campaign.

"JACL has been a huge part of our family," said Jaclyn Hori, 30, their daughter. Family vacations were planned around the organization's convention and the running family joke is that Jaclyn was named after the organization.

"She would say that I was named after my grandpa Jack, but then we would go to a JACL meeting and she would introduce me and say, 'All we did was add a "yn" to her name,'" said Jaclyn.

"JACL does a lot of good things," said Marion, 70. "There's a need for it."

Her inspiration to keep the tradition going stretches as far back as World War II. She was a baby when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 forcing Japanese Americans on the West Coast to re-

locate or be incarcerated in desolate camps. Her parents Shigeso and Masae Nishimoto, who ran a business in Stockton, Calif., had to leave everything behind to be incarcerated at Rohwer.

"My parents taught me to be stronger. We were put down so hard during the war," said Marion. "Afterwards they said, 'Don't let them do that to you again.' They pushed us pretty hard."

Her parents' lesson has resonated. Crystalyn Hori-Wilson, 26, says her mother has mastered the art of persuasion.

"I don't want to say she's pushy, but she's persistent," said Crystalyn. "She uses humor. She'll kind of joke around and before you know it, you're chapter president."

Marion did this with several family members including her brother-in-law, Gerald Nisogi, who Crystalyn said didn't really attend JACL events regularly until Marion talked to him. Then he became the Wasatch Front North chapter president. Jaclyn has also served as chapter president.

"There are followers and leaders. She clearly serves as leader," said Tom, 70, who runs a land surveying business.

"She is very, very energetic," said Crystalyn. "She brought this new energy into a chapter that was practically dead. The numbers show it."

To revive the Wasatch Front North JACL, Marion held fundraisers and membership

parties including a casino night. The emphasis was on social activities to attract new and lapsed members.

"We stayed visible. That was the key," said Marion.

Four years ago, the Wasatch Front North JACL hosted a Day of Remembrance event in Ogden celebrating military personnel and outstanding community leaders. The event filled a 450-capacity ballroom, an unprecedented feat and a testimony to Marion's leadership skills, said Tom.

"She is quick to volunteer for whatever the need is," he said.

Marion is also active in her local Buddhist church and currently works at the JACL Credit Union.

Larry Grant, former IDC district governor who has known Marion for almost two decades, praised her "dynamic leadership."

"Her dedication to JACL is tremendous," said Grant. "I am sure she will say she is just ordinary, but her stamina and commitment are extraordinary."

Marion summarizes her passion simply: "I believe in the JACL." ■

NOMINATE A JACLER

To nominate a JACler to highlight, send the nominee's contact information, chapter affiliation and a brief explanation of why he/she is a noteworthy JACler to:

pc@pacificcitizen.org.

Join the movement. BECOME A JACLER

Join JACL I want to give a JACL gift membership I want to renew my JACL membership # _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____



Mail to:
250 E. 1st St. #301
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

Email Info. to:
pc@pacificcitizen.org

(The P.C. will forward this request to National JACL. Membership fees will be assessed by National JACL)

WWII 'Loyalty Hearing' Courtroom Dedicated

The hearings at Fort Missoula sought to unravel sabotage plans among Issei men.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

A Fort Missoula courtroom that was used to hold "loyalty hearings" for more than 1,000 Issei men living in the U.S. during World War II has been restored and was dedicated Sept. 24.

A replica of the courtroom's bench rises on the far end of the room. The knotty pine wall paneling has been restored. The ceiling tiles and lights reflect Army decor of the period, though no photos of the courtroom have been found, according to *The Missoulian*.

The Post Headquarters Courtroom held hearings for first generation Japanese men taken from their homes in the months

following America's entry in the war after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941.

The FBI arrested the Issei men — who were barred from becoming American citizens — after they were identified as prominent leaders or potential security risks.

George Joji Tsutakawa, a Japan-born resident who before WWII was working as a treaty merchant to an import-export business in Seattle, was among the Issei men incarcerated at Fort Missoula while his family was sent to Puyallup and then Minidoka.

"Being separated from our father was devastating, but mother persevered and nurtured us through the ordeal," said Marion Kanemoto, his daughter.

The "loyalty hearings" at Fort Missoula began in January 1942. The U.S. government thought that if there were any kind of sabotage being planned, the Issei

men were the ones who would influence it, Carol Van Valkenburg, a University of Montana journalism professor, said in a video posted on the Historical Museum of Fort Missoula's website.

None was ever charged with an act of disloyalty but all were detained at Fort Missoula or in other camps for the war's duration.

Tsutakawa was incarcerated at Fort Missoula for about a year. He didn't talk about his experience there, said Kanemoto.

"I think it's important to preserve this part of American history because it will be a reminder that the civil rights of all peoples must be respected and not compromised," she said about the dedication of the courtroom.

The Department of Immigration and Naturalization established four so-called "justice camps" like Fort Missoula after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Fort Missoula has been restoring the courtroom with funding from the National Park Service since Missoula County and the museum purchased the post headquarters from the U.S. Forest Service last year.

During WWII, Fort Missoula's Alien Detention Center was established to hold foreign nationals and resident aliens.

Fort Missoula, the largest intact WWII internment site with most major buildings of the era still in use, including the Post Headquarters with its courtroom, is working with the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center to bring the exhibit "Taken: FBI" to Fort Missoula. The exhibit will have personal items from Oregon Issei men who were incarcerated at Fort Missoula, according to Diane Sands, the museum's development director and Fort Missoula Alien Detention Camp project coordinator. ■

VERY

truly yours

BY HARRY K. HONDA



NIKKEI
VOICE
BY GIL ASAKAWA

PANA: Gazing at the North-South Dimension



Much of the history of the Pan American Nikkei Association (PANA) can be found in a bilingual Spanish-English book authored in 2005 by Emi Kasamatsu, “Historia de la Asociación: Nikkei Presencia e inmigración japonesas en las Americas” — “History of the Pan American Nikkei Association: Japanese presence and immigration in the Americas.”

For Nisei in America (circa 1935-1955), often seen as a potential bridge between U.S. and Japan to promote understanding, Pearl Harbor and the war in the Pacific shattered that bridge. Nisei in Latin America realized that and began what might be called the “North-South Dimension.” The issue was integration.

They were eager to meet their English-speaking cousins in North America. They wanted an organization to encourage fraternal relations, exchange experiences and keen about their history and heritage. We learned Japanese immigrants were in Mexico (1897), Cuba (1898), Peru, Bolivia (1899), a shipload of 781 in Brazil (1908), of which 160 went to Argentina (1909), in Chile (1910), Colombia (1926), Venezuela (1928), Uruguay (1930), Paraguay (1932) and the Dominican Republic (1956).

Such was PANA’s birth. Now, see how it has developed.

The PANA convention just held at Cancún, Sept. 1-3, attracted 285 participants from 17 countries at Cancún Palace Hotel-Spa. No dates were announced, but COPANI-17 will be held in Buenos Aires in 2013.

Japanese Ambassador to Mexico Shuichiro Megata congratulated PANA communities exchanging views of Nikkei identity, developing core businesses in different countries, and maintaining their cultural heritage at the opening session Thursday.

Instant translation continues to be featured at the general sessions. Admittedly Spanish is the predominant language but this time English exhibited its role with printed reports and bilingual PowerPoint presentations at some workshops.

APN (Asociación Panamericana Nikkei) president Noritaka Yano (Brazil) and his cabinet were re-elected to a second term. Looking ahead,

Yano said, “We have many tasks to be done,” pointing to the Nikkei from the Caribbean countries and South Asia. The Dominican Republic representation was reactivated, long absent since 1981. One Nisei from Singapore, participants from Germany and France added to PANA’s charm.

Venerable co-founder Carlos Kasuga (Mexico) was heartened by the vitality and enthusiasm of young people responsible for COPANI-16 and anticipates more to come. “If you (the Nisei) find any fault, it will be entirely involuntary and accidental, so I hope you know how to forgive them.”

The youth-inspired theme was the most commanding ever devised for PANA: “*Porque ser Nikkei no es ser diferente, sino el que hacer la diferencia.* Because being a Nikkei is not to be different, but to be the one that makes the difference.” Essence of being a Nikkei is sharing their bicultural wealth, affinity to roots in Japan and convictions.

Hiroshi Kashiwagi, Sansei convention president-organizer, expressed his pride and gratitude for being entrusted to welcome the Nikkei from many countries. This was PANA’s first convention organized by the youth, college graduates in their 20s and 30s, who happily spoke English to those from the U.S. and Canada. This also was believed to be the first Nikkei convention where the hotel room rate included all meals, the bottled water, beer and soft drinks stored in the room’s small refrigerator.

Two unforgettable slices of life in Mexico were highlights included in the US\$200 registration fee: (a) XCARET, a Mayan jungle playground, swim in the ocean and folkloric dancers, and (b) the 45-minute cruise to Isla Mujeres’ melodramatic night show, Mexican dinner al fresco plus PANA’s traditional exchange of gifts. Both events lasted till 10:30 p.m.

Workshops, including Q&A scaled to 45 minutes on Friday, focused on Nikkei identity, Nikkei diversity, Nikkei institutions, Pan American perspectives, Nikkei youth perspectives, discover Nikkei, collective memories, America’s Japanese cultural attractions, Japanese language, taiko (Brazil), community schools, Japanese corporate vision, international cooperation, volunteerism in Nikkei institutions, professional and entrepreneurial affairs, *dekasegi*, Japanese culture through Soft Power, and in English *sogo shosha* by Meiji University students from Mexico.

Twelve karaoke singers from Paraguay, Argentina, Peru, Mexico and the U.S. entertained a full-house at the hotel. Even the audience sang from memory during the program break by Peru’s veteran showman-toastmaster Gerardo Maruy the popular children’s song, *Yuuyake Koyake*.

Attendees by countries: Argentina 16; Bolivia 1; Brazil 35, Canada 6, Chile 7, Colombia 5, Dominican Republic 2, France 2, Germany 2, Japan 22, Korea 1, Mexico 94, Paraguay 17, Peru 16, Singapore 1, United States 35, Uruguay 1, and Venezuela 12. ■

Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.

Traveling to Japan

Seven months after the earthquake and tsunami and subsequent nuclear disaster hit Japan, my wife Erin and I are going to do the one thing that I think will help Japan the most, even more than the hundreds of dollars we’ve donated to various aid efforts. We’re going to visit Japan — with my mother in tow — and spend money there. Since the dollar is hurting against the yen, we’ll be spending even more money than we originally had expected.

We’re heading to Japan on a trip that will unfortunately not include the Tohoku region that was devastated by the quake and tsunami (I really want to see the area and its revival).

Instead, our trip will include a couple of days in Sapporo where my uncle (my mom’s brother) lives, and then several days in Nemuro, a small fishing town on the easternmost tip of Hokkaido, the northern island where my mom was born and raised. Then we’ll take a plane south to Tokyo, then south from there on the *Shinkansen*, or Bullet Train, to Hiroshima where Erin’s family is originally from (and where my family lived for a couple of years before moving to the U.S. when I was a kid). We’ll finish the trip with a couple of rushed days in Kyoto, the cultural heart of Japan, and fly back after two weeks.

There’s a lot to think about whenever you travel out of the country. But for Japanese Americans, there are layers of cultural and emotional complexity that most tourists don’t have to think about.

I’ve found over the years that many Sansei JAs — that is to say, JAs around my (baby boomer) age — I know aren’t that interested in visiting Japan. Most feel uncomfortable because they identify as American, not Japanese, and can’t speak the language. They don’t want to feel embarrassed when strangers or even family members speak to them and they can’t understand.

Plus, as Americans they’re just as interested in traveling to Europe or Latin America as they might be in traveling to Asia. Or they dream of going to Hong Kong or Beijing more than Tokyo.

Since I was born in Japan and lived there until I was eight, I love traveling back and re-connecting to my childhood memories. It took me decades after our move before I got to fly to Japan again, and the country’s changed so much that it’s exciting for me to see the evolution of everything from cities and cuisine (there were no McDonald’s when I lived there) to language and culture.

But for some JAs, that ever-evolving culture is completely foreign and understandably, distant. Luckily, Erin is as in touch with her roots as I am — which is surprising since she’s Yonsei, fourth-generation, whose great grandmother emigrated to the U.S. in the early part of the 20th century pregnant with Erin’s grandmother. Her great-grandparents, grandparents and parents on both sides were imprisoned in concentration camps during WWII.

That internment experience is what forced the break within many JA families. After the war, many families moved away from Japantown areas to disperse and assimilate into the white suburbs. Many stopped speaking Japanese or even cooking much Japanese food. Some even — gasp — stopped taking off their shoes in the house.

We’re eager to explore our roots, and we’re happy to be tourists since Japan needs very badly for more tourists to visit. I’ll be blogging and we’ll post lots of videos and photos as we go, to encourage other visitors to book a trip to Japan.

Erin and I are cramming for the trip by listening to a Japanese immersion series of CDs to boost our vocabulary and grammar, and of course, trying to lose weight and look good for the family members we’ll meet.

The first time I went to Japan with my mom, we were picked up at the airport in Sapporo by my uncle, who I hadn’t seen in over 30 years. His first words to me? “*Ha, futoh-ta neh!*” (“Huh, you got fat.”)

This time I’m determined to hear something warmer upon my arrival!

Gil Asakawa is a former P.C. editorial board chair.

The Jabbawockeez Unmasked



PHOTO: ERIK KABIK/RETNA

The Jabbawockeez's won the "America's Best Dance Crew" title in 2008 and said they always dreamed of having a show on the Las Vegas strip.

The Jabbawockeez announced recently that their popular Las Vegas show "MUS.I.C.", which opened in 2010, will be extended through Spring 2012 at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Basking in the shimmering lights of the Las Vegas strip is like living a dream for the Jabbawockeez who have traveled a long journey since they first slipped on their signature white gloves and masks to appear on MTV.

The Jabbawockeez now have their dance crew name in lights at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. Reviewers and audiences have praised their high-energy dance show since it opened in 2010.

"Ever since we even started Jabbawockeez in '03 we always talked about how it would be cool the fact that if we had a Jabbawockeez show on the strip," said Chris "Cristyle" Gatdula, 30. "It's something that we're still probably trippin' off of."

Their popular show "MUS.I.C." debuted in October of last year and has been extended through Spring 2012.

Each show sees 11 Jabbawockeez decked out in their popular white gloves and masks. Using dance, music and a dash of humor, the Jabbawockeez take the audience on an audio-visual journey that strays from the conventional Las Vegas magic or showgirls performances.

A combination of water and Red Bull keeps the Jabbawockeez's energy level high to perform for each show, said Kevin "KB" Brewer. To unwind they have VIP access to the Monte Carlo steam room and sauna.

"It's been like 250-plus shows under our belt with no days off and we've been blessed, for the most part, to stay healthy and complete," 34-year-old Brewer said about training like an athlete for the show.

The road to Vegas was years in the making for the Jabbawockeez. Before there were 11 members, there were the 3 Musky: Joseph Larot, Kevin Brewer and Phil Tayag.

The Jabbawockeez, which takes its name from the Lewis Carroll fictional storybook character, was comprised of eight original members.

It was 2008 when the Jabbawockeez appeared on MTV's "Randy Jackson Presents America's Best Dance Crew" with six members. They had intended to also dance with member Gary Kendell, who left his stylistic mark on the group before passing away months before the show's premiere.

Despite the tragedy, the hip-hop dancers beat out their competition to win the title of best dance crew.

Shows like "ABDC" gave Asian American dancers like



PHOTO: ABC/ISAAC BREKKEN

Jabbawockeez member Chris Gatdula says a strong connection to their families has kept them grounded.

those in the Jabbawockeez an opportunity to showcase their talent on national TV, said Gatdula.

"There were probably like a few," Gatdula said of the limited AA dancers on TV before the MTV show. "And now you see a bunch of Asian Americans on TV dancing and even doing their own artistry."

Some Jabbawockeez members say they draw on their AA heritage as inspiration.

"Music and dance are a huge part of Vietnamese culture," said Jeff "Phi" Nguyen, 30. "I think I came from the entertainment side of my heritage, so I just applied that to music that I can relate to."

The Jabbawockeez come from diverse backgrounds and different areas on the West Coast. But, Brewer says, they are

like a family.

"We are brothers in every sense of the word," Brewer said. "It's just we all come from different mothers and fathers."

The group has evolved and matured since their days on MTV. With their newfound fame came appearances on the big screen and on TV shows like "The Today Show," "The Bachelorette," "So You Think You Can Dance," "Regis & Kelly" and more.

Their signature masks have also changed since their MTV debut.

"The mask definitely has evolved over the years," Gatdula said adding that the first masks were hard-to-breathe-from ski masks. "We would go to the stores and they wouldn't have enough masks. Sometimes we'd have like two grey ones, three white ones, [they were] different shapes and we would have to paint all of them the same color, which would be white."

These days any fan can stop by the Jabbawockeez website and purchase a custom-made mask like the performers wear on stage. The Jabbawockeez's signature masks — and moves — are known across the world.

"We're known in so many different continents. It's just like wow!" Brewer said. "You're talking about looking at ABDC and how far we've come? I'm looking back at 2003. I'm looking back when we first started kicking it back in 2000. That's where it really all started. Now we're looking at these billboards in Vegas."

Las Vegas is likely not the last stop for the Jabbawockeez, who say they continue to dream big.

"Every night I go to sleep, I always have a brand new dream to accomplish when I awake," Nguyen said. "The goal is to make our brand a household name when it comes to dance."

Other Jabbawockeez are keeping mum about their future plans.

"If I told people what we're dreaming of for the future then it wouldn't be a surprise," Gatdula said with a laugh. "We definitely have a lot of surprises for people, that's definitely yet to come."

For now fans can catch the Jabbawockeez at the Monte Carlo until Spring of 2012. ■

Fresno Assembly Center Memorial Rededicated



PHOTO: JOHN D. HIX

The Fresno Assembly Center Memorial tells the WWII JA story through storyboards and banners.

By *Pacific Citizen* Staff

A memorial at the site of a former World War II Japanese American assembly center in Fresno, Calif. was rededicated during an Oct. 5 ceremony.

The Fresno Assembly Center Memorial tells the WWII JA experience through storyboards and banners featuring

historical photos and commentaries. Storyboards are framed with wood from the original barracks. The memorial also features a wall inscribed with the names of former internees.

The dedication ceremony was co-sponsored by the Big Fresno Fair and the JACL's Central California District Council.

The memorial received local historical landmark in 1991 and was later re-dedicated on Feb. 19, 1992, with California Registered Historical Landmark No. 934.

During WWII, over 5,000 JAs from the Central Valley passed through the fairground's gates on their way to internment camps in 1942.

"The memorial is about remembrance, respect and responsibility," said Dale Ikeda, Fresno Superior Court judge. "We should remember the mistakes of the past so they are not repeated. We should respect those who suffered persecution and prejudice and went on to live productive and exemplary lives and those who stood up for justice. We should be responsible for our own words and deeds as we strive to be just and compassionate human beings."

Planning for the memorial has been underway since 2009 when the Big Fresno Fair board of directors approached the Pinedale Assembly Center memorial committee to upgrade the Fresno Assembly Center memorial.

Funding for the \$180,000 project was provided by a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program and by contributions from Friends of the Fresno District Fair, Fresno County Office of Education, Sun-Maid Growers of California and others.

Fresno County is the only county that housed two assembly centers during WWII. ■

S.J. JACL's Community Recognition Dinner to be Held Oct. 15

San Jose JACL's 9th Annual Community Recognition Dinner will honor local leaders and musicians who exemplify the spirit of community service.

This year's honorees are: Roy and P.J. Hirabayashi, founders of San Jose Taiko; Jim McClure, San Jose Obon chair; Wes Mukoyama, former executive director of Yu-Ai Kai; the San Jose Zebras, a pioneering organization in Nikkei basketball; and the Wesley Jazz Ensemble.

The recognition dinner themed, "100 Years and Beyond: Honoring Community Service," will be held Oct. 15 at the San Jose Airport Garden Hotel's Mediterranean Center.

Jana Katsuyama, KTVU Channel 2 staff reporter, will be the mistress of ceremonies.

She also served as emcee in 2009.

In conjunction with the dinner, San Jose JACL will host a silent auction and benefit drawing to raise funds for the chapter's programs. ■

Community Recognition Dinner

Oct. 15, 5 p.m.; no-host cocktails and silent auction 4 p.m.

San Jose Airport Garden Hotel's Mediterranean Center
1740 North First Street

Cost: \$85/person or \$850/table for 10

For more information: contact Tom Oshidari at toshidari@yahoo.com or 408/257-5609 or Sharon Uyeda at suyeda9356@aol.com or 408/259-3656.

Placer JACL Continues Fundraising for WWII Monument



The memorial will feature a bronze plaque that tells the story of the JA WWII veterans.

A memorial that will feature the names of World War II veterans of Japanese ancestry and document the story

of the wartime incarceration still needs to raise funds.

Ken Tokutomi, Placer JACL treasurer, recently announced that about \$40,000 is still needed to complete the project.

The memorial site will feature the names of JA WWII veterans from Placer and Sacramento Counties inscribed on bricks. A donation of \$200 will sponsor one of these veterans.

There will also be a bronze plaque that tells the story of the JA WWII veterans and will also help tell the story of the internment.

Educational materials will also be developed for students and visitors.

Placer JACL is currently selling tickets for a drawing to win a limited edition bronze scale model (\$10/ticket, \$50/6 tickets).

The drawing will be held on Veteran's Day. ■

To donate or buy tickets: www.placerjacl.org

FROM THE MIDWEST

JACL's Three Pillars

By Bill Yoshino



The question is often asked, "What does JACL do?" Unfortunately, one of the things the JACL has not done well over the years is communication, either internally for our members or externally to the public. We don't have an active public relations apparatus. The JACL newspaper, *Pacific Citizen*, operates independently, detached from the

priorities of the JACL. Our limited resources don't allow us to update our website on a daily basis, much less send regular updates to our members. Thus, a clear message about what the JACL does is often lost.

This 'woe is me' rant shouldn't mask some very positive steps taken in recent years to consolidate our programs in a way that clearly reflect our organizational mission, which is to "... secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans ... promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community." A cryptic description of what JACL does is when the term "Jap" is scrawled on a wall, we get rid of it. Where our future requires youth involvement, we help fill the leadership pipeline. And where the JA heritage and legacy need to be promoted, we work hand in hand with teachers, students and institutions to preserve it.

The JACL staff works daily to address our mission by focusing on three main program pillars: Social Justice Advocacy; Leadership Training and Development; Cultural Heritage and Preservation.

Our first program pillar is **Social Justice Advocacy**, which can be described as protecting civil rights for those victimized by injustice and bigotry. This is accomplished through our program of Legislative Action where the JACL works with organizations and public officials to support or oppose initiatives and legislation that affect the Asian Pacific American community. The JACL also monitors for incidents of defamation and hate crimes on a daily basis and responds appropriately whenever these incidents occur. This also includes the publication of educational booklets and brochures on anti-Asian sentiment and a semi-annual newsletter that compiles hate incidents and JACL responses.

The second pillar, **Leadership Training and Development**, seeks to develop a pipeline of effective leadership for positive social change for the APA community. Through our Campus Outreach Program, we present workshops at colleges and universities where we delve into issues such as hate crimes, bullying and multiracial identity. Our next workshops will be held at the Boston APA Students Intercollegiate Conference at Harvard on Oct. 21. Our annual D.C. Leadership Summit, co-sponsored with OCA, provides training for potential leaders on the decision-making process at the federal level. Our National Youth/Student Council provides opportunities for youth to participate in regional summits. Our annual Collegiate D.C. Leadership Program presents opportunities for leaders to interact with officials from Congress, the White House and federal agencies.

Cultural Heritage and Preservation is the third pillar of JACL's programs where we promote JA cultural and social values. This goal is pursued through our Teacher Training Program where we present workshops that encourage teachers to teach about the JA incarceration. Our next training will be held at the Illinois Holocaust Museum on Oct. 18. JACL's Curriculum Materials Program publishes and updates educational materials including its curriculum guide, "A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience." Our approach to preserving cultural heritage is evident in programs such as Project Community and Bridging Communities that provide sessions for students to learn about personal identity, APA issues, community organizing and community history.

Indeed, the JACL has a clear direction with a set of programs to carry out our historic civil rights mission with an eye to the future while preserving our history and the lessons it holds for our country's values. This is the message about what the JACL does. Help spread it. ■

Bill Yoshino is the JACL Midwest regional director.

Sculptor Helps Resurrect Landmark Ohio Jesus Statue

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Japanese American Tom Tsuchiya's sculpted works can be seen across Ohio and later this year his new 50-foot-tall Jesus sculpture will be seen by motorists from the I-75.

The original 62-foot-tall Jesus statue at the Ohio-based Solid Rock Church was struck by lightning and caught fire in June of 2010. The news of the burning statue swept across Ohio, reaching Tom Tsuchiya's twin brother.

"The destruction was on the news and I called Tom to alert him. I said, 'Here's your next project!'" said Steve Tsuchiya. "And, in a round-about-way, he ended up working on it."

The statue was dubbed "Touchdown Jesus" because of its outstretched arms that were pointed skyward. It was a landmark in Monroe, Ohio.

Made of fiberglass and Styrofoam, the structure caught fire during a storm when it was struck by lightning.

"We were shocked when the previous statue was destroyed by fire. The statue had been part of the culture of our church for so long, when it was gone it left an empty feeling," said Ron Carter, church administrator. "We realized immediately that the statue had to be rebuilt."

Church officials have decided not to disclose the cost of the new statue.

Monroe fire officials, according to *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, estimated the damages at about \$700,000.

To ensure the durability of the new statue, Tom Tsuchiya and others working on the project are taking appropriate precautions.

"The main criteria for this one was that it had to be fireproof," said Tom Tsuchiya, 39. "Also one of the things we're doing, is we're making sure that if there is a fire of some kind that it is not something that would spread like the way the first one did and go up in a ball of fire."

The core of the sculpture is comprised of steel. Hardware cloth makes up the flesh of the statue that will be coated with external insulation finishing system, a protective coat

that resembles stucco.

Tom Tsuchiya, who designed the piece, is working on the sculpture's head, two hands and feet. The pieces will be brought to the installation site and welded together. The main structure of the statue was installed in late September, Tom Tsuchiya said.

The sculptor's other work can be seen all across his hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio. At Xavier University Tom Tsuchiya sculpted a bronze D'Artagan statue, his first major work.

He was later commissioned to create statues of Cincinnati Reds players at the Great American Ball Park. The statue of former player Joe Nuxhall is one of Steve Tsuchiya's favorites.

"The whole statue is gracefully resting on one foot, this is something you can do with a bronze statue, due to its strength. It really takes advantage of the bronze medium," Steve Tsuchiya said about his twin brother's creation.

The JA sculptor's favorite pieces are also of Cincinnati Reds players like Ted Kluszewski, Ernie Lombardi and Frank Robinson.

"The recent one was Johnny Bench. So that was one of my most memorable ones," Tom Tsuchiya said of the sculpture that was unveiled Sept. 17. "It was a fun project. Sports figures are sort of my main thing. That's sort of the core of what I usually do."

The bronze sculpture of former ball player Johnny Bench captured his likeness posed in catcher's gear throwing out a runner.

Growing up in Cincinnati, Tom Tsuchiya recalls gathering clay from a creek nearby his house with his two brothers and making sculptures that would later crumble in pieces.

As a child he showed an aptitude for the arts, creating some of his first sculptures such as dinosaurs and a monkey eating fruit. He won an art contest in 1980 for his drawing inspired by the Summer Olympics, said his twin brother.

The Tsuchiya brothers' parents immigrated from Japan in the 60s, at different times, to the United States. Most of Tom Tsuchiya's commissioned work is Western-influenced, but some of his inspiration comes from his



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOM TSUCHIYA

Tom Tsuchiya (top) works on a Johnny Bench clay model. A rendering of Tsuchiya's Jesus statue (left) shows how the new statue will look at the Ohio-based Solid Rock Church.

parents' birthplace.

"We had the good fortune to visit Japan a few times when we were kids," Tom Tsuchiya said. "So I think we were always impressed with the castles in Japan and those kind of structures."

Other statues created by Tom Tsuchiya stray away from the bronze life-size sculptures he has created throughout Ohio.

Last year Tom Tsuchiya created a 7-foot-tall sculpture called "Atlas Recycled" made of recycled atlases and road maps. Installed in Fountain Square in Cincinnati to celebrate the 40th Earth Day, the sculpture also served as a working recycling bin.

"My goal has always been to try to get people to recycle and to not really waste a lot of materials and energy. And so the 'Atlas' is kind of like a personal project of mine," Tom Tsuchiya said. "My goal next year is to take

him to possibly maybe Washington, D.C. or Mexico City or maybe Los Angeles."

Planning on joining his girlfriend, who is contracted to work for a year in Mexico City, Tom Tsuchiya plans to travel to the country in January of next year.

He will not, however, leave before completing his current project for the Solid Rock Church.

The church has a live streaming "Jesus Cam" to monitor the progress of the statue.

"Our church is excited about the new statue. The previous statue was an icon in this area. Many people have contacted the church to comment on how the statue was an encouragement to them," Carter said. "It is our hope that the new statue will be an encouragement as well."

The project is set for completion in mid-November. ■

Restoration Effort Underway at Gresham Japanese Garden

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A Japanese garden in Gresham, Oregon long overgrown from years of neglect is finally receiving some TLC: trimming, landscaping and compost.

The 3/4-acre park located at the south end of Main City Park has historical roots. It was dedicated in 1975 as a gift from the Gresham-Troutdale JACL to the city of Gresham — a plaque in the park indicates the exchange. In its better days the park boasted sculpted foliage, unique rock formations and a curvy bridge over a creek.

Over the years, the park became overgrown — its beauty cloaked in wilderness, said Tomiko Takeuchi, an area resident.

"No one took care of it," said Takeuchi, a Sansei retired school principal who as a

child used to visit the park with her father. "I just couldn't let this die."

Takeuchi spearheaded a clean-up effort and after nearly three months of work with volunteers — including Takeuchi's own gardener, Jim Card — vestiges of the garden's former glory are re-emerging.

"It's beautiful," said Takeuchi.

Awhile back, the city planned to turn the Japanese garden into a skate park, she added. "Everyone thought someone else was in charge of it. It got lost in the shuffle. I think for the last two years no one touched it."

In 2007, city officials were working with Gresham-Troutdale and Portland JACL chapters to restore the garden, said Chip Larouche, Pacific Northwest district governor, but a year later the city hit hard financial times and laid off people in the

Parks Department they had been working with. The plan did not proceed from there, he said.

Takeuchi said the garden is too important to wait any longer. The garden was built as a living memorial for the Nisei.

After Gresham's Nisei residents returned from their incarceration in desolate World War II camps, they wanted to do something for the city, said Takeuchi.

"It's historical," she said. "There was injustice, but they rose above it."

The Gresham Sister City Association has adopted the garden through the city's adopt-a-park program and is committed to restoring and maintaining the park.

The restoration project has relied entirely on volunteer labor and donations. Noted landscape artist Toru Tanaka has volunteered

design and landscaping for the garden.

The goal is to have the garden presentable in time for Obon, said Takeuchi.

The restoration effort "honors the many Japanese American citizens that spent their lives living and farming out here in East County. Most of them are gone now, but I think they would be pleased," said Cathy Harrington, director of the city of Gresham's Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement.

Takeuchi is seeking grant opportunities to further fund the restoration project. Thus far, most expenses that have not been donated have come out of pocket, she said.

"PNW is interested in this and we'll talk about it at our October board meeting," said Larouche in an email to the *Pacific Citizen* about the restoration. ■

COMMENTARY

Japanese Americans Lead 9/11 10th Anniversary Sacramento Memorial

By Andy Noguchi and
Twila Tomita

An amazing "United Nations" of 150 diverse Americans gathered Sept. 9 for a 9/11 10th anniversary memorial at Sacramento's Buddhist Church of Florin, a historic site where Japanese Americans once met in 1942 to hear the news of their World War II concentration camp imprisonment. This time people honored the victims of 9/11 and to support innocent Muslim, Sikh and Arab Americans targeted by backlash.

Several courageous camp survivors, ranging in age from their 70s to 90s, inspired the memorial and received a standing ovation from the audience. They included: Anne and Jack Akabori, Isao Fujimoto, Al Hida, Utako Kimura, Sachiko Louie, George and Judie Miyao, Teri Mizusaka, Reiko Nagumo, Gladys Okino, Jane Okubo, Heidi Sakazaki, Kiyo Sato, Sam Shimada, Lois Tanaka, Hiroko Tsuda, and Christine and Stan Umeda. The former detainees represented eight of the ten major camps according to event coordinator Fumie Shimada.

The memorial participants included grassroots people

from the Muslim, Sikh, Arab, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Chicano, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender (LGBT), peace, social justice and JA communities. The Florin JACL, Sikh Temple of Sacramento, Council on American Islamic Relations — Sacramento Valley (CAIR-SV) and the Buddhist Church of Florin jointly sponsored the event.

The event was a reminder that 9/11 wasn't the first time America had been attacked. Christine Umeda, a Tule Lake and Topaz incarcerated, shared the tragic imprisonment of JAs, scapegoated for Japan's Dec. 7, 1941, bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Executive Director Basim El-Karra of CAIR-SV passionately related the story of how the JACL was the first national organization to stand up for Arab, Sikh and Muslim Americans after 9/11. He thanked JAs for their support.

Sacramento Sikh Temple representative Darshan Mundy explained how Sikhs continue to be victims of assaults and murders when ignorant persons blame them for looking like Osama Bin Laden. He noted that the murderers of two elderly Sikh men, a suspected hate crime in the local suburb of Elk

Grove recently, have so far escaped justice.

Former Mayor of Sacramento Anne Rudin, the first woman mayor of the city in modern times, shared her close involvement with the JA community, including her membership in JACL. Rudin is a highly-respected unifying force in Sacramento, often advocating for equal rights for all, world peace and open government.

U.S. Marshall Albert Najera (also former Sacramento City police chief) related how vital it is for law enforcement to listen to the community. Without that, the police would be isolated and ineffective at fighting crimes including the threat of terrorism. Sacramento County Undersheriff Mark Iwasa attended the memorial, highlighting his department's close ties to the community.

"Today's step might be a small step for us, but without a small step, we cannot go forward," said New Buddhist Church of Florin resident Minister Yuki Sugahara, who led a candlelight moment of silence by ringing the Buddhist gong.

A lively reception followed and showcased a rainbow of people talking to one another,



The memorial participants included grassroots people from the Muslim, Sikh, Arab, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Chicano, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender (LGBT), peace, social justice and JA communities.

sharing backgrounds, and building valuable friendships — a goal of the event. Muslims sat with Jews, Buddhists sat with LGBT members, and Sikhs sat with Christians. People remarked that they had never seen such a diverse crowd socializing in the church before.

The endorsing groups included: Advocacy and Cultural Coalition Taskforce (ACCT), Chicano Consortium, Council of Sacramento Valley Islamic Organizations (COSVIO), Court

of the Great Northwestern Imperial Empire (CGNIE), Interfaith Council of Greater Sacramento, Jewish Community Relations Council (Sacramento), Jewish Voice for Peace (Sacramento), Physicians for Social Responsibility (Sacramento) and Sacramento Area League of Associated Muslims (SALAM). ■

Andy Noguchi and Twila Tomita write from Sacramento and can be reached at FlorinJACL@hotmail.com.



Senzaki Wins GLAS JACL Scholarship

The winner of the Greater L.A. Singles JACL's 2011 Hana Uno Shepard Memorial Scholarship is Tenaya Senzaki from Altadena, Calif.

Senzaki, a 2011 Tournament of Roses princess, graduated from Pasadena High School with an unweighted 4.0 grade point average.

In high school, she was yearbook editor in chief for two years and first chair clarinet in concert band, first chair tenor sax in jazz band, and section leader in marching band.

Senzaki, who received the \$1,000 scholarship, is attending the University of California, San Diego and may major in psychology. She is also interested in graphic design. ■

Applications Available For NPS Grant Program



Last year, Colorado Preservation, Inc. received a \$291,025 NPS grant to reconstruct Amache's water tower and guard tower.

The National Park Service is now accepting grant applications to preserve and interpret U.S. camps and other sites where more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II.

The deadline is Nov. 1.

Grant money can be used to research, interpret, protect and acquire historic internment sites. The program's goal is to preserve and explain the places where JA men, women and children were incarcerated after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941.

"These places, where more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were unjustly held, testify to the alarming fragility of our constitutional rights in the face of prejudice and fear," said Jonathan

B. Jarvis, NPS director.

Congress established the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program in 2006. To date, almost \$7 million in grants have been assigned to 66 projects in or involving 17 states and the District of Columbia.

Last year, the NPS distributed 24 grants totaling \$2.9 million.

The president's budget plan for 2012 calls for \$3 million more for the program. The NPS will award the 2012 grants once Congress passes the appropriations legislation and the president signs it.

Congress has authorized up to \$38 million in grants to be awarded over the life of the program, with funds appropriated annually. ■

GUIDELINES USE

Grants can go towards a variety of uses including: design and construction of interpretive centers, trails, wayside exhibits and other facilities; oral histories and site-history research; school curriculums on internment history; and purchase of non-federal land at five of the sites (Jerome and Rohwer, Ark.; Honouliuli, Hawaii; Topaz, UT, and Heart Mountain, WY).

MATCHING FUNDS

Grant recipients must raise project funds from other sources to meet a 1-for-2 match with the grant money. Successful grantees must match \$1 in non-federal "in-kind" contributions to every \$2 received in federal money.

ELIGIBILITY

More than 50 historical locations are eligible for grant-funded work, including the 10 War Relocation Authority camps: Amache, Colo.; Gila River and Poston,

Ariz.; Heart Mountain, WY; Jerome and Rohwer, Ark.; Manzanar and Tule Lake, Calif.; Minidoka, ID; and Topaz, UT.

Also eligible are more than 40 other locations in 16 states including civilian and military-run assembly, relocation and isolation centers.

Download the 2012 application and materials: <http://www.nps.gov/hps/hpg/JACS/index.html>
The deadline is Nov. 1.

INFORMATION

Pacific West
Tom Leatherman
925/838-0249, ext. 6301
or tom_leatherman@nps.gov

Intermountain
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Midwest
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402/661-1928 or rachel_franklin-weekley@nps.gov

Hawaii
Suzanne Bott
808/541-2693, ext. 737 or suzanne_bott@nps.gov

Florida Memorial Dedicated in Honor of WWII Japanese American Veterans

A memorial honoring the bravery of World War II Japanese American veterans was recently dedicated at a Boynton Beach, Florida park.

The memorial, which depicts the 100th Battalion in battle and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team "Go For Broke" logo among other features, was officially dedicated Sept. 2 in Veterans Bicentennial Park, located at 411 North Federal Highway. The Boynton Beach Veterans Council raised funds for the memorial.

"These guys were incredible for what they did," said Tom Kaiser, chair of the Boynton Beach Veterans Council about the 442nd RCT and the 100th Battalion.

Individuals including Aiko Yamamoto, of California's Bay Area, contributed to the JA memorial's fundraising effort.

"In the placement of the monument we can be comforted that these men 'will not be forgotten,'" said Yamamoto, who attended the dedication ceremony. "As President Truman quoted of the soldiers, 'You not only had to fight the enemy, you had to fight discrimination.'"

At the dedication ceremony, Lt. Erwin Blonder, a WWII 141st Infantry "Lost" Battalion veteran praised the JA men who saved his life.

"The 442nd lost 800 men rescuing us," he told the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*.

Blonder's family traded stories with Yamamoto at the event.

"They are forever grateful to the 442nd and can't imagine what their lives would have been without their husband/father being in their lives and being able to go home again to them," said Yamamoto.

The bench, which sits alongside the JA WWII veterans' memorial is named in honor of Yamamoto's brother, Masaru Hank Fujihara, who although not a 442nd RCT veteran, served at Fort Ord in Monterey Bay, Calif., according to Yamamoto.

The JA WWII veterans' memorial was one of three to be dedicated at the park Sept. 2 in honor of V-J Day, the day in WWII when the Japanese surrendered.

The other monuments were dedicated to women veterans and African American veterans. ■

Buddhist Church Organizes Japan Relief Drive



(L-r) Brandon Mark, Charles Yagi (in cap and sunglasses), Dr. Kelvin Mark, Kats Uyeda and Sam Liang.

In response to the devastating Japanese earthquake and tsunami in March, the Buddhist Church of Stockton has coordinated the largest one-time collection of relief effort goods sent from the West Coast of the U.S., according to Charles H. Yagi, board president of the Buddhist church.

The church placed notices about their collection

drive in local newspapers and radio and television shows. Within a month, over 18,000-pounds of clothing, blankets and linen, and non-perishable food items were donated.

Church members sorted and packaged all of the donated items. The collection effort started in March and items were shipped in July.

Due to governmental restrictions, only 8,135 pounds of the relief effort goods were sent to Japan. The collection effort was co-chaired by Yagi, a Stockton JACL member, and church member Sam Liang.

"I felt like we needed to help people who were really in need," said Yagi.

David Silva, owner of Silva Trucking of French Camp, Calif., donated a driver and a truck/tractor trailer to transport the collected items from Stockton to the San Francisco International Airport for its final transportation to the Sendai Betsuin Church of Japan.

MORI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the limited budget, but with the right mix of technology and current data we can enhance our winning record into winning the hearts and minds of the Asian American community.

The JACL is more than just a socially conscious human rights organization. In a more complex world of competing forces for scarce social capital, the JACL needs to focus more on an economic model that will maximize the use of our limited human and economic capital to maintain a winning record in the battle for fairness and equality. We cannot tie ourselves to old fashioned traditions that prevent us from moving into the modern world of nonprofits.

The JACL's network of chapters and members has been dwindling as we continue to use decades-old tools to capture and maintain members. *Members* may be a term of the past, and we need to look to *friends*, *donors* and *supporters* along with stronger outreach to build new partners in the corporate and foundation sectors. And, of course, the effective increased use of the Internet to build new friends and communicate what we are doing is the key to the future. Without a

heavy emphasis on modern tools of communication and fundraising and by continuing old, outdated, and expensive tools of communication that do nothing more than keep a few interested members at bay, we will dwindle as an effective social justice arm of the AA community and lose our place as a preserver of our rich cultural heritage.

Using what little economic analysis is needed I will be allocating more of our new funding towards overhauling our communications, membership and development functions within the JACL. It must be done today in order for us not only to stay in the ball game but for us to become big winners when the issues of human fairness and justice come to the forefront.

The JACL is a long way from becoming extinct, but it is near the point of economic stagnation. While sentiment and tradition are important, the business model we need to work towards will entail new internal structure, more focus on what and how we are communicating to the community beyond JACL members, and a total revamping of membership. If we do this, we will be strong. If we continue to resist any change, we are doomed to the minor leagues of nonprofits. ■



Terminology and Memory of the Japanese American WWII Incarceration Experience

If you are concerned almost how the wartime experience will be remembered in bronze and taught to our institutions, join us at a one day community wide symposium.

When: Saturday, October 22, 2011
Where: JCCNC (1840 Sutter St.)
Sign-In: 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM
Program: 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Cost: Free of Charge
Lunch will be provided to all who RSVP before October 19 to Hiroshi Shimizu at 415-566-2279 or hshimizu@pachell.net

Speakers:

Roger Daniels, Neil Gotanda, Don Hata, Lane Hirabayashi, Karen Ishizuka, Tetsuden Kashima & Mako Nakagawa

Organizers:

Tule Lake Committee, Japanese American National Library and Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern California

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1) Publication Title: Pacific Citizen 2) Publication Number: 0030-8579 3) Filing Date: 9/26/2011 4) Issue Frequency: Semi-monthly, except once in January & December 5) Number of Issue Published Annually: 22 6) Annual Subscription Price: \$40 7-9) Mailing Address/Publisher: Japanese American Citizens League dba Pacific Citizen (Los Angeles County) 250 E 1st Street, Suite 301 Los Angeles, CA 90012-3819 Contact Person Editor: Caroline Aoyagi-Stom Telephone: (213) 620-1767 10) Owner: Japanese American Citizens League dba Pacific Citizen 1765 Sutter Street San Francisco, CA 94115 11) No known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities 12) Tax Status Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months 13) Publication Title: Pacific Citizen 14) Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 9/16/2010 15) Extent and Nature of Circulation: Membership Benefit and Paid Subscription a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run) Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 11,179 No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 10,710 b. Paid Circulation 1. Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 Average: 9,359 Single Issue: 8,927 2. Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 Average: 1,577 Single Issue: 1,478 c. Total Paid Distribution Average: 10,936 Single Issue: 10,405 f. Total Distribution Average: 10,936 Single Issue: 10,405 g. Copies not Distributed Average: 243 Single Issue: 305 h. Total Average: 11,179 Single Issue: 10,710 i. Percent Paid Average: 100% Single Issue: 100% 16) Publication of State of Ownership: Publication of this statement will be printed in the 10/7/2011 issue

P. H. Aoyagi, Executive Editor

GO·SEE·DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF JCCH

Children can dress up in kimono and pose for photos at the JCCH's Shichi Go San.

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's Shichi Go San
HONOLULU, HI
Nov. 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
2454 Beretania St.
Cost: \$75/Non-members; \$60/JCCH members

The annual Shichi Go San: Keiki Kimono Dressing, stems from the Meiji era (1868-1912) when parents brought their kimono-clad children to shrines and prayed for their long lives.

Info: 808/945-7633 or www.jcch.com

EDC

The Hibakusha Art of Junko Kayashige
CAMBRIDGE, MA
Oct. 13, 5:30 p.m.

Harvard School of Education's Gutman Library
6 Appian Way

Junko Kayashige survived the bombing of Hiroshima and her memories live on in her art. Her paintings will be on exhibit until Oct. 31.

Info: www.gse.harvard.edu/calendar

Asian American Portraiture Exhibit
WASHINGTON, D.C.
Sept. 16-Oct. 14

Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery
Eighth and G Streets, N.W.

The National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program have collaborated to showcase contemporary Asian American portraiture.

RSVP: 202/633-8293

NCWNP

Former Children of Manzanar Speak
MANZANAR, CA

Oct. 9-10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Manzanar Interpretive Center
5001 Highway 395

As children, Art Williams and Fred Causey spent World War II at Manzanar. Their fathers were employees of the War Relocation Authority. They'll return to Manzanar to share their experiences.

Info: 760/878-2194 ext. 3310

Surviving Today's Difficult Times
EL CERRITO, CA

Oct. 22, 1 to 3 p.m.

East Bay Free Methodist Church
5395 Potrero Ave.

The El Cerrito Crime Prevention Committee will talk about elder abuse, crime prevention, identifying your personal property and preparing for an earthquake.

Info: 510/232-5410 or www.ebfmc.org

The DLI 70th Anniversary Ball
MONTEREY, CA

Nov. 5, 5 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa
One Old Gold Course Rd.

Cost: \$75/person; \$70/presale

GO!

SEE!

Hosted by the Defense Language Institute Alumni Association, the Anniversary Ball will bring the community together for an evening of celebration.
Info: 831/242-4502

PSW

Riverside JACL General Membership Meeting
RIVERSIDE, CA

Oct. 22, Noon

First Christian Church
4055 Jurupa Ave.

The Riverside JACL chapter will hold its general membership meeting with speaker Rich David, the vice principal of North High School.

RSVP: Michiko Yoshimura at 951/784-7057

Japanese American Internment Short Films
VENICE, CA.

Oct. 29, 2-5:30 p.m.

Beyond Baroque
681 Venice Blvd.

Cost: \$25/screening only; \$100/VIP reception

The Japanese American Memorial Marker Committee and Beyond Baroque are fundraising for a monument on Venice and Lincoln Boulevards to honor Japanese Americans. Three short films will be screened.

Info: www.venicejamm.org

The Poston 2011 Reunion
POSTON, AZ

Oct 7-9

Aquarius Hotel
1900 Casino Dr.

The 2011 Poston Reunion is open to all Postonites, relatives and friends. There will be bus transportation at \$25 per person from Laughlin, Nevada to Poston.

Info: Haru Watanabe at 310/327-2596 or hwatanabe11@netscape.com

MDC

JACL's Project Community
BLOOMINGTON, MN

Sept. 24, Oct. 22 and Nov. 19

St. Edwards Church

9401 Nesbitt Avenue South

The Twin Cities JACL and the Medtronic are sponsoring Project Community to empower high school youth to be involved in the Japanese American community.

RSVP: Matt Farrells at 612/272-8772

DO!

S.F. Arts School Named After JA Artist

Ruth Asawa helped establish the school in 1982.

A San Francisco public arts high school has been renamed in honor of its founder Ruth Asawa, 85, an acclaimed Japanese American wire sculpture artist and arts education activist.

The San Francisco School of the Arts, located at 555 Portola Drive, has been renamed the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts (SOTA).

School officials and guests, including David Chiu, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, unveiled a marquee with the new name Sept. 14.

"Our family is so proud to have this wonderful school named after our mother," said Paul Lanier, Asawa's son. "It is her lifelong dream to have children work with and be taught by professional artists and to have students pursue their dreams."

Asawa, who was diagnosed with lupus in 1985, was not able to attend the event.

The event also celebrated 30 years of excellence in public arts education. Founded by Asawa in 1982, the school provides academics and arts education. Since its establishment, the school has grown its student population to approximately 600.

In San Francisco, Asawa has been called the "fountain lady" because many of her fountains are on public view. Some of her most famous public sculptures include the "Buchanan Mall (Nihonmachi) Fountains" in San Francisco's Japantown and "Aurora," the origami-inspired fountain on the San Francisco waterfront.

"My mother always thought that the arts taught children to learn their fullest capabilities as well as limitations," said Aiko Cuneo, one of Asawa's six children. "She wanted all children to have the opportunity to experience the joy of making art and the problem-solving that comes with the artistic process."

Polaris Tours

Presents:

2011 Tour Schedule

Dec. 08 - Dec. 10 **Holiday in Las Vegas: Shows: Cirque du Soleil Michael Jackson "The Immortal World Tour"**

2012 Tour Schedule

Mar. 19 - Mar. 29 **Majestic China: "Shanghai, Guilin, Xian, Beijing"**
Apr. 03 - Apr. 12 **Spring Japan: "The Beauty of the Cherry Blossoms"**
Apr. 12 - Apr. 24 **Beautiful South Korea: All Major Highlights & Drama Sites**
Apr. 12 - Apr. 18 **100th Anniversary Cherry Blossoms in Washington DC & Williamsburg**
May 03 - May 18 **Treasures of Turkey: Where Europe meets Asia**
May 24 - May 26 **Summertime Las Vegas: Show: Rod Stewart or Garth Brooks**
Jun. 11 - Jun. 24 **Discover Croatia: Dalmatian Coast & Slovenia**
Jul. 24 - Aug. 02 **Summer Japan: "Vacation with the Whole Family"**
Aug. 04 - Aug. 12 **Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park**
Sep. 06 - Sep. 17 **Let's Go Hokkaido**
Sep. 29 - Oct. 10 **The Legendary Danube River Cruise: Hungary, Austria, Germany**
Sep. 28 - Oct. 02 **Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta: New Mexico's Most Dazzling Spectacle**
Oct. 03 - Oct. 12 **New England Colors & Eastern Canada: Fall Foliage**
Oct. 16 - Oct. 25 **Autumn Japan: Magnificent Fall Colors**
Oct. 25 - Nov. 06 **Spectacular South Africa**
Nov. 01 - Nov. 11 **The Best of Kyushu**
Nov. 29 - Dec. 01 **Holiday in Las Vegas: Show: TBA**

We will be happy to send you a brochure!

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 Email: imamura@tourpolaris.com

IN MEMORIAM

Furukawa, Ben, 82, Mentor, OH; Aug. 4; beloved husband of Kinuko (nee Nakashige); father of Scott (Sandy), Wendy (James) Ramsey and Alissa (Wade) Kojima; brother of Jim Furukawa, Nobuko Akiba and the late Sally Taketa and Kiichi Furukawa; 6 gc.

Hibino, Yosh, 91, Silver Spring, MD; Aug. 25; formerly of Berkeley and Portland, CT; predeceased by wife Nobu (Kumekawa) and brother Yuk Hibino; three children; sisters-in-law; brother-in-law; nieces and nephews; 6 gc.

Kobayashi, Magdalena Tokiwa, 90, Tokyo, Japan; July 28; she devoted her life to serving God through the Catholic Church; survived by sister, Yayoi (Virginia); brother, Satoshi of Japan.

Kobayashi, Toru, 86, San Francisco, CA; April 19; he spent most of his life sailing around the world as a ship engineer; survived by sister, Yayoi (Virginia); brother, Satoshi of Japan.

Miyake, Ishi, 84, Nampa, ID; Aug. 13; he was born and raised in Nampa; in 1946 Ishi joined the Army; he was active in JACL, serving two terms as president and was a board member until his death; survived by his wife, Ruth; daughters Karen (Jerod) Trailer, Cheryl (Pat) Russell and Brenda Miyake; sons, Glenn Miyake, Steve (Linda) Miyake; sisters, Mary (Allen) Records, Midge (Yasu) Teramura, Helen Otani; brother Bob (Kyoko) Miyake; preceded in death by parents and his brother Robert; 11 gc; 11 ggc.

Murakami, Tomomi, 89, Medford, NJ; Sept. 7; he was unjustly imprisoned during World War II; he helped develop the first color TV for RCA; preceded in death by wife, Mary (nee Doi); Father of Marcia (Phil) Henrici, Robert (Roberta) Murakami, Keith (Mandy) Murakami, Thomas Murakami and Linda Murakami; brother of Shizuko Murakami; 2

gc; 2 ggc.

Namba, Harry Tetsuo, 95, Ontario, OR; Sept. 18; Harry was interned in Pinedale, CA and later moved to Tule Lake; during WWII handled ammunition at the Nebraska Army Depot; he married Yaeko Fujita in 1944; they were married for over 66 years; survived by his wife, Yaeko; son, Ronald (Gloria); daughter Rosanne (Mark); survived by brother Frank (Michiko) Namba; many nieces and nephews; 4 gc.

Shimizu, Dorothy Aiko, 82, Cotati, CA; Aug. 19; born May 16, 1929 to Hiroshi (Harry) and Elaine (Yoshioka) Otani in Watsonville; as an over 80-year resident of Sonoma County, she was an integral member of the Enmanji Buddhist Temple and the Sonoma County JACL; she also supported Sonoma County Taiko; preceded in death by brother Henry; survived by her husband of 56 years Martin; children Mark (Laurie) Shimizu, Bruce (Karen) Shimizu, Julene (Tim) Leach, Arnold Shimizu and Darlene Shimizu; also survived by her brother William, sister May Yamaoka; numerous nieces and nephews; grandchildren Daniel (Katy) Leach, Angela Shimizu, Thomas Leach, Chad Taylor, Katie Shimizu, James Winters, Joe Winters, Cecelia Shimizu, Ty Shimizu and Ronald Shimizu.

Tominaga, Rosie, 91, Stockton, CA; Sept. 7; born Nov. 1, 1919; wife of the late Robert Tominaga; long-time member of French Camp JACL chapter.

Yamada, Charles Takeshi, 93, Caldwell, ID; Aug. 17; Charlie married Sakae Matsumura in 1946 in Boise; predeceased by his parents, wife, brothers Tadashi "Tom" Matsuo, Torao "Walter," Wilbert Mutsuo "Mike" and a sister Mary Matsumura; survived by a daughter Linda (Kenneth) Nagata; 2 gc. ■

TRIBUTE

Sumiye (Uchida) Takeno

November 17, 1922 - August 21, 2011



Sumiye (Uchida) Takeno was born on November 17, 1922 in Florin, California, the 7th of 11 children of Masaichi and Shizu Uchida, who farmed in Florin, producing tokay grapes and strawberries. Sumi worked in Los Angeles following graduation from Elk Grove High School. When the Japanese Americans were removed from their homes in California following Pearl Harbor, the Uchida family were interned at Manzanar. Sumi worked as an assistant nurse in the Manzanar camp

hospital where she met her future husband, Roy M. Takeno. In 1944, she and Roy were married at Manzanar, and moved to Denver, Colorado immediately following their wedding.

Roy was intensely involved in the work of the Japanese American Citizens League, (JACL) and traveled throughout mid-western states. Sumi remained at home in Denver, to raise their daughter, Karen. Sumi worked for her brother-in-law, Dr. George Takeno as a medical assistant for many years and was well known in the Japanese American community in Colorado. In addition to her service to her brother-in-law's patients, she was very much committed to Mile High Chapter of the JACL following Roy's death in 1997.

Sumi is survived by her daughter, Karen and son-in-law Kim Vanseng, of Brussels, Belgium, also survived by her granddaughter, Ai Lan and grandson-in-law Vincent Detaille, two great grandsons, Maxime and Nathan, who live in France and Sumi's two brothers, Leo (Florence) Uchida and George (Frances) Uchida, her brother-in-law, Dr. George Takeno and (wife) Sets Takeno and many nieces and nephews.

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TRIBUTE

Tadako T. Mori

August 21, 2011



Tadako T. Mori, 96 years old, passed away August 21, 2011. Predeceased by husband, Fred S. She was born in Fife, WA; interned at Minidoka; and was a long-time resident of South Seattle. Wife, Mother, Grandmother, master gardener, former

feature writer for newspapers. Survived by children and their spouses: Fred, Janice, John, Laura, Marshall, Marilynne, and Gary. Grandchildren and their spouses: Grace and Russell Johns; Daniel, Rose, Andrew, and Jordan Okamoto. Great grandson: Seth Johns. Also, survived by her siblings and their spouses: Mits, Tad, Rose, and Eri Tamura; Reiko and Kiyomi Mizumoto; Fujiko Gardner; Herb and Setsuko Mori; Ed Sano; Toshiko and Kurt Hiroshima; and many beloved nieces and nephews and their children. Memorial Service, October 15 at 11 AM, Magnolia Baptist Church, Seattle.

TRIBUTE

Mable Kazuko Tsugawa

November 13, 1926 - August 27, 2011



Woodland, WA; August 27; Founder of Tsugawa Nursery; survived by husband George of 61 years, children Mary Lynn Archer, Lori Whaley, Karen, Dan and Brian Tsugawa, 11 gc, 4 ggc, sister Yuriko Tamoto, nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by son Martin, and sister Helen Tamura.

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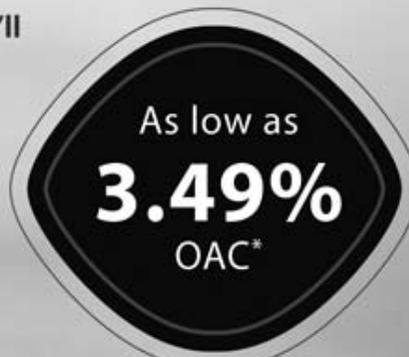
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