



PACIFIC CITIZEN



JAs and African Americans collaborate in S.F.'s redistricting process.

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Photog Chronicles WWII Internment With Before/After Photos

PHOTO: SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER



PHOTO: PAUL KITAGAKI JR. © COPYRIGHT 2012

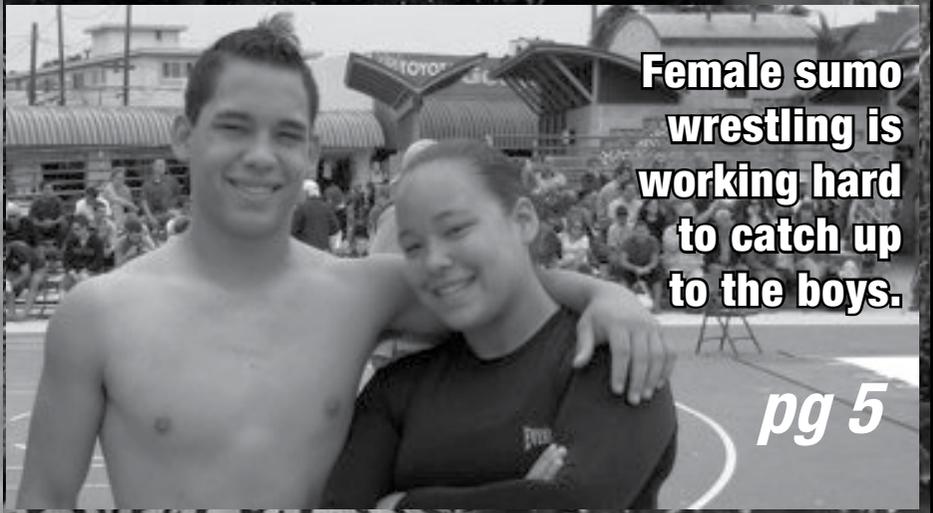
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DANE POTTER/AMC

“Comic Book Men’s” Ming Chen is the go-to guy on the show.

pg 9



Female sumo wrestling is working hard to catch up to the boys.

pg 5

SPRING CAMPAIGN MAGNIFYING THE VOICE OF JACL MEMBERS

By Paul Niwa



One of the things I remember about my grandfather, Henry Fukuhara, was the magazines on his coffee table. When I became a college student, I started a habit of digging through that stack of papers to pull out the latest edition of the *Pacific Citizen*. During my grandfather's frequent naps, I would read the *Pacific Citizen*, learning about the activities of JACL.

Just before my grandfather moved into a nursing home, I asked him why he subscribed to the *Pacific Citizen*. He had not been to a JACL event for decades. Yet, he continued to pay membership dues.

My grandfather told me that he joined JACL in the 1920s, and he described how much fun it was to meet other Nisei who could relate to being an immigrant's son. He said the early days weren't about politics. JACL held grand gatherings where young Japanese Americans could meet, dance and sing. When the weekend parties ended, the *Pacific Citizen* was the way members kept in touch between social affairs.

My grandfather died two years ago, shortly after I was given the privilege of serving on the *Pacific Citizen* editorial board. This newspaper still links JACL members, both of my grandfather's generation and mine. It continues to be a place where Japanese Americans explore the possibilities of their shared identity.

And it is a forum for members, both active and inactive, to communicate informally to the leadership and staff of JACL.

But, this newspaper can magnify the voice of its members only if its readers continue to treasure it.

The *Pacific Citizen* is JACL's most successful program, and it has always been a faithful financial steward. JACL's contribution basically covers the salaries of the two *Pacific Citizen* editors and business manager.

Advertising revenues and funds raised from their annual Spring Campaign pay for the printing and mailing of the *Pacific Citizen* and the cost of gathering the news and putting the newspaper online for a younger generation. The Spring Campaign has also paid for the one reporter position at the *Pacific Citizen* for the past few years.

We, the readers of the *Pacific Citizen* have shown in the past how much we value the *Pacific Citizen* through our generous Spring Campaign contributions. And I hope you will join me in supporting the *Pacific Citizen* again this year. ■

Paul Niwa is a journalism professor at Emerson College. He is the current Eastern District representative on the Pacific Citizen editorial board.

'This newspaper still links JACL members, both of my grandfather's generation and mine.'

COMMENTARY UPDATE ON STAFF REVIEWS AND BELLEVUE CONVENTION

By Gail Sueki



As the national JACL vice president for general operations I am also the personnel committee chair. This year the committee had a critical job to perform: providing a recommendation to the national board for the selection of a national director. The outcome of the efforts of the personnel committee and the national board has resulted in the hiring of our new National Director Priscilla Ouchida.

Kudos to the personnel committee because there were many behind the scenes tasks that allowed us to complete our assignment. The committee had the board rank the attributes of a national director, then created job descriptions and job announcements. Recruitment was done using a variety of methods including word of mouth, newspapers/media and online posts. Through these efforts, we received and reviewed applications from many qualified individuals. A subset of the personnel committee screened and conducted phone interviews for the most qualified candidates. Based on these results, the personnel committee made a recommendation to the national board. The board conducted a final interview and came to a decision.

The expenses for this process included teleconference calls for the personnel committee, the personnel interview committee, and the online posting. As personnel committee chair, I'd like to thank the personnel committee whose members include: *Pacific Citizen* Executive Editor, Caroline Aoyagi-Stom; staff representative, Bill Yoshino; National Director Floyd Mori; Governor's Caucus Chair Chip LaRouche; at-large delegates, Milo Yoshino, Judith Aono and Betsy Sato; and non-voting members President David Kawamoto and Legal Counsel Floyd Shimomura.

Reviews

Reviews were due at the end of 2011. At the end of 2011, I received the *Pacific Citizen* executive editor's review and confirmation that the *P.C.* staff reviews have been completed. To date, the national director's review and confirmation of the completion of the staff reviews are still pending. As stated in the personnel manual, the president and the v.p. for general operations review the *P.C.* executive editor and the national director annually and confirm that staff reviews are completed.

Convention

I have just returned from Washington where I had the opportunity to tour the Hyatt Bellevue again as well as attend the PNW district meeting. Thank you to the Seattle chapter and the PNW district for all their hard work. Plans are moving along and the convention will be here in no time. Convention information may be found at www.jacl.org/2012.

It's an election year convention, so we hope to see a large turnout as we elect our leaders for the next biennium. As a national board officer, I feel that the national convention is one of the main avenues by which we can have an opportunity to hear the voice of our membership. We need to keep working together to make improvements and continue to build a strong and vibrant organization.

As we prepare for our trip to the JACL convention in Bellevue, Wash., please think about these items as you may want to discuss them at your

>>>See SUEKI pg. 6

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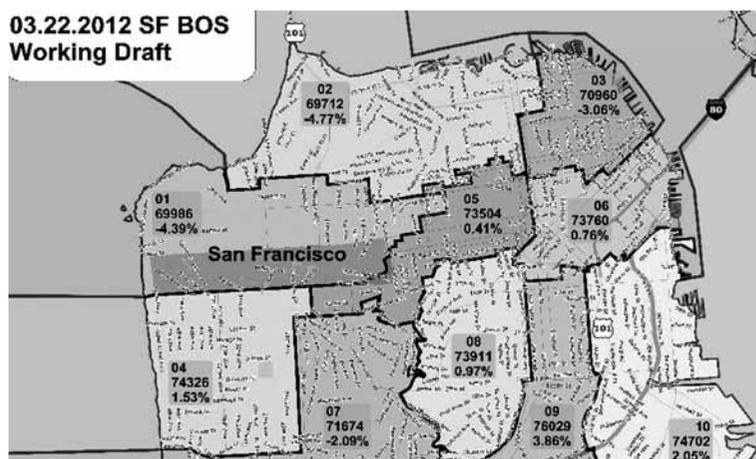
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SAN FRAN'S JAPANESE AMERICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES COLLABORATE IN REDISTRICTING PROCESS

San Francisco's Japantown stakeholders credit the collaboration with the African American community for their success in getting their concerns heard during the redistricting process.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

03.22.2012 SF BOS
Working Draft



ABOVE PHOTO: DAVID YU

Residents and concerned citizens of San Francisco's Japantown fought to keep J-town in District 5.

Nationwide debates about the redistricting process have been heating up as communities fight to maintain their district boundaries, but in San Francisco two neighboring communities collaborated to voice their concerns.

The Japanese American and African American communities in San Francisco spoke out when the San Francisco Redistricting Task Force released Jan. 4 the first draft district boundaries for the city, which separated Japantown from the Fillmore Western Addition.

The redistricting process happens every ten years, following the completion of the census. Nine members make up the task force that will redraw San Francisco's 11 supervisor districts. The elections commission, supervisors and the mayor each appoint three members to the task force.

San Francisco's Japantown and the African American Fillmore districts are adjacent. Both communities share neighborhood facilities and resources such as the local library and YMCA.

In a show of solidarity the Japanese American and African American communities in San Francisco worked together in the redistricting process to convey their concerns to the San Francisco Task Force members about the drafted district boundaries.

"The overwhelming input that was received both from the Japanese American and African American communities in those two districts — District 5 and District 2 — was compelling for a number of reasons," said Eric McDonnell, the task force chair. "One, it represents the historical evolution of that community as well as looking back some years on the issues of, frankly, racism and discrimination that both communities experienced and what therefore developed as kind of a bond and a unique community that we felt important to preserve in this particular process."

Community members in San Francisco's Japantown were also concerned that the previously drafted district maps left out several Japanese community organizations from District 5. Organizations situated on the northern boundary of District 5 such as the Japanese Community Youth Council, or JCYC, were drawn out.

"The redistricting task force was not aware of where key

institutions were located and what members of the community considered to be part of Japantown," said Jon Osaki, JCYC's executive director. "And so I think once we got engaged in the process and were able to increase awareness amongst the task force members I think they were very receptive to making sure that Japantown would stay whole."

The March 22 district map now includes JCYC and other Japanese organizations, which community members say were previously drawn out.

"The two communities coming together was significant in the sense that it revealed how much San Francisco's African American and Japanese American communities still live connected to one another," said Dr. Justin Morgan, an African American family physician with the San Francisco Department of Public Health. "When I asked African American merchants and community leaders who in the Japanese community to call, they knew what numbers to dial from their list of old friends."

Japanese immigrants first arrived in San Francisco in the late 1800s, and moved to the area now known as Japantown after the infamous 1906 earthquake. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Japanese community was unjustly removed from the neighborhood and incarcerated. Many African Americans moved to the vacated Japantown to seek industrial jobs.

Today, evidence of the two overlapping communities can be seen at the local library where there are Japanese American and African American book collections, said Morgan. And Miyako Old Fashioned Ice Cream Parlour in the Western Addition, is African American-owned, he added.

The historical relationship between the two communities was emphasized during public testimony.

"There were so many things that shaped Japantown and the Fillmore that the African American and Japanese American communities in particular shared," said Karen Kai, a community activist. "We have this long history of successful collaborations on the social level, on the political level that have really sustained both communities."

The collaboration of the African American and Japanese American community during the redistricting process was a crucial component in getting stakeholders' concerns heard during the redistricting process. Other cities have not been

as successful in getting community members' concerns addressed in the redrawing process of district boundaries.

In Los Angeles the borders of the city's 15 districts have been redrawn and approved much to the dismay of stakeholders in Japantown and Koreatown. The new district map was approved 13 to 2 on March 16, despite threats by Korean American community members to file a lawsuit.

Community members in San Francisco say they were aware that decisions made during the redistricting process could impact future generations.

"How and where districts are drawn will determine if a community can elect representatives of choice to sit on the board of supervisors," said Carolyn Hsu, a voting rights fellow at the Asian Law Caucus. "It can also influence whether or not elected officials respond to that community's needs."

Many Japanese American youth were inspired to testify during the redistricting process.

"They testified about the importance of working with the African American community," said Daniel Landry, a board member of the Fillmore/Lower Fillmore Neighborhood Association. "It was really something to watch, to watch young people come out on the weekend, Saturday at 10 o'clock in the morning to actually stand up for the community and voice their opinion was very important."

The task force has until April 15 to finalize the city district map. "At this point we are hoping any future iterations of the proposed maps include the boundaries we have fought for so that prominent Japantown community and religious institutions are included in the same district, and also so that Japantown remains within the same district as the adjacent Fillmore and Western Addition neighborhoods," said 28-year-old Haruka Roudebush, chairman of Nakayoshi and secretary of the San Francisco JAACL chapter.

The city's Redistricting Task Force will meet on April 14 to approve the current drafted district boundaries. The JA and African American communities say they are confident the district boundaries will not be changed dramatically.

"I would say that I don't anticipate significant shifts in changes. Again you're focused in particular on District 5, but there are a number of other issues across the city that we're still working to address," said McDonnell. "So will there be some modification to the current draft? I would say: yes. Will they be significant? I would say: probably not." ■

PHOTOGRAPHER PAUL KITAGAKI CHRONICLES WWII INCARCERATION WITH BEFORE/AFTER IMAGES

With so many elderly former internees passing on, tracking down photo subjects is becoming increasingly difficult.

By Christine McFadden
Contributor

Paul Kitagaki Jr. was sitting in his high school history class in San Mateo, Calif. in the 1970s when he first learned about the incarceration period, a subject he would research in-depth years later through photography.

Kitagaki, who is now a senior photographer at *The Sacramento Bee*, left his classroom and went home to ask his parents for more information.

The Japanese American learned that part of his family was in fact documented in the incarceration history itself.

"My uncle told me that Dorothea Lange photographed my family," Kitagaki said about the famous photographer who documented the World War II internment camps. "They were in the photograph with their friend, saying goodbye to them."

His grandparents, father, and aunt were waiting for a bus in Oakland in 1942 when Lange snapped the image.

After Oakland, the next stop for his family was the Tanforan Assembly Center and eventually the Topaz Camp.

In 1984, Kitagaki decided to search for those images of his family.

"I went back to the National Library of Congress and I found the pictures," he said. He then decided to photograph his family at the same location in Oakland, 60 years after the original photo was taken.

That photo shoot with his family eventually evolved into a larger project to track down other JAs in photos taken by Lange and the War Relocation Authority and capture their present-day images.

For eight years Kitagaki has been tracking down and taking photos of former internees in the same place where the original WWII photos were taken, or areas nearby.

Kitagaki's goal is to show through contrasting photos how Executive Order 9066, which authorized the unjust incarceration of some 120,000 people of Japanese descent, altered the family life.

And his search continues. Kitagaki is looking for more former internees, who were photographed during World War II. Photos of the unidentified Japanese Americans he is searching for are available on *The Sacramento Bee's* website.

"Just think how it changed everybody's life," he said. "They're in the prime of their life and they have that all taken away. Once you get out, what do you do because everything you worked for your whole life is gone? How do you start over?"

Kitagaki started his journalism career after graduating from San Francisco State University in 1978, where he studied broadcast journalism. After college, he freelanced and worked for the *San Francisco Progress*, the *San Mateo Times*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, *The Oregonian*, among others, and eventually found his current job at *The Sacramento Bee*.

"I did some stories about the internment," he says. His current project, however, is done entirely on his free time.

The process of tracking down the photo's original subjects



Fumiko Hayashida, at 31 carries her 13-month-old daughter Natalie Kayo to the Bainbridge Ferry that would send her to the Manzanar Internment Camp during World War II. The mother and daughter today are pictured at right.

is far from easy. Kitagaki begins by going to different towns and churches and "asking people if they know the people in the photos," but often ends up at the National Archives.

Now living in Houston, Texas, Natalie Ong says she happened to be visiting Seattle in 2006 when Kitagaki was also there. Kitagaki recreated the famous photograph with Ong and her mother, Fumiko Hayashida.

Ong, 71, lived on Bainbridge Island when her family was removed and evacuated to Manzanar. She is the sleeping baby cradled in her mother's arms in the well-known 1942 photograph.

"I was happy to do it because that's a period of time where I don't really remember anything because I was an infant," Ong said of recreating the 1942 photo. "I was just saying that that picture I really appreciated because it's one of the few pictures of me as an infant."

In addition to taking photos, Kitagaki takes audio narratives of his subjects — when he is able to find them. Making his task even more difficult is that most of the pictures do not have any names on them.

Other subjects in the photos have since passed away. When that's the case, Kitagaki turns to taking photos of their relatives.

One woman Kitagaki located and photographed, Donna Nakashima, is the daughter of a 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran Ted Miyata, who had previously volunteered for military service in July 1941 before Pearl Harbor. Miyata's funeral was in 2001.

Nakashima is photographed in the same field where her grandmother once farmed strawberries before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The original photo shows Miyata and his mother, Nami, while he was on furlough to help his family prepare for the evacuation.

"She has her dad's flag from when he was buried, and his Army hat," Kitagaki said.

Some of the JAs Kitagaki contacted like Satsuki Ina, a psychotherapist and retired professor at Sacramento State, have more than one relative that was captured in historical photos. Both of Ina's parents were photographed.

Her mother, Shizuko, was photographed by Lange in 1942 in San Francisco. Satsuki's father, Itaru, was photographed in the Tule Lake camp jail before being sent to the Department of Justice camp for enemy aliens. Both parents answered "No" to "loyalty questions No. 27 and 28" and renounced their American citizenship.

"I thought, wow!" said Ina, who was born in Tule Lake. "A picture is worth a thousand words — to grasp the trauma of innocent people facing imprisonment and the passage of time captured in the then and now photos was so compelling."

In 2006 Kitagaki contacted Satsuki to replicate the photo in Ina's father's same cell.

"So as I stood in the cell where my father had been held I reflected on all of his possible emotions at the time — anger, humiliation, despair," she said.

Ina, an Emmy award winning producer, was able to make an educated guess about which cell was her father's through research. Her award-

winning documentary "From A Silk Cocoon" was based on her parents' life in camp.

Kitagaki's efforts to find, photograph, and interview surviving photo subjects is a constant one. But those who've participated in the project say Kitagaki's work is important.

"You don't want to rush a good project and I think he's taking his time," Ong said. "I think it's wonderful."

His original photographs were published in *The Sacramento Bee* in February. Kitagaki has since found five more people in the photos he is hoping to replicate.

"I do this all on my own time, at my own expense, whenever I can get the time," he says. Kitagaki is currently coordinating schedules with a woman photographed at Topaz who now lives in New Jersey.

Kitagaki says one photo he is hoping to eventually recapture is an iconic photo from Manzanar of a grandfather and a child on his shoulders that he has spent a long time searching for, to no avail.

Kitagaki is continuing to search for more people or relatives of people in the photos. In the interim, Kitagaki's work is being displayed at the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District on April 28, from 10 a.m. to noon at a reception at the San Bruno BART Station.

The San Bruno station is next to what once was the Tanforan Assembly Center, where Kitagaki's own family once stood.

Kitagaki hopes to collect a big enough body of work to someday create a multimedia display, perhaps telling the photograph's history in the person's own voice with the audio histories he has collected. His end goal is to have 30 or 40 photos.

"I want to have a longer story," he said. ■

To view unidentified/unknown incarceration photographs that Kitagaki is trying to find the identities for, follow: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/02/17/4272434/unknown-japanese-internment-people.html>

To provide Kitagaki with photo identities, contact: pkitagaki@sacbee.com

FEMALE SUMO WRESTLERS STEP UP TO THE RING

Although the popularity of women sumo wrestling is a recent phenomenon, it has taken some tough American competitors to tournaments around the world.

By Christine Fukushima, Correspondent



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. SUMO OPEN

Sumo wrestler Natasha Ikejiri (pictured above) prepares to begin a match.

As the only girl in a set of triplets, Natasha Ikejiri grew up fighting with her brothers for everything from the television remote to the last serving of dessert — literally and physically.

Now, as a national champion sumo wrestler, Natasha applies the lessons she learned from living room wrestling matches to sumo rings around the world.

“Bigger girls, I’ll hit them straight on and honestly, it looks like a head-butt,” said the 21-year-old with a laugh from her home in Los Angeles. “I’m trying to push my head into their diaphragm so they can’t breathe. They start freaking out so they stand up and that’s when I have full control.”

A natural athlete, Natasha’s main sport growing up was basketball. Though only five foot four, she competed in her local Japanese American basketball league and was known to muscle her opponents to the hoop. When she started college at California State University, Northridge, she also joined the ROTC, which put her on a strict exercise regiment. But the thought of one day being able to utilize her athletic abilities in a sumo ring never, ever crossed her mind, she says.

That changed when a friend saw her wrestling with one of her brothers, George, and invited both of them to a sumo practice. Although Natasha, who is half Japanese and half Portuguese, had taken Japanese language courses for over a decade, sumo wrestling was one aspect of her cultural heritage that she knew almost nothing about.

Curious, Natasha and George attended the practice. After learning the rules in “about five minutes,” both won their first matches right off the bat, she recounts.

“From there they would call us and be like, ‘Hey do you guys want to do this tournament? We’ll feed you and it’ll be cool!’” said Natasha.

She continued to win more and more tournaments and eventually she went to nationals and won. In 2010 she took part in the SportAccord World Combat Games in Beijing.

In China, Natasha and over 1,000 other athletes representing the best in combat sports from all five continents competed in the same stadiums used during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. In Natasha’s stadium, she remembers being told that there were up to 10,000 people watching in the stands.

“When I went out there I was like, ‘Oh, my gosh!’ There were just so many people, like a sea of people. You couldn’t even make out their faces,” she said. “There were flashes like crazy and I was just standing there thinking, ‘This is insane.’”

She was disqualified during her first match for breaking her opponent’s elbow, but Natasha still enjoyed putting on a show for the crowd during the rest of her matches, where she was up against much bigger and more

experienced wrestlers than herself.

Although the SportAccord competition allowed sumo wrestlers to compete on an international level, the chances of sumo becoming an Olympic sport anytime soon are very slim, says Andrew Freund, the director of USA Sumo.

“The next Olympic games, zero percent. The one after that, zero percent ... I would say the first viable possibility would be 2020 but even that is a long shot,” he said.

To become an Olympic sport, sumo would have to undergo a lengthy and difficult admission process; among other criteria, it must be “widely practiced around the world.”

Furthermore, it must follow the Olympic Charter, which states that all sports seeking inclusion to the games must include women’s events. With that criterion in mind, the international sumo community has been encouraging female participation in sumo, starting with the first major women’s-only tournament held in 1997.

Sumo, the national sport of Japan, originated as a form of entertainment for the Shinto gods. The rules are simple: during a match, wrestlers, or *rikishi*, try to push each other out of a ring, called a *dohyo*, which measures approximately 15 feet in diameter. *Rikishi* can also win by forcing their opponent to touch the *dohyo* with any body part other than their bare feet. Matches are quick, ranging in time from mere seconds to a few minutes.

“It’s really explosive. You come off the line [and] it’s like hit, hit, hit; you don’t even know what happens and you’re on the floor,” said Natasha.

After the first international sumo tournament was held in Japan in 1980, interest in the sport spread to other countries and an international amateur sumo circuit was created.

However, amateur sumo is nothing like pro sumo in Japan, where those who participate consider it to be a lifestyle, not just a sport, says Freund. From the age of 14 or 15, boys enter sumo schools and are subjected to a “military-like” regimen of training.

“It’s not like there’s an on season or an off season. They have training pretty much the entire year, every week [and] every month,” he said.

Even with the continuously growing interest in sumo in the United States, Freund says that the sport has caught on much quicker in other countries, especially in places like Russia and Mongolia, with both men and women. Unlike the United States many countries also have government-funded sports associations which provide support for athletes, including sumo wrestlers.

Idaho native Natalie Burns, who also participated in the SportAccord Combat Games in Beijing with Natasha, thinks that American women might be turned off to sumo by the impression that sumo wrestlers have to be big.

“In the U.S. I think women are just more self conscious about themselves,” she said.

Plus, “it takes a tough woman. And I’m a lady too but I just thought it would be fun, you know,” said Burns. “It can take you anywhere, really.”

Tiffany Tran, a 27-year-old graduate student, just recently started going to sumo practices at Freund’s gym after watching an exhibition match featuring Yama, the heaviest Japanese pro sumo wrestler (and, according to his website, the “largest Japanese human ever”).

“I’m not even joking, but the next day after my first practice, I was sore from head to toe. I couldn’t even move when I woke up,” she said from her home in Chatsworth, Calif.

But she plans on continuing to do sumo in the future, as she’s found it to be a great way to “expel all [her] stress and aggression.”

Natasha is enthusiastic about female newcomers to sumo like Tran.

“We have just as much potential to make it [as] big here as Europe did,” she said.

“It just caught on over there and we’re still over here going, ‘you don’t have to be fat, it’s okay,’” she added. ■

‘It’s really explosive. You come off the line [and] it’s like, hit, hit, hit, you don’t even know what happens and you’re on the floor.’

JACL CONVENTION 2012

THE SETTING: BELLEVUE, WASH. — NOT TOO BIG, NOT TOO SMALL

By Hugh Burluson

As a JACL conventioner, you're in for a treat this year. Yes, the Seattle chapter is the host chapter, but the Puget Sound area is blessed with several JACL chapters, and we're all contributing volunteers, helping to run this convention.

It happens that over a year ago, Convention Chair Elaine Akagi and National Director Floyd Mori found that the Bellevue Hyatt was the best hotel available when the site had to be selected. So, just where is it? Well, not in Seattle but east across Lake Washington in Bellevue.

Google an area map and you'll see Seattle on Puget Sound — salt water but about 100 miles inland from the Pacific and partly sheltered from Pacific weather by the Olympic range rising to 6,000 to 7,000 feet between Seattle and the Pacific. Seattle is squeezed in-between the Sound and freshwater Lake Washington on its eastern flank. And, on that lake's east side is Bellevue, accessible to Seattle mainly by two pontoon bridges.

Staying at the Bellevue Hyatt means you won't have to cross the lake to get there. From Seattle-Tacoma airport you take a shuttle or taxi to Bellevue via I-405 and enjoy a few glimpses of the lake on your 20

to 25 minute trip from the airport.

And, what about Bellevue? Like Seattle, Bellevue (pop. 125,000) is flanked east and west by water — Lake Washington on the west and Lake Sammamish on the east. Seasonally, both are transit routes for spawning salmon. Nice views, from many vantage points — the lakes, the Cascade range to the east, the Olympics to the west — both snow-capped half the year. So, the name is well deserved.

Most spectacular, of course, is Mount Rainier (that's "rain-EER", not "rainy-er."). It rises over 14,000 feet, an inactive volcano like Japan's Mt. Fuji. So, the Issei pioneers here dubbed it "Tacoma Fuji." As the crow flies, it's about 40 miles southeast of Tacoma and 65 miles from Bellevue. A special treat here is to cross Lake Washington on a clear day and see both Rainier 60-plus miles to the south and Mt. Baker — another inactive volcano — 75 miles to the north. Some 130 miles of the Cascade range, all for free! Some homes on south Bellevue's higher hills have that view year round — if it's not cloudy.

Oh, you're wondering about rain? Not to worry. Our local ABC weatherman once pointed out that most locals here don't use umbrellas since most of our rain is "polite rain." It's more like drizzle and barely dampens you if you're just shopping or



walking between buildings. Besides, July marks the onset of our least rainy season. Still, not being a Northwest native, I sometimes carry a folded umbrella as a talisman to keep the rain from falling. And then, if it hasn't rained I may forget the umbrella.

OK, so now you've arrived at the Bellevue Hyatt, square in the heart of Bellevue. Plenty of shopping and eateries accessible from the Hyatt by sky bridges. With nearly a fifth of Bellevue's population being East Asian (our current mayor immigrated from China decades ago), you can easily find Asian ethnic restaurants. Your convention kit of goodies should include a list of the most recommended. Also, this being salmon country and Seattle having a port for landing

the catch from the Bering Sea and broad Pacific, you should sample our excellent seafood restaurants.

This city was most appropriately named Bellevue — beautiful views. Japanese visitors have dubbed this "a city in a park." Speaking of parks, four blocks south of the Hyatt is the (creatively named?) Downtown Park. On July 4 (the day prior to the convention) we'll see fireworks right there. So, plan to arrive that day, relax a bit and, after a good salmon dinner, amble down to the park to catch the show. ■

Hugh Burluson is a member of the Lake Washington JACL chapter.

REGISTRATION FORM

Online: To register online visit <http://www.jacl.org/2012>

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

Both packages include the Welcome Mixer, Awards Luncheon, Youth Luncheon, Workshops, Continental Breakfast, Sayonara Banquet & Dance. These events can also be purchased individually (see below).



Last, First _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

E-mail _____

JACL Chapter _____

Vegetarian Meals: Yes _____ No _____

Special Requests _____

Please select which workshop(s) you are most interested in:

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

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

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be received by June 1, 2012 for a 100% refund. Cancellations received between June 2, 2012 and July 2, 2012 will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be issued for cancellations after July 2, 2012.

JACL National Convention July 5-8, 2012
Hyatt Regency Bellevue, WA

	Youth/Student	Youth Member
Convention Package (incl Conference)	Early Bird \$250	After June 1 st \$300
Youth Convention Package (incl Conference)	Early Bird \$200	After June 1 st \$250
Individual Events	Early Bird	After June 1 st
Welcome Mixer	\$40	\$55
(Youth/Student)	\$35*	\$50*
Awards Luncheon	\$75	\$90
(Youth/Student)	\$60*	\$75*
Youth Mixer	\$75	\$90
(Youth/Student)	\$60*	\$75*
(Youth Member)	\$55**	\$60**
Sayonara Banquet/Dance	\$150	\$175
(Youth/Student)	\$100*	\$125*
Workshops	\$25	\$40
(Youth/Student)	\$25*	\$40*
GRAND TOTAL \$		

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Payment and this form due by May 1, 2012 to:

JACL National Convention
Attn: Registration
3213 W. Wheeler St. #2
Seattle, WA 98199
206-623-5088
registration@jacl.org

Credit Card

- Mastercard AmEx
 Visa Discover

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Security Code _____

Expiration Date (mo/yr) _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Nominations Open for JACL National Office

The National JACL Nominations Committee is seeking members who are interested in running for a seat on the national JACL board. The initial filing deadline is April 7. After that date, those wishing to submit their names as candidates must run from the floor of the national convention and are subject to additional requirements. The term of office for this election shall be for the 2012-2014 biennium.

Positions include national president, national secretary/treasurer, vice president of general operations, vice president for planning & development, vice president for membership, vice president for public affairs, national youth/student council chair and national youth/student council

representative. A description of the officers and their duties can be found in the JACL Constitution and Bylaws.

The process and procedures for those who wish to run can be found in the Nominations and Election Guidelines. A copy of the guidelines and a candidate application form can be obtained at www.jacl.org.

In every even-numbered convention year, the JACL holds its election of national JACL officers. This year, the national convention will be held July 5 to 8 in Bellevue, Wash.

For more information, contact Nominations Chair Kent Kawai at mkawaiusa@netscape.net. ■

SUEKI

>>continued from pg. 2

chapter and district meetings.

Nominations: There are many opportunities/positions to support and help the organization by running for a board position. Please consider these positions and encourage people to run. (Chair: Kent Kawai)

Constitution and ByLaws: Please think about any constitution and/or by-law changes to be presented. (Chair: Paul Uyehara)

Resolutions: Please start to work on any resolutions to be presented. (Chair: Tom Nishikawa)

Credentials: Please make sure you are a chapter in good standing. We hope every chapter will attend, but if not, please con-

sider carrying proxies for those chapters unable to send a delegate. (Chair: Reiko Yoshino)

Strategic Planning (Program For Action): It's imperative that we hear the voice of our members. We need to identify and rank the programs and areas that are important to the membership. Clear ranking allows us to allocate resources and finances appropriately. We will have a workshop on this critical topic called, "JACL PRIORITIES" so please sign up. (Chair: Gary Mayeda)

Awards/Recognitions: Please think about possible award nominees such as JACLer of the Biennium and begin to collect information. (Chair: Travis Nishi)

Feel free to send me your comments and I can forward them to the appropriate people at vpoperations@jacl.org. ■

WHY I'M A JACLER

FORMER NATIONAL JACL PRESIDENT HELEN KAWAGOE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE ACROSS ALL GENERATIONS

Kawagoe recently suffered a stroke and subsequently resigned her long-time position as Carson's city clerk. Still, her legacy in Carson and JACL continues.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since 1929, JACL has been a membership-based, grassroots organization that has been instrumental in fighting for change and making a difference. 'Why I'm a JACler' is a special section that highlights members who are making a difference.

By Christine McFadden, Contributor

For Helen Kawagoe, name recognition comes with the territory. As only the second of two former female national JACL presidents, Kawagoe is a household name in the JACL family. Her 37 years as Carson City's clerk has made her career accomplishments renowned throughout this South Bay city. And in both instances, she's always been known as "Mom."

"In the City of Carson, we call her the 'Mother of City Hall,'" said Carson Mayor Jim Dear.

"She cares about those who surround her. She loves them and treats them as her own children," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori.

Sadly, last fall Kawagoe suffered a stroke and shortly thereafter resigned from her long-time position as Carson City's clerk. She is currently recovering at home and undergoing therapy and was unable to talk to the *Pacific Citizen*.

In January the Carson City Council voted to name the City Hall council chambers posthumously after Kawagoe, 84, but the decision was met with loud community protests since many felt the longtime clerk should be honored during her lifetime.

Currently, there is some movement to try to change the city council's recent decision. According to Mayor Dear, they are just one vote short of being able to rename the chambers as soon as possible in honor of Kawagoe.

"It could very well be overturned," he said.

Born and raised in Pasadena, Calif., Kawagoe is the first Japanese American woman to hold municipal office on the mainland after being elected as Carson's city clerk in 1974. Since that time she has been re-elected to eight more terms.

Her career accomplishments have influenced not only other Asian Americans but also the youth generation.

"[She is] a woman with a big, big heart, and great compassion and willingness to spend her time, her money, her energy, to

help people in need," said Mayor Dear. "She's a wonderful role model."

Kawagoe's grandniece Christine Sato-Yamazaki, chairperson for the National Veterans Network, grew up seeing firsthand her great-aunt's energy and commitment not only to her job but in her community volunteerism.

It is something she has tried to model in her own life.

"I always admired her energy, focus and commitment to all of the causes she was involved in," she said. "I learned the importance of community service and giving back to those who paved the way for subsequent generations to have a better life."

Sato-Yamazaki, a Yonsei, is the former president and chief executive officer of the Go For Broke National Education Center, and was also active as a youth member of the South Bay JACL chapter.

"As a long time female leader, she is an outstanding role model for any young person who is aspiring to be a leader for our community and country," she said about her great-aunt. "She has been that for me."

Like many Nisei of her generation, Kawagoe was incarcerated with her parents and 13 siblings at Gila River during World War II. The family returned home to Pasadena after the war and in 1947 she married Takeshi Kawagoe. They ran their family business, the Carson Nursery, from 1962 to 1971. Takeshi passed away in 1992.

Kawagoe's involvement in JACL goes back several decades. She has been a long-time member of the Gardena Valley chapter and in 1996 she was elected as only the second female national JACL president, eventually serving two consecutive terms.

Kawagoe has shared a special bond and friendship with Lillian Kimura, the first elected female national JACL president (1992-1994).

"Oh yeah, we kid teach other," said Kimura. "I was at a meeting where I was getting an award and Helen had come to the event.



PHOTO: P.C. STAFF

Helen Kawagoe is pictured with Ethan Hirabayashi at the Arizona JACL National Convention.

So I said both Helen and I were there and we're still waiting for the next one to come along."

For Kimura, Kawagoe has always been a leader both in her career and personal life. When she thinks of Kawagoe, she always sees her with a grin on her face and of her endless generosity.

"She is more fun-loving than I was," said Kimura.

In addition to her longtime involvement with JACL, Kawagoe has served on the board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, the League of California Cities board of directors, and was a past president of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks from 1986-87.

In 1994, Kawagoe was awarded the prestigious Order of the Precious Crown by the Japanese government for her years of service as city clerk and for her work toward cultural exchange. It is one of the highest honors given to individuals in the JA community.

"She's very energetic," said Mori, who recently paid a visit to Kawagoe. She is "full

of life, and always expressed enthusiasm and a positive attitude."

Kawagoe is currently undergoing therapy at her home in Carson. Many hope that in addition to all of her community and career accomplishments, her legacy will soon be honored with the renaming of the Carson City Hall council chambers.

"She inspired the whole community: boys and girls, men and women, in particular women —young women who are looking to be professional, young women who are looking to be leaders in their community," said Mayor Dear.

"I think she is an inspiration to all the people, especially all the young people in Southern California," said Kimura. ■

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

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

Email Info. to:
pc@pacificcitizen.org

NIKKEI VOICE



Asians Are Finally Making It Into Mainstream Pop Culture

By Gil Asakawa

I happened to catch a terrific documentary last night, “I Am Bruce Lee,” which combines a well-researched biography of the late great martial arts star with interviews with everyone from his wife Linda Lee Caldwell, to L.A. Lakers star (and martial artist) Kobe Bryant who discuss Lee’s legacy and enormous influence on American pop culture.

Much of the documentary focuses on Lee’s efforts to overcome racial stereotypes of Asians that were prevalent in the 1960s and ‘70s (many are still with us), and his struggles against a system that was stacked against featuring a male Asian in a leading role.

One segment got me thinking, where the film asserts that the system is still stacked against Asians — even today, there has been no major Asian male star who has the draw of, say, a Brad Pitt.

Sure, Jet Li for a time took up the martial arts mantle, and so did Jackie Chan. But Li’s talent never transcended his action roles, and Chan’s brand in Hollywood is as a comedic lightweight even though he can act in dramatic parts. Plus, once niched into martial arts, you’re always a martial artist. Even Bruce Lee might not have overcome that hurdle, had he lived.

There are some potential future contenders, though: John Cho can hopefully rise above the youth market appeal of the “Harold and Kumar” films and build on his butt-kicking role as Sulu in the new “Star Trek” movies, and it’s possible to imagine Tim Kang (TV’s “The Mentalist”) and Sung Kang

(the “Fast and Furious” movies) cast as big budget leads someday.

But I can’t *monku* too much about the lack of Asian men in star positions. The fact is, we’re doing so much better than just a few years ago in Hollywood, that we should be celebrating.

Less than a decade ago, I was giving speeches on the lack of Asian faces on TV and in movies. I grew up in a generation where Asians played roles that were subservient (Hop Sing, the cook in the TV western “Bonanza”) and silly (Fuji, or “Fooj” in the ‘60s sit-com “McHale’s Navy”). We were always the sidekicks, the supporting players instead of the star, like Robert Ito, the actor who played the assistant to Jack Klugman’s “Quincy, M.E.” in the ‘70s.

Ironically, Bruce Lee played the sidekick role but elevated it to star status, as Kato, the martial arts-fighting driver for the Green Hornet in the superhero series that only aired for one season in the late ‘60s. He was so dynamic, so commanding a presence, that he helped spark the martial arts craze that exploded a few years later when he began making kung fu movies in Hong Kong. But Lee’s tragedy was that his ambition included an idea for a TV series about a martial arts star that was stolen from him, and turned into “Kung Fu” starring a Caucasian, David Carradine (who was allegedly half-Chinese in the show). And he died before his biggest hit, the Hollywood-financed “Enter the Dragon” was released.

It’s just been in the past few years that Asian and Asian

American actors have become commonplace in Hollywood — long after Hollywood mainstreamed African Americans, first with shows like “Sanford and Son” starring Redd Foxx and “The Jeffersons” (a black spinoff of the white “All in the Family”) in the ‘70s and “The Cosby Show” in the ‘80s. The studios tried an early experiment, casting comedian Margaret Cho in “All American Girl” about an Asian American family, but the show was a disaster, because it was about Hollywood’s image of an Asian American family. The producers told Cho she wasn’t Asian enough, and got her a coach.

But a few years ago, Asians started showing up in commercials, a sign that corporate America was noticing how many Asian and Asian American consumers are out there, and what a valuable demographic (college educated, high-income) we are. Ikea and Target noticeably began including Asians in ads, and in non-ethnic roles too — no “ancient Chinese secret” laundry owners). Verizon is another company today that seems to be including lots of Asians playing non-ethnic parts.

That’s the tipping point that we’ve finally reached. Yes, we may not have a leading Asian male actor to look up to yet, but there are many more Asians on both the big screen and small, and we’re not just playing martial arts masters, and we don’t speak with accents. Veteran actors like Tamlyn Tomita get

>>See ASAKAWA pg. 16

VERY TRULY YOURS



Redistricted Koreatown Raises A Hornet’s Nest

By Harry K. Honda

LET’S LOOK AT a redistricting problem from an Asian American level as never before in my memory.

The Los Angeles City Council approved the new boundaries for their 15 council districts March 16 by a vote of 13-2. Koreatown originally sat wholly in the mid-Wilshire 13th District sector, south of the Hollywood Freeway to Washington Blvd. and westward from the Harbor Freeway. On the new map, Koreatown was split. Approximately the northern one-third that includes the new Col. Young Oak Kim Academy High School appears in the 10th District.

The Koreatown leaders raised “holy hell” after the city council finally approved the new city council boundaries. Hundreds of Korean Americans had attended earlier public meetings addressing redistricting, pleading City Hall to keep their district wholly in the 13th council district.

Hanna Yoon, president of the Korean American Democratic Coalition, said she met the previous day with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, urging he veto the map, but “he was extremely reluctant.” Koreatown has been in the 13th District since Mayor Bradley approved the council map in the wake of the 1970 census.

Grace Yoo, executive director of the Korean American Coalition (KAC), cried their last words. “Creating a new map is not pretty but a lawsuit will be far worse. And that’s

the only place you’re leaving us. And you think our grounds are weak. Talk to your attorney. Consider it because we are strong and this lawsuit is coming.”

At the same session, the Civic Center, the Plaza and Little Tokyo in central Los Angeles were removed from the 9th District to the 14th District, northeasterly into El Sereno, Boyle Heights to the eastern city limits (Evergreen Cemetery). Leaders from Little Tokyo realized their own business and historic community had been “sacrificed” (removed from the basically central downtown 9th to the 14th)

Mikawaya’s Frances Hashimoto, owner of a family business that’s been in Little Tokyo for over 100 years, recalled: “In all that time, we (in the 9th District) have all worked together to make and improve (the 9th). Nisei Week Foundation chair, the Rev. Mark Nakagawa of Centenary UMC, added: “This is my fourth hearing and it is clear to me that all across the city that the consensus is the people of L.A. are against the recommendations of the (redistricting) committee. Our council districts may not be perfect, but they work.”

According to Helen Kim, one of the city’s redistricting commissioners, “The process was fatally flawed.” One of four who drafted a minority report, she reported the initial draft was composed behind closed doors “in violation of the Brown Act” that requires public input throughout the redistricting process.

However, deputy city attorney Havit Treviño argued the commission map and process are defensible.

Every week the *Los Angeles Downtown News* (March 19) gets online to publish comments to their stories and editorials, particularly in this edition, “Redistricting Solution: For a Unified City, Divide Downtown.” One comment agreed: “Skid Road should remain split between the 9th and 14th. Why risk the momentum which would only drag down the momentum being generated in all of Downtown L.A.?”

A more instructive second comment held, “It makes no sense to be using the same number of districts as (Los Angeles) had in the 1920s. Why isn’t there a discussion of expanding the number of council districts to better represent individual neighborhoods? New York City has 51 council districts, Chicago 50, but L.A. only 15. Even if you unify Downtown, other neighborhoods will still be cut in half: Koreatown, Hollywood, Echo Park, Silver Lake, etc. ... It’s no wonder accountability to constituents often feels non-existent in less affluent communities.”

The 51 council members come from the five New York boroughs. Proportional representation was abolished (1947) and the U.S. supreme court ruled the ten at-large seats vio-

>>See HONDA pg. 16

HOW MING CHEN BECAME ONE OF THE 'COMIC BOOK MEN'

A cast member of AMC's "Comic Book Men," Ming Chen de-stresses from the pressure of the comic book store by doing Vinyasa yoga nearly every day.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

When Ming Chen created in 1996 a website out of boredom while working at a computer lab at the University of Michigan to honor one of his favorite movies, he didn't think the movie's director would ever see it.

Director Kevin Smith, aka Silent Bob, not only saw the website dedicated to his movie "Clerks," but phoned Chen and left a voice message to recruit him for work.

Chen returned the call at Smith's office and it was like stepping into one of his movies to interact with Smith's on-screen sidekick "Jay."

"I called back and he wasn't in, but Jason Mewes answers the phone," said Chen, speaking of the actor. "Now I'm not so starstruck by Jason Mewes, but back then I was. I was a kid in the middle of Michigan talking to Jason Mewes."

Chen was officially added to Smith's payroll in 2002 after doing a two-year stint with Live Planet, an interactive production company started by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, among others.

Working for Smith, the Chinese American has been enlisted to do film appearances like being an extra in "Dogma" and sitting next to actress Selma Hayek while she undressed.

Now Chen does everything from web design, graphics, promotion, event planning and driving eight hours to Maine to hand deliver and watch Smith's "Red State" with a journalist in her home — well, the latter was a one-time stint. He's been called the Secret Stash whipping boy.

The latest assignment for Chen landed him on AMC's "Comic Book Men." He joined his real life co-workers — Smith, Walt Flanagan, Michael Zupic and Bryan Johnson — for the reality show that follows their geeky antics at the New Jersey comic shop, Jay and Silent Bob's Secret Stash. Season one of the six-part series premiered Feb. 12.

"I've had no aspirations of being on TV," he said. "For me it's just fun. I kind of fell backward into it. But funny things happen when you hang out with Kevin. That's for sure."

The comic book reality show follows the popular zombie series "Walking Dead." The cast of the comic store reality show dressed up in special effects makeup on the episode "Zombies" to pay homage to the show.

"Draper. Meth. Zombies. This show couldn't be on a better network. AMC is to television what Miramax was to cinema back when I first got in the game: they're the premier destination for any storyteller looking to spin an offbeat yarn that no other outlet has the stones to touch," said Smith in a press release. "And as if I didn't love them enough, now they're putting my friends on TV!"

A Chinese American originally from Ohio, Chen moved around a lot because of his father's occupation as an upstart engineer. His parents were born in China and grew up in Taiwan.

Growing up as a Chinese American in Ohio, Chen says he was made fun of more for his height than his ethnicity.

"I'm kind of short. I'm about 5-foot-4. I got called shrimp a lot," Chen said. "[I] wasn't really bullied and I didn't see too much rampant racism that I was aware of in the Midwest where I grew up. You get the usual Kung Fu jokes. People still ask me if I can do karate. I just tell them I can fake it really well."

New Jersey is where Chen now lives with his wife, Debbie, and two children. They live just minutes from the Secret Stash comic shop, where Chen is known as the employee who will take on tasks no one else will. Chen splits his time between the comic shop and his office, which is behind the store.

With his new celebrity, Chen says he gets recognized at the Starbucks across the street and is possibly getting extra shots of vanilla in his lattes because of his newfound fame. On Twitter, Chen also gets fan attention.

"I've seen a couple of tweets which were kind of flattering until I looked a little closer," Chen said laughingly. "A lot of 14-year-old girls, so not really appropriate. But if I can reach Bieber status, then so be it."

Other fans have come to Chen's defense on Twitter to speak out against the taunting he receives from his co-workers.

"I see a lot of people tweeting Brian like, 'Hey, lay off the immigrant!' Somebody actually told him that in a Dunkin' Donuts the other day," Chen said with a laugh. "I know they make fun of me a lot, but I know I'm better than them, so I can take it pretty well."

The show follows the self-proclaimed comic book geeks as they buy and sell comic curios and discuss on their podcast topics like their must-have superhero powers and the comic book character they'd most like to drink with.

Secret Stash employees Michael and Walt display on the show their encyclopedic knowledge of comic books. Chen calls them the "comic book rain men."

"They can describe the tiniest details of something that happened in a comic 40 years ago," he said. "They can tell you what issue it came from, who wrote it, who drew it and what the cover looked like. It's crazy!"

Chen on the other hand says he "fell in and out" of comics. In middle school and high school he returned to comics, reading X-Men. And in college he devoured Image Comics. These days Chen has about 100 issues of comics in his collection. After Chen settled in to his life as a husband and father, he gave back a lot of his comics to the store.

And with the new publicity of the show, Secret Stash is now "mobbed" on weekends with customers.

"The ratings have been going up so hopefully that's a good indicator that people are digging the show," he said.

The last episode of "Comic Book Men" aired March 18 and Chen says with the increased ratings he is hoping for a second season.

"Probably won't be Snooki money until maybe season four or five. I don't know if I'll be required to get drunk or punched in the face," Chen said when asked about a possible pay increase for a second season. "You know we've got a lot of ideas of where we can go next, a lot of crazy ideas." ■

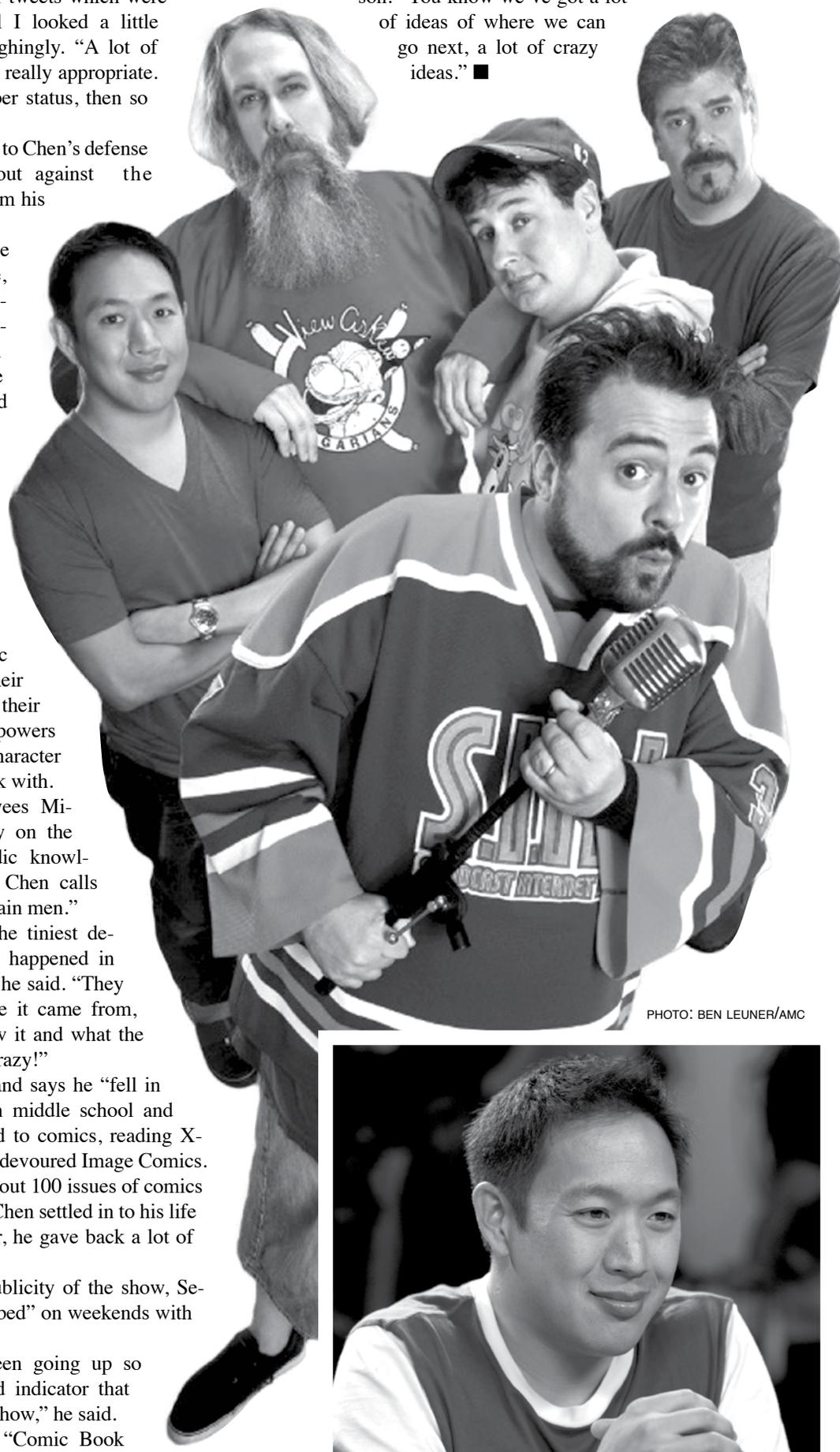


PHOTO: BEN LEUNER/AMC



PHOTO: DAVID RUSSELL/AMC

The cast of AMC's "Comic Book Men" features Ming Chen.

INTERIOR AWARDS GRANTS TO PRESERVE WWII JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES

JACL is awarded a \$150,000 grant for its project, "Passing the Legacy Down: Youth Interpretations of Confinement Sites in the Western United States."

By *Pacific Citizen* Staff

In an announcement that was happily received by the Japanese American community, the Department of the Interior says the National Park Service will award \$2.9 million in grants to preserve and interpret the various World War II confinement sites.

In total, 17 grants were awarded to help tell the story of the 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were detained in various WWII camps. National JACL was awarded \$150,130 for its project "Passing the Legacy Down: Youth Interpretations of Confinement Sites in the Western United States." Through its Los Angeles, Seattle and San Francisco offices, the project will focus on the Manzanar, Minidoka and Tule Lake confinement sites.

"This grant will allow the JACL to continue the important work of having young people learn this part of history which should not be forgotten," said David Kawamoto, national JACL president.

The Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program is now in its fourth year and has funded projects in 11 states. This year's grants program total comes to \$2,890,368. Congress established the program in 2006 and since then they have awarded \$9.7 million in funds. Congress authorized up to \$38 million in grants for the life of the program. This year's winners were chosen through a competitive process that requires applicants to match the grant award with \$1 in non-federal funds or "in-kind" contributions for every \$2 they receive in federal money.

The program requires that the grants go to the 10 War Relocation Authority camps established in 1942 or to more than 40 other sites, including assembly, relocation and isolation centers. The goal of the program is to teach present and future generations about the injustices of the WWII



PHOTO: KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation received a \$30,976 confinement sites grant for a website project.

confinement sites and to "inspire a commitment to equal justice under the law."

"If we are to tell the full story of America, we must ensure that we include difficult chapters such as the grave injustice of internment of Japanese Americans during World War II," Secretary Ken Salazar said. "The internment sites serve as poignant reminders for us — and for the generations to come — that we must always be vigilant in upholding civil liberties for all."

This year's grant awardees include a documentary film about an isolation center on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona; the return of a former barracks building to its original internment camp site at Granada in southeastern Colorado; and a program to engage high school students in Hawaii in the study of the WWII confinement and equality

issues that resonate today. The award amounts range from \$24,132 for the University of Idaho to further excavate the Kooskia Internment Camp site in northern Idaho, to \$714,314 to a group in Delta, Utah, to build a museum and education center for the Topaz Relocation Center outside of town.

"We are grateful for this NPS grant which helps us tell the Japanese American story, and expands the story to include the similarities of 1941 and 9/11," said JACL National Director Floyd Mori. "Through the forced evacuation experience of Japanese Americans, Constitutional and due process rights become a present day reality to other cultures such as the Muslim community." ■

For more details:

<http://www.nps.gov/hps/hpg/JACS/index.html>.

USC Joins Long List of California Universities Awarding Degrees to Former Nisei Students

Students who attended USC during WWII were forced to abandon their studies because of their forced evacuation to incarceration camps.

By *Pacific Citizen* Staff

It may have taken close to 70 years, but many Nisei will finally be graduating, at least officially, from the University of Southern California.

In a long anticipated announcement, the Southern California university said they will be awarding honorary degrees and master's degrees to their former Japanese American students who were forced to abandon their education due to Executive Order 9066.

Setsuko Matsunaga, 90, was one of those students, who along with close to 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forced to relocate to various incarceration camps during World War II. She still remembers packing her belongings in a duffel bag and reporting to the Santa Anita Race Track in April of 1942. Many of the students, like Matsunaga, never completed their education at USC. Most finished their degrees in states on the East Coast or in the Midwest.

Matsunaga received permission to leave the incarceration camp and complete her degree in St. Louis. A retired sociology professor living in New York, she is glad that she will be receiving her USC degree — finally.

"For some, this brings about some kind of closure," she

told the *Los Angeles Times*. "It's the kind of thing, like 'Well, finally, that's it.'"

The announcement by USC comes after a recent slew of universities and colleges held ceremonies to award honorary degrees to their former Nisei students. The awards are a result of a 2009 law creating the California Nisei College Diploma Project for the former students at the state's public universities.

So far about 2,500 former Nisei students have been found as a result of the law, but many more Nisei may have attended private universities in California. Private universities, like USC, are not bound by the 2009 law.

Sally Kikuchi, a USC graduate student of public policy, was part of a pan-Asian group of students who worked to raise awareness about the former Nisei students. They put together a petition and got the City of Los Angeles to issue a resolution in support of their efforts.

"I'm very happy to hear that USC has decided to conduct the ceremony this year and go beyond its former decision to issue honorary alumni status," said Kikuchi. "I'm even happier to see how this effort was able to come out of a campus-wide push that really brought different people of the USC community together."

In 2008 USC awarded the Nisei alumni status. That same year the university created an Honorary Nisei Student Scholarship and the Nisei were honored at a ceremony at a Trojan football home game.

But USC dentistry student Albert Le said that many of the Asian American students on campus felt that the efforts by the school were not enough. That's why Le joined the

group of students to push for the honorary Nisei degrees and this past summer they were able to submit their nominations package, which lead to the awarding of the degrees.

"It was a long time coming for the honorees, and it was very satisfying for us as a group to finally get it done despite the obstacles," said Le. "We put in so much hard work in the face of different competing voices in the community about our chances and willingness to put in the effort to make it happen."

USC plans to award honorary degrees and master's degrees to the former Nisei students as part of their commencement ceremony on May 11. The school is currently looking for these former students. Scott Mory of the USC Alumni Association estimates there are only about 100 of the Nisei who are still living.

"We are privileged to honor the accomplishments and the dreams of the Nisei students who are highly deserving of receiving a college degree for the work they have done at USC," said USC President C. L. Max Nikias. "Through the years these students have been among the most passionate and dedicated members of the Trojan family. We are honored that our Nisei students have an enduring devotion to USC and we want them to know that the university is also devoted to them." ■

To register for a USC honorary Nisei degree, go to www.usc.edu/commencement or contact Grace Shiba, senior director of alumni relations at USC, at 213/740-4937 or nisei@usc.edu.

AA GROUPS, INCLUDING JACL, CALL FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION IN TRAYVON MARTIN KILLING

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Asian American groups are joining a loud chorus of civil rights groups in calling for further investigation into the case of an unarmed black teenager shot to death by a neighborhood watch captain in Sanford, Florida.

The case has become a nationwide sensation and ignited a furor against the police department of the Orlando suburb of Sanford, where 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was shot last month. It has prompted rallies around the country calling for an arrest of the Hispanic shooter.

At a recent town hall meeting in Sanford, officials from the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Nation of Islam urged residents to remain calm but demanded a thorough investigation into the shooter, 28-year-old George Zimmerman.

"I stand here as a son, father, uncle who is tired of being scared for our boys," said Benjamin Jealous, national president of the NAACP. "I'm tired of telling our young men how they can't dress, where they can't go and how they can't behave."

Zimmerman has not been charged in the Feb. 26 shooting and has said he shot Martin — who was returning to a gated community where his father's fiancée lives, after buying candy at a convenience store — in self-defense after Martin attacked him. Police



George Zimmerman (left) fatally shot Trayvon Martin on Feb. 26.

said Zimmerman, who was found bleeding from his nose and the back of his head, told authorities he yelled for help before shooting Martin.

"The JACL is deeply troubled by the Sanford Police Department's indifferent response. The case has exposed the burden shouldered by young black men in our society, who are tainted by assumptions of being suspicious, criminal and dangerous," said the JACL in a statement. "Justice must be served in this case because our country cannot abide the continuing specter of a so-

ciety that causes young black men to feel the oppression of fear rather than the safety of knowing that they are free to be who they are."

The JACL also stated that they were encouraged by the investigations being launched by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the FBI, the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, and Florida Governor Rick Scott's appointment of a Task Force on Citizen Safety and Protection that will study the state's 'Stand Your Ground' law. This law allows people to de-

fend themselves with deadly force and does not require a retreat in the face of danger.

An online petition urging local authorities to prosecute Zimmerman has drawn more than 2,000,000 signatures at website Change.org as of March 30.

Sanford city commissioners recently adopted a "no confidence" motion over their police chief's handling of the shooting. The commission voted 3-2 against Chief Bill Lee Jr. Prosecutor Norm Wolfinger has said a grand jury will meet April 10 to consider evidence in the case.

"This case is a chilling reminder of the ongoing specter of racial prejudice and discrimination — and that justice is often elusive for those who are considered 'suspicious' or 'other,'" the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice said in a statement. "In 1982, against the milieu of fierce economic competition with Japan, Vincent Chin, a Chinese American man celebrating his upcoming wedding was beaten to death with a baseball bat by two white autoworkers who presumed Chin was Japanese. The perpetrators never spent a day in jail.

"We call upon federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to devote the full extent of their resources to investigate and prosecute the killing of Trayvon Martin so that history does not repeat itself. While there was no justice for Vincent Chin, 30 years later, we demand justice for Trayvon Martin." ■

JACL/OCA HOSTS SUCCESSFUL SUMMIT

The popular summit was once again sponsored by State Farm.

The JACL, in partnership with OCA national, hosted 30 participants in another successful JACL/OCA D.C. Leadership Summit in the nation's capital.

The three-day intensive training from March 10-13 allowed participants to enhance their leadership and coalition building skills by becoming familiar with the political process while learning critical issues that affect the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Participants met with AAPI leaders in Congress, the Administration and partners from the social justice community.

"This year's Leadership Summit was one of the most inspirational ever," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "Our speakers were right on message with the issues of the day and instilled a sense of urgency for each participant to become a serious advocate for the community."

A number of distinguished guests spoke at the summit, including U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, Tina Tchen, chief of staff, Office of the First Lady, Mark Keam, 39 District delegate, Virginia House of Delegates, and Bruce Yamashita, former Marine Officer.

"State Farm is proud to be associated with the JACL/OCA Leadership Summit. Ensuring the continuity of leadership talent is essential for sustaining two outstanding civil

rights organizations dedicated to the well-being of Asian Pacific Islander Americans," said Leslie Moe-Kaiser of State Farm Public Affairs. This year's Leadership Summit was again sponsored by State Farm.

This year's participants included: Amy Watanabe (JACL-PSW), Cecilia Pham (OCA-Greater Houston), Christopher Loo (OCA-Hawaii), Curtis Suyematsu (JACL-PNW), Donna Hansen (JACL-IDC), Dora Quach (OCA-Greater Los Angeles), Elaine Akagi (JACL-PNW), Esther Choi (OCA-New York), Gary Chiu (OCA-Dallas-Fort Worth), Hanako Wakatsuki (JACL-IDC), Harvey Dam (OCA-Utah), Jace Mikulanec (JACL-NCWNP), Jeffrey Wu (OCA-Greater Washington, DC), Jessica Moy (JACL-IDC), Kelly Honda (JACL-NCWNP), Kenjiro Lecroix (JACL-MDW), Kevin Mori (OCA-Orange County), Laura Ng (JACL-EDC), Lily Li (OCA-Eastern Virginia), Lisa Drake (OCA-Las Vegas), Lynn Longfellow (JACL-PNW), Marissa Kitazawa (JACL-PSW), Matthew Asada (JACL-EDC), Renuka Mishra (OCA-Tucson), Shan Cong (OCA-Saint Louis), Stacy Matsuura (JACL-CCDC), Susie Wong (OCA-Sacramento), Teresa Chao (OCA-Georgia), Yoon Yim (OCA-Central Illinois) and Yuka Ogino (JACL-PSW).

"I am so overjoyed that I had the chance to listen to phenomenal AAPI advocates and experts from the community, participate in a wonderful well-organized summit, and network with amazing participants around the nation," said participant Matsuura. ■

LOCAL SAN JOSE CEREMONY HONORS GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

In total, 159 veterans or their family members received the honor.

By Leon Kimura
"My P.C." Contributor

For those World War II Nisei veterans who were unable to receive their Congressional Gold Medals last November in the nation's capital, a local San Jose ceremony made sure the heroes were still honored.

With more than 750 people watching, 65 Nisei veterans, 44 widows, and 50 family representatives were able to receive their replica Gold Medals in a ceremony that spoke of their courage and valor.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award bestowed on civilians. The Nisei veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service received the award for their heroics during WWII.

In all, some 159 individuals were honored at the local ceremony in San Jose, Calif. recently. The chapters of the NCWNP district helped to ensure they located the veterans and their families for the ceremony held at the San Jose Buddhist Church Annex in the heart of Japantown.

Co-Masters of Ceremony were Wendy



MIS vet Moffett Ishikawa was an honoree.

Hanamura, vice president and general manager of Link TV, and Mike Inouye, traffic anchor, NBC Bay Area News. There was a congratulatory video from President Barack Obama and local Members of Congress Zoe Loftren, CD-16, Anna Eshoo, CD-14, and Michael Honda, CD-15, spoke at the event and also personally handed out the Gold Medals to the vets and their families.

The Gold Medal replicas and costs for the ceremony were generously donated by sponsors and individual donors. Each honoree also received a Congressional certificate signed by the three Congress Members and a special handmade wooden stand created by Jimi Yamaichi. ■

JACL'S COLLEGIATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE JUNE 7-10

This year's JACL Collegiate Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference, an intensive three-day leadership development program that introduces Asian Pacific American student leaders to the national policy-making arena, will take place in the nation's capital June 7 to 10.

Participants will be briefed on legislative issues affecting the Asian Pacific American community and examine the role Asian Pacific American civil rights organizations play in affecting public policy in the nation's capital. They will also have the chance to meet and work with student leaders representing colleges and universities from throughout the country and learn ways to effectively address issues and create positive social change on their own campuses and beyond.

Applicant must be an Asian Pacific American undergraduate freshman, sophomore or junior class student attending an accredited college or university on a full-time basis. The program will select 12 participants to attend the conference. JACL will cover airfare, lodging, meals and transportation during the conference for all participants.

Applications are due by May 4 (postmarked or emailed) and should be sent to: JACL Midwest Office, Attn: Collegiate Leadership Conference, 5415 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 606040 or midwest@jacl.org.

Applications are available through the JACL website at www.jacl.org, or by request at midwest@jacl.org.

For more information, email midwest@jacl.org or call 773/728-7170.

The JACL Collegiate Leadership Conference is sponsored by UPS and Southwest Airlines. ■

APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR MASAOKA CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP

By Pacific Citizen Staff

One of the most popular JACL programs, the Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellowship, is now accepting applications for the period 2012-2013.

The successful applicant will be placed in the Washington, D.C. Congressional offices of members of the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate for a period of six to eight months. The major purpose of the Masaoka fellowship is to develop leaders for public service.

The current Masaoka fellow is Mackenzie Walker, who is working in the office of Congresswoman Judy Chu of California.

"The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship is a wonderful program which gives young people the opportunity to work in the office of a member of Congress and to learn the workings of government firsthand," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "The friends of Mike Masaoka had great foresight in establishing the fund for the fellowship to develop leadership."

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellow-



Mike Masaoka in 1973.

ship Fund was established in 1988 to honor Masaoka for a lifetime of public service to the JACL and the nation. He was the JACL's national secretary, field executive, national legislative director of the JACL's Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the JACL Washington, D.C. representative.

Masaoka worked tirelessly to advance the cause of Japanese Americans during his lifetime. He was instrumental in the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat

Team and for the abolition of various discriminatory laws against Asian Americans. He passed away in 1991.

The fund was set up by the good friends of Masaoka. Dr. H. Tom Tamaki of Philadelphia administered the program for the JACL for 20 years since its inception in 1988. The JACL D.C. office now administers the fellowship.

"We encourage young members of the JACL who are college graduates to apply for this fellowship which offers a unique experience for service in the nation's capital," said National JACL President David Kawamoto. "We anticipate that these young people will be our future leaders in the JACL."

For more information and an application, go to the leadership section of the JACL website (www.jacl.org). Applicants must be current members of the JACL. Applications should be submitted to the JACL D.C. office as per instructions on the website.

The deadline for applications is May 20. The announcement of the selected fellow is expected to be made by July 1. ■

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

IT TAKES A LOT OF HARD WORK

By Floyd Mori



The JACL was very happy to learn of the awarding of the National Parks Service (NPS) grant to the JACL for our program: "Passing the Legacy Down: Youth Interpretations of Confinement Sites in the Western United States." The sites to be used in the project are Manzanar, Minidoka and Tule Lake with our Los Angeles, Seattle and San Francisco regional offices. This grant will enable us to continue to teach youth about the internment experience of Japanese Americans during World War II.

"The Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program" was established for the preservation and interpretation of U.S. confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during WWII. The law authorized up to \$38 million for the entire life of the grant program to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair and acquire historic confinement sites in order that present and future generations may learn of this important time in history when the constitution did not protect innocent American citizens.

We appreciate Congress for approving this program and extend our special thanks to former Congressman Bill Thomas, R-CA, who was instrumental, along with many others, in bringing this to pass. It was signed by President George W. Bush. We are also grateful to the National Parks Service, which administers the grant program. Congress must appropriate the funds for these grants each year.

As I mentioned in a report to the JACL membership last year when we were not awarded a grant, these grants do not simply materialize but are the result of a lot of hard work. When we received an NPS grant in 2009 for the Bridging Communities program, which brought together Japanese American youth with American Muslim youth to learn of the camps and our history, Craig Ishii, former PSW regional director, worked hard on writing the grant. For this year's grant, the application work was done largely by Jean Shiraki, former JACL Inouye fellow in the D.C. office. We thank them for their hard work.

Recently I heard a complaint from a person whose family was held captive by the Japanese military in the Philippines during WWII. He was complaining that Japanese Americans who were interned during WWII in America's concentration camps were later compensated by the government, and his family received nothing from the Japanese. Again, these things do not just happen, but they are the result of a lot of hard work.

It took over 10 years of concentrated effort by many people to obtain the final result of Redress. The government did not just arbitrarily decide that Japanese Americans deserved an apology and reparations for being forcibly removed from their West Coast homes and incarcerated in desolate camps. They were imprisoned, surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards, and the majority of them were American citizens.

The JACL has done and continues to do important things for Americans of Japanese ancestry and others. It is vital that we keep working hard. Worthwhile results require a lot of work. ■

'As I mentioned in a report to the JACL membership last year when we were not awarded a grant, these grants do not simply materialize but are the result of a lot of hard work.'

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A WELL DESERVED HONOR

By David Kawamoto



The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest national honor bestowed by the legislative branch of our U.S. government. Though the award has been made since 1776, relatively few have received this honor. Among the recipients are Thomas

Edison, the Wright Brothers, Jackie Robinson, Mother Theresa, the Dalai Lama, Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela.

Our community's Nisei veterans have now taken their proper place alongside these past recipients.

I am proud of the role national JACL played in our Nisei veterans obtaining this honor. And, I am proud that my San Diego chapter sponsored the Congressional Gold Medal commemorative ceremony in their area.

As your national JACL president, I've had the pleasure of attending several of these Congressional Gold Medal celebrations across the country. I'm always thrilled to see so many of our Nisei veterans in attendance.

It's also great to see those veterans who are no longer with us being represented by their families. Be-

cause, as overwhelmingly significant the accomplishments of the Nisei veterans were, our community had so many other family members who were contributing in their own way back home. So many stayed home to care for parents, children and the infirm. So, I'm glad to see the families share in the recognition.

Because of my national JACL responsibilities, I had originally believed that I wouldn't be able to attend the ceremony in San Diego. I was so glad that I was able to juggle my schedule and attend. Mainly because it is my hometown and my father, Harry Kawamoto, was among those being honored. I'm so proud of him and I regret never having told him that.

Holding events such as the Congressional Gold Medal ceremonies calls important attention to the World War II experience of our community. It is a story of civil liberties denied, race prejudice and illegal detention of U.S. citizens. But, it is also a story of perseverance in the face of adversity, courageous loyalty to the United States, and, eventually, a presidential apology and Constitutional Redress.

This is a story that must be shared with future generations. We can look back proudly at the efforts and accomplishments of our community during those trying times. And, all communities can learn the lessons of liberty lost, and how fragile our freedoms truly are.

On behalf of the JACL and all of our community, I extend a hearty congratulation to our Nisei veterans for their receipt of this well deserved honor. ■



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*

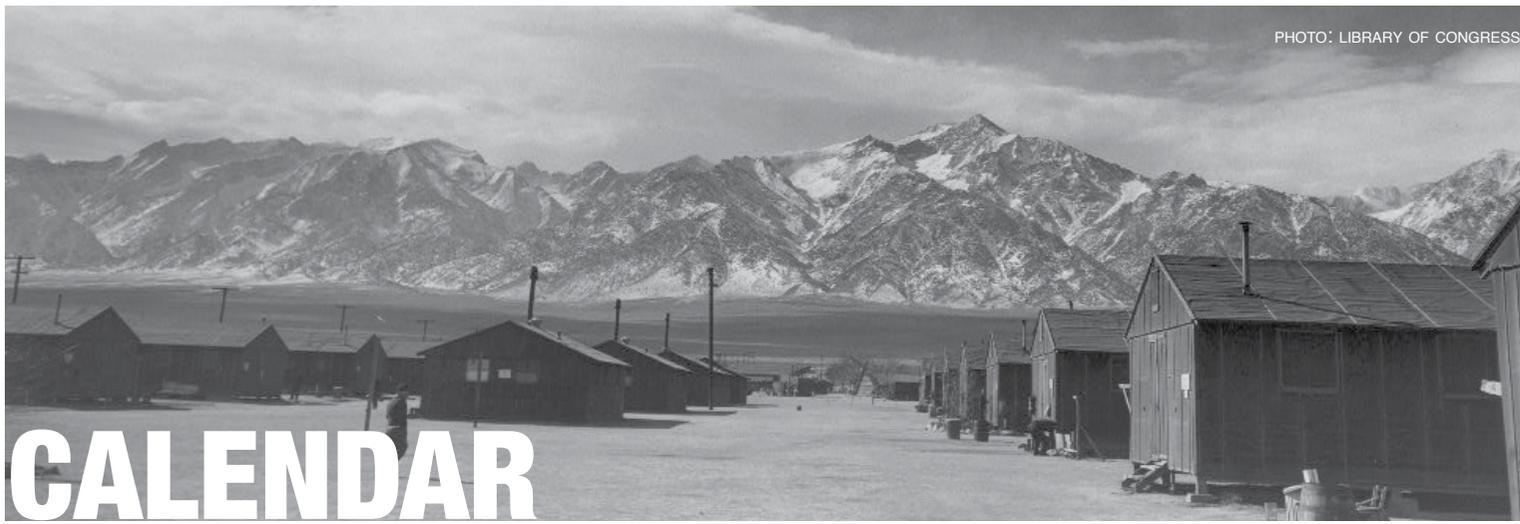


PHOTO: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Manzanar Pilgrimage
OWENS VALLEY, CA
April 28, noon to 8 p.m.
Manzanar National Historic Site
U.S. Highway 395
Cost: \$40/Bus transportation
 The 43rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage commemorates the 70th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. The keynote speaker is Mitchell T. Maki. Bus reservations are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
Info: Email 43rdpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org or call 323/662-5102

CALENDAR

>>EAST

Isamu Noguchi Museum Tour
LONG ISLAND CITY, NY
June 2, 11:30 a.m.
Isamu Noguchi Museum
9-01 33rd Road

The New England JACL chapter is planning a trip to New York and a tour of the Isamu Noguchi Museum. Noguchi was one of the 20th Century's most important and critically acclaimed sculptors.

Info: Visit www.nejacl.org

Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Gala
WASHINGTON, D.C.
May 8, 6:30 p.m.

The Ritz-Carlton Washington, D.C.

1150 22nd Street, N.W.

The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional

Studies will host the 18th Annual National Gala for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

RSVP: tgogue@apaics.org or 219/627-2427

The 5th Asian Boston Networking Event
BOSTON, MA

April 26, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Hei La Moon

88 Beach Street

Cost: \$20/At the door

The Asian Boston Media Group will award the first annual ABMG Awards at its 5th Asian Boston Networking Event. The program recognizes Asian Americans who reside and contribute to the New England and New York communities. Contact Ted at woo77@comcast.net for student discounts.

Info: Email info@asianboston.com

com or call 617/338-8813

>>NCWNP

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Art Exhibit
HONOLULU, HI

Thru May 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii

2454 S. Beretania St.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's new exhibit "Escapade: New Work by Keiko Hatano & Yoko Haar" highlights the new work of Hawaii artists.

Info: Visit www.jcch.com, call 808/945-7633 or email info@jcch.com

Diane C. Fujino Book Launch
BERKELEY, CA

April 21, 7 p.m.

Eastwind Books of Berkeley
200 MLK Jr. Student Union Bldg.

Author Diane C. Fujino will present her book "Samurai Among Panthers: Richard Aoki on Race, Resistance, and a Paradoxical Life." Aoki was a prominent Japanese American member of the Black Panther Party.

Info: Call 510/548-2350

Wakamatsu Colony Festival
PLACERVILLE, CA

May 19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wakamatsu Tea & Silk Colony Farm

941 Cold Springs Road

Cost: \$15/Advanced adult tickets; \$7/Youth; \$20/At the door

The Wakamatsu Colony Festival is a fundraising event to support and honor the site of the first Japanese colony in America. The event includes sword demonstrations, taiko drummers, Japanese folk music and dancing, among other things.

Info: Visit www.arconservancy.org/wakamatsufestival or call 530/621-1224

J-Sei's 22nd Annual Golf Invitational

EL CERRITO, CA

May 14, 12 noon

Mira Vista Golf & Country Club
7901 Cutting Blvd.

Cost: \$200/Entry fee; \$50/Awards dinner

The J-Sei's 22nd Annual Golf Invitational event includes a tee prize, lunch, snacks, awards and dinner. The event is a fundraiser for J-Sei and will help to expand its home-delivered meal program to Oakland residents. Sponsors are also needed for the event.
Info: Contact Diane Wong at 510/848-3560 ext. 102 or email diane@j-sei.org

JA Women Alumnae of U.C. Berkeley Luncheon
OAKLAND, CA

April 21, 11:30 a.m.

Yoshi's Restaurant

510 Embarcadero West

Cost: \$40/Each guest; \$25/Students

The Japanese American Women Alumnae of U.C. Berkeley (JAWAUCB) will hold its 22nd Annual Luncheon with speaker Karen Yamashita, literature professor and co-director of UCSC's Creative Writing Program. The business meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.

Info: Call Vera Kawamura at 925/253-1703

The 2012 Tule Lake Pilgrimage
TULELAKE, CA

June 30 thru July 3

The 2012 Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee has announced that registration for this year is now closed. This year's pilgrimage theme is "Understanding No-No and Renunciation." The next Tule Lake pilgrimage is 2014.

Info: Visit www.tulelake.org

San Jose's 35th Annual Nikkei Matsuri

SAN JOSE, CA

April 29, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

San Jose Japantown

Jackson Street (Between Fourth and Sixth Streets)

The 35th Annual Nikkei Matsuri celebrates Japanese American culture and heritage. There will be Japanese food, performing arts on two stages, cultural exhibits and arts and crafts.

Info: Visit www.nikkeimatsuri.org

>>PNW

Film Screening of 'Mr. Cao Goes to Washington'

EUGENE, OR

April 28-29 (TBD)

Bijou Cinema

492 E. 13th Avenue

Director and producer S. Leo Chiang's film "Mr. Cao Goes to Washington" follows former U.S. Rep. Anh Joseph Cao, who was the first Vietnamese American to serve in Congress.

Info: Call 541/686-2458

>>PSW

Los Angeles Film Screening of 'MIS: Human Secret Weapon'
LOS ANGELES, CA

May 19

Nishi Hongwanji Los Angeles

Director Junichi Suzuki's film "MIS: Human Secret Weapon" chronicles the heroics of the Military Intelligence Service during World War II, which was mostly comprised of Japanese Americans.

Info: Call 213/680-9130

The 2012 Los Angeles Hanamatsuri

LOS ANGELES, CA

April 8, 1 to 3 p.m.

Japanese American Cultural & Community Center's Garden Room

244 S. San Pedro Street

The Los Angeles Buddhist Church Federation will host the 2012 Hanamatsuri. The event includes a special performance called "Project Motomaro" by the theater group Grateful Crane Ensemble.

Info: Visit www.jaccc.org or call 213/628-2725

Retirement Celebration for Bill Watanabe

LOS ANGELES, CA

May 19, 11:30 a.m.

The Westin Bonaventure Hotel
404 S. Figueroa Street

Cost: \$55/General admission

This event honors Bill Watanabe, who served as the Little Tokyo Service Center's executive director for 33 years. He will retire in June.

Info: Contact Gayle Yamada at 213/473-1608

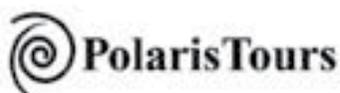
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May 24 - May 26	Summertime Las Vegas: Show: Rod Stewart or Garth Brooks
Jun. 11 - Jun. 24	Discover Croatia: Dalmatian Coast & Slovenia
Jul. 03 - Jul. 12	Summer Japan: "Vacation with the Whole Family"
Aug. 04 - Aug. 12	Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park
Sep. 06 - Sep. 17	Let's Go Hokkaido
Sep. 29 - Oct. 10	The Legendary Danube River Cruise: Hungary, Austria, Germany
Oct. 03 - Oct. 17	New England Colors & Eastern Canada: Fall Foliage
Oct. 05 - Oct. 09	Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta: New Mexico's Most Dazzling Spectacle
Oct. 16 - Oct. 25	Autumn Japan: Magnificent Fall Colors
Oct. 22 - Nov. 03	Spectacular South Africa & Victoria Falls
Nov. 01 - Nov. 12	The Best of Kyushu
Nov. 29 - Dec. 01	Holiday in Las Vegas: Show: TBA

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TRIBUTE

In Memoriam

Abe, Amy Kiyoko, 79, Los Angeles, CA; March 25; wife of Charles K. Abe; predeceased by siblings Doris Kamihara, Robert and George Kawamura; survived children, Dr. John T. (Betty) Abe and Catherine (Bernard) Zimring; siblings, Ernest (Sumire) and Edwin Kawamura, Mavis (Shiro) Taniguchi, Beverly (Ray) Yoshida, and Jane Oshiro, and surviving sisters-in-law Tokie and Maria Kawamura; also survived by many other relatives; 4 gc.

Hayashi, Melvin, 71, Thousand



Oaks, CA; March 11; Mel was born in Hawaii, to Richard and Harriet Hayashi; he became an orthopedic surgeon; he served in the U.S. Air Force leaving in 1972; a year later he began his practice; survived by his wife Vikki; sons Michael and Grant; daughters Brooke (Marc) Fages, Shelley; sisters Dianne O'hara and Avis Martin; brother Wade Hayashi; many nephews and nieces; 2 gc.

Ishii, Frank, 92, Los Alamitos, CA; March 1; a veteran of WWII; he is survived by his wife, Samie Ishii; children, Debbie (Vincent) Chiya; siblings, George Ishii and Lily Shin; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 1 gc.

Kato, Howard, 81, California;



March 16; husband of Kazi Kato; father of Douglas (Catherine), Chris (Ella), Kelly (Ellen), and Ricky (Lenora) Kato; he is also survived by other relatives; 5 gc.

Kato, Mutsuko, 82, Santa Monica, CA; March 13; survived by her sisters, Kazuko (Norio) Hashiguchi and Ikuko Kano; brother-in-law, Akira (Chiyeko) Kato; nephews, Ron (Virginia), Alex (Julie) and Gary Kato; niece, Lisa (Larry) Drexler; also survived by many grandnieces, grandnephews and other relatives.

Kimura, Michiko, 77, North Hills, CA; March 7; survived by her husband, Akira Kimura; children, Irene (Dan) Hale and Henry (Barbara) Kimura; siblings, Chieko Uetani, Yasuko (Miyoshi) Kakoi, and Teruo (Kimiko) Kimura; sister-in-law, Miyoko Kimura; many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 4 gc; 2 ggc.

Koike, Hideo Roy, 88, Playa Del Rey, CA; March 16; a veteran of WWII; survived by his wife, Hiroko Koike; children, Clifford Hideo (Mui) Koike, Cynthia Koike, and Sharon (Wendell) Pitpit; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 5 gc.

Kubo, Edmund Hatsuichi, 101,



Torrance, CA; March 18; predeceased by his beloved wife, Florence Shizue Kubo; survived by his beloved children, Edward Yasuhiko Kubo (Itsuko), Nancy Takako Kubo Dawson (Stuart) and Alice Masayo Kubo Leung (Alfred brother-in-law, Isamu Nagata, as well as many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 5 gc; 1 ggc.

Kuwaki, Alyce Kikuye, 96, Camarillo, CA; March 14; survived by her loving children, Carl, Sachi, Harry, Shirley Kadomoto and Mary Shimomaye; sister, Mary Kotaka; sister-in-law, May Ohta; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 4 gc; 5 ggc.

Okawa, Hiroshi "George," 97, Ontario, OR; March 22; Hiroshi was the son of Itaro and Sueo Okawa; he had a barbershop in Portland until being drafted into the Army in 1942; he opened and operated his own shop, the East-side Barbershop, until he retired in 2000; survived by his wife, Yukiko of 52 years; his daughters, Grace Thompson and her husband, Gary, of Klamath Falls, Ore.; and Esther Okawa, of Seattle, Wash.; as well as many nieces and nephews in both the U.S. and Japan.

Takata, Helen Michiko, 92, Los Angeles, CA; March 20; predeceased by her husband, Roy Akira; survived by her daughter, Ryoko (Lawrence Potter); niece, Vivian Matsushige and many other relatives; 2 gc. ■

Shigeki Hiratsuka

January 14, 2012

Shigeki Hiratsuka, 95, a retired mechanical engineer, spent most of his career with the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Aiko Tashiro Hiratsuka, raised their family in Arlington, Virginia, and were active members of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the JAACL.

After retirement and the loss of his wife, Mr. Hiratsuka moved to Tucson, Arizona, in 1986, and he had 25 years of healthy, active retirement. He made many new friends and kept in touch with old friends through letters and through several cross-country car trips in his 70s and 80s.

Mr. Hiratsuka was born in 1916 in Irvington, California. He graduated from the University of California-Berkeley. During World War II, he was interned in the Amache concentration camp in Granada, Colorado. After release from Amache, he attended the University of Wyoming and received a second bachelor's degree, in mechanical engineering. He lived and worked in New York, Tokyo, and Okinawa before moving to Washington, D.C.

Mr. Hiratsuka died peacefully in his retirement community home in Sierra Vista, Arizona,



on January 14, 2012. A memorial service was held in Tucson, Arizona, and a funeral service was held in Washington, D.C. Survivors include his son, Jon Hiratsuka; his daughter-in-law, Luz Hiratsuka; two brothers, George and Roy Hiratsuka; and his long-time friend, Deanie Allen.

TRIBUTE

Dave Teruo Kawagoye

October 29, 1919 - March 11, 2012

Los Angeles-born 442nd RCT Anti-Tank nisei veteran resided in Gardena, CA. Survived by wife Mary Toshiko; sister, Amy Reitz; daughters: Dale Sato, Phyllis Matsuoka, Marsha Furutani. Grandchildren: Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Naomi Sato-Cofer, Alex and Ron Matsuoka. Great-grandchildren: Kyle Yamazaki, Flora Cofer.

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COMMENTARY

PVT. DANNY CHEN UPDATE

By Stanley N. Kanzaki

I recently attended a press conference in New York's Chinatown for an update concerning the death of U.S. Army soldier Pvt. Danny Chen while on duty in Afghanistan. The press conference was chaired by Elizabeth R. OuYang, president of the OCA New York Chapter.

OuYang gave an update on the pursuit to seek justice for Pvt. Chen. The Article 32 hearing of the U.S. Uniform Code of Military Justice has been completed by the Army on all the eight soldiers involved: a 1st lieutenant, five sergeants and two enlisted men, who were charged.

Some were charged with negligent homicide with maximum sentences of three years instead of involuntary homicide, which called for a maximum of 10 years. Additional charges were dereliction of duty and assault. In my opinion, the charge should have been the maximum in view of how Pvt. Chen was subjected to continuous physical abuse, repeated racial taunting and humiliation. On

October 3, 2011, he took his own life. This is what happens when military leadership fails and men take matters into their own hands. The charges are to go to two more levels of command for reviews before it can be finalized.

There is a demand for a transparent investigation and the trial to be held in the U.S. not in Afghanistan. This is possible since the Army unit is to redeploy back to the U.S. in April 2012, to their base at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. The next problem is the distance involved and to get as many people there for the entire trial, especially the Chen family and relatives.

OCA has taken action holding press conferences and getting over 5,000 signed petitions demanding a transparent investigation. The signed petitions came from Beijing, Australia and from all over the U.S. And a YouTube video, "What Happened to Danny" has been viewed by over 40,000. A mass rally and a march were held with over 500 participants from 36 organizations followed by a candlelight vigil.

The press conference was attended by a large number of people, the press and conducted most efficiently by OuYang. Standing with her at the rostrum was Danny's parents and relatives.

He was a "local boy" born in New York's Chinatown to immigrant parents from China and the only child. He graduated from Pace High School before enlisting in the Army. It was sad to see his parents Yan Tao and Su Zhen Chen, who do not speak English, standing there stoically. One can only imagine what is going through their minds each time they attend an event for him.

It is most important for all of us to support this movement and bring justice for Pvt. Chen. In the past we Asian Americans in this country have had violence perpetrated against us. We must remember to stick together for "an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us."

Petitions can be downloaded at: <http://goo.gl/xWKNq>. ■

Stanley Kanzaki is a member of the New York JACL chapter.

HONDA

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lated the constitution's one-person, one-vote mandate (1989), and a two-term limit was imposed by referendum (1993). The council has voted 29-22 to extend the limit for mayor (Bloomberg) to three terms.

The 50 aldermen in Chicago are elected from 50 wards and serve four-year terms. The presiding officer and secretary (city clerk) are elected citywide. Wikipedia noticed that the first public corruption occurred in 1869; between 1873 and 2012, 31 aldermen were con-

victed of corruption.

Koreatown is home to about 120,000, one of the most dense of all neighborhoods. But it was the Japanese who since the 1900s settled in the Uptown area — where Koreatown is today. In the 1910s, St. Mary's Japanese Mission was a modest house situated in a very Anglo neighborhood at 961 Mariposa. The new church building came up and was dedicated in 1931. The mission was founded for the Issei refugees from the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake. ■

Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.

ASAKAWA

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lots of work on a variety of shows, and the next generation of stars are getting exposure (think Harry Shum, Jr. and Jenna Ushkowitz of "Glee").

And we finally have a star in a leading role, Maggie Q (Maggie Denise Quigley), who is Hapa Polish-Irish and Vietnamese, as the eponymous government assassin-gone-good in "Nikita." She's a fine actor with a broad emotional range, and the action skills to shine in the dynamic fight scenes.

I bet the men won't be far behind, and Bruce Lee will be smiling down on us. Even better, maybe in a decade we won't be complaining at all about the lack of Asians — men or women — in Hollywood. ■

Gil Asakawa is a former P.C. Editorial Board chair and blogs at www.nikkeiview.com.

'I bet the men won't be far behind, and Bruce Lee will be smiling down on us.'



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