

PACIFIC CITIZEN

JAPANESE DOLLS RETURNED AFTER 70 YEARS

Page 4

Two childhood friends reunite after 70 years, returning Japanese dolls kept safe since World War II.



Page 3

San Fran's bus ads stir controversy.



Page 6

Honoring the second anniversary of 3.11



Page 8

'Monday Mornings' premieres on TNT.



NIKKEI VOICE

Pop Culture Builds Bridges Between Japan and the U.S.

By Gil Asakawa

I'm a fan of anime and manga, even though I don't actually follow the zillions of comics or animated series and movies, because they're instrumental in building bridges between Japan and the United States. I've spoken with eager young Caucasian anime fans in full cosplay (dressed in costumes playing the part of their favorite anime characters) who said they're taking Japanese classes and are planning on Japanese studies in college.

That's some powerful tug on the hearts and minds of our country's future leaders.

Anime and manga are just the most visible signs of pop culture's powerful effects. Just take a look at video games, movies and music, and Japan's influence on America goes way beyond instant ramen and sushi happy hours.

Curiously, though, J-pop, or Japanese pop music, hasn't made too much of a dent in the American charts over the years.

Just last year, if you have kids, you may have caught a catchy bit of bubblegum rock called "Sugar Rush" from the soundtrack of the Disney animated feature "Wreck-It Ralph." The film will be released on DVD and Blu-Ray on March 5.

AKB48 is one of the biggest groups in Japan right now — literally. It's a "girl group" of idols — cute, young women who are hired for their performance talent as well as camera-readiness. Not only are they huge hitmakers, but there also are 48 members of the group, making it the largest pop group in the world. Its members rotate in smaller troupes both in videos and onstage, including in their own theater in Tokyo's electronics district, Akihabara (hence the group's name).

You may have read in recent weeks about one of AKB48's top singers, who shaved her head and gave a tearful public apology after being caught spending the night with a member of a Japanese boy band, which was in violation of AKB48's ban on romance.

This kind of story about Japan's traditional cultural values shouldn't detract from AKB48's amazing success in Japan, and I assume, an inevitable attempt at scaling the U.S. charts beyond "Sugar Rush."

>>See POP on page 16



FOR THE RECORD

25th Anniversary Celebration

By John Tateishi

During my tenure at the helm of the JACL, we instituted two events: the annual Gala Dinner in Washington, D.C., and the change from biennial to annual conventions. Both had something to do with the organization's finances.

Corporate funders could more easily keep us on their annual funding docket if we had annual conventions rather than biennial. In addition, having annual conventions made it easier to plan — projecting a budget for one year was much easier than for two.

The D.C. Gala was something of a desperate move to balance the budget at the eleventh hour in our biennial budget process. Each convention year, the Finance Committee presents a budget to the National Board for approval. Theoretically, a balanced budget. But with a constantly shrinking membership — our main source of funding — the original budget is always short on revenues.

It's up to the board then to find ways to balance the budget, but in my seven years as the director, despite my having brought in new corporate sponsors, we still fell short on the budget. And so the board spends the better part of a weekend attempting to balance the budget. Invariably, late on Saturday night the board makes futile attempts to come up with new funding to fill a budget gap of over \$100,000.

We were in just that situation for the 2006 budget. Late Saturday night, short on revenues, everyone exhausted from two days of working numbers, I suggested that we could balance the budget by holding a gala dinner in D.C., where fundraising dinners are common, and the JACL, with its expanded presence after Floyd Mori's arrival there as the D.C. rep, would be more than capable of raising substantial funds. Floyd and I would do the dinner together since we were both experienced at this kind of event. Its success was a gimme.

The board approved the budget the next day and presented it to the National Council at the Phoenix convention, where it was approved. All was well . . . except I fell ill and left Floyd holding the bag.

So, I guess this is my *mea culpa* for leaving Floyd with the responsibility for both the gala and the annual conventions, which have been great successes. Floyd did an amazing job of putting the gala together the first year, and it's now an annual event.

Although he's now retired from the JACL, Floyd was asked to take over the planning for this year's D.C. convention in July, which will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. It's appropriate the JACL should do this celebration because it was the JACL that carried the campaign. The community rejected and criticized us and even undermined our efforts. But the JACL forged on and succeeded with a remarkable first stage in the campaign, the commission hearings and report. And from there, the JACL carried the redress bill and culminated its efforts with the successful signing of the Civil Liberties Act.

The JACL has a lot to be proud of and to celebrate. As I've said often, redress was a campaign that was planned, executed and carried by the JACL. Simply put, it never would have happened without the JACL.

Floyd is well aware of all this and will no doubt put together a great conference so long as he doesn't have to deal with what always becomes a problem in the JACL: those in positions of authority intruding, kibitzing, demanding and ordering when they don't know what they're talking about. If he's in charge, let him be in charge.

He's also included Bill Yoshino and Karen Yoshitomi to assist with the planning. Bill was an integral part of the campaign and knows who truly played roles in the effort (unlike our many community interpreters of that history), and Karen is a master planner and documentarian.

With Floyd at the helm and with Karen and Bill working with him, the conference in D.C. promises to be a wonderful and memorable event you won't want to miss. The JACL will never again achieve anything so remarkable as redress, and it'll be good for the JACL to take pride in celebrating such a grand occasion.

John Tateishi is a former JACL national director.

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ASIAN AMERICANS DENOUNCE ANTI-ISLAM BUS ADS

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The Asian American community joined protests over anti-Islam bus ads plastered on buses in San Francisco.

A community forum was held Jan. 31 at the Tenderloin Recreation Center in San Francisco to address the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's bus advertisements, which call Muslim Americans and Arab Americans "savages." The ads first appeared in the city in late 2012. Community members say the ads put Muslim Americans at risk.

The ad reads: "In any war between the civilized man and the savage, support the civilized man. Support Israel. Defeat jihad." The American Freedom Defense Initiative, which is headed by Pamela Geller, purchased the ads. In New York, transportation officials initially refused to run the pro-Israel ad, but lost against Geller in court.

To address concerns about the controversial ads that appear in the Bay Area, a community forum was held in collaboration with the

San Francisco Human Rights Commission, the Asian Law Caucus, the Arab Resource and Organizing Center, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Arab Cultural and Community Center.

Bus drivers, youth and American Islamic community leaders denounced the ads at the recent public forum.



The conservative organization American Freedom Defense Initiative purchased anti-Islam ads in San Francisco after a legal win in New York.

"As a fourth generation Japanese American, the correlations are easy to identify. My own grandparents were imprisoned because of their race," said Brandon Hideo Unruhe, a San Francisco JACL chapter board member who attended the forum. "This 'Islamaphobia' rhetoric being used today is similar to what was used during World War II in attacking the Japanese American community. As a proud Japanese American, I stand up to these despicable ads and support the Muslim community who are continuing to be discriminated against."

In response to the ads, Muslim and Arab American community leaders asked city officials to issue disclaimers, listen to people's experiences with the ads and have proceeds benefit an Arab and Muslim American discrimination study. Transportation agency officials placed disclaimers next to the ads, which stated that it "condemns statements that describe any group as 'savages.'"

Officials with CAIR began an educational campaign in early January, purchasing 35 bus ads to educate the public about the

Muslim American community.

"We are excited that the #MyJihad campaign has come to San Francisco. It presents a much-needed opportunity to engage in dialogue around the true meaning of jihad and the rise of anti-Muslim rhetoric in recent years," said Zahra Billoo, executive director of CAIR-SFBA, in a press release. ■

A RALLY TO MAKE HELEN KAWAGOE'S DREAM COME TRUE

CARSON, CALIF. — A rally at the intersection of Carson Street and Avalon Boulevard in Carson near city hall was held Feb. 5 by Helen's Dream Coalition members in support of immediately renaming the city's council chambers after former City Clerk Helen Kawagoe.

After serving as the elected city clerk for more than 37 years, Kawagoe suffered a debilitating stroke in 2011 and had to retire. There currently is a 3-2 split on the City Council, with the majority — Mayor Pro Tem Julie Ruiz-Raber, Councilmember Lula Davis-Holmes and Councilmember Mike Gipson — insisting that the chambers be renamed after Kawagoe's death, and the minority — Mayor Jim Dear and Councilmember Elito Santarina — supporting the coalition's position. The council majority maintains that it is against city policy to honor a living person in this manner.

The rally also was held in support of two candidates in the City Council election on March 5.

"Albert Robles and Charlotte Brimmer, who are the two strongest opposition candidates, believe Helen Kawagoe deserves to see her dream come true now, not after her death," the coalition said in a statement. "Helen Kawagoe was a founding leader of Carson, which is why many called her 'Mama Carson.' There are no taxpayer dollars needed and no official policy that prevents renaming the Carson Council Chambers after Helen now, not after she dies."

Brimmer is a member of the Carson Planning Commission and Robles is a constitutional attorney/professor. The other council candidates are retired businesswoman/professor Rita Boggs, businessman Joseph Gordon, educator Timothy Muckey and Stephen Anyaka, who did not list his occupation on the ballot. Davis-Holmes is challenging Dear for mayor, and Ruiz-Raber and Gipson are running for re-election against the six challengers.

Those elected on March 5 will hold office until March 2017.

Kawagoe, who also served as national JACL president from 1996-2000, currently lives at South Bay Keiro in Gardena and was not able to attend the rally. Kawagoe is believed to be the first Japanese American elected to local office in the United States.

For more information on the Helen's Dream Coalition, visit www.helensdream.org.



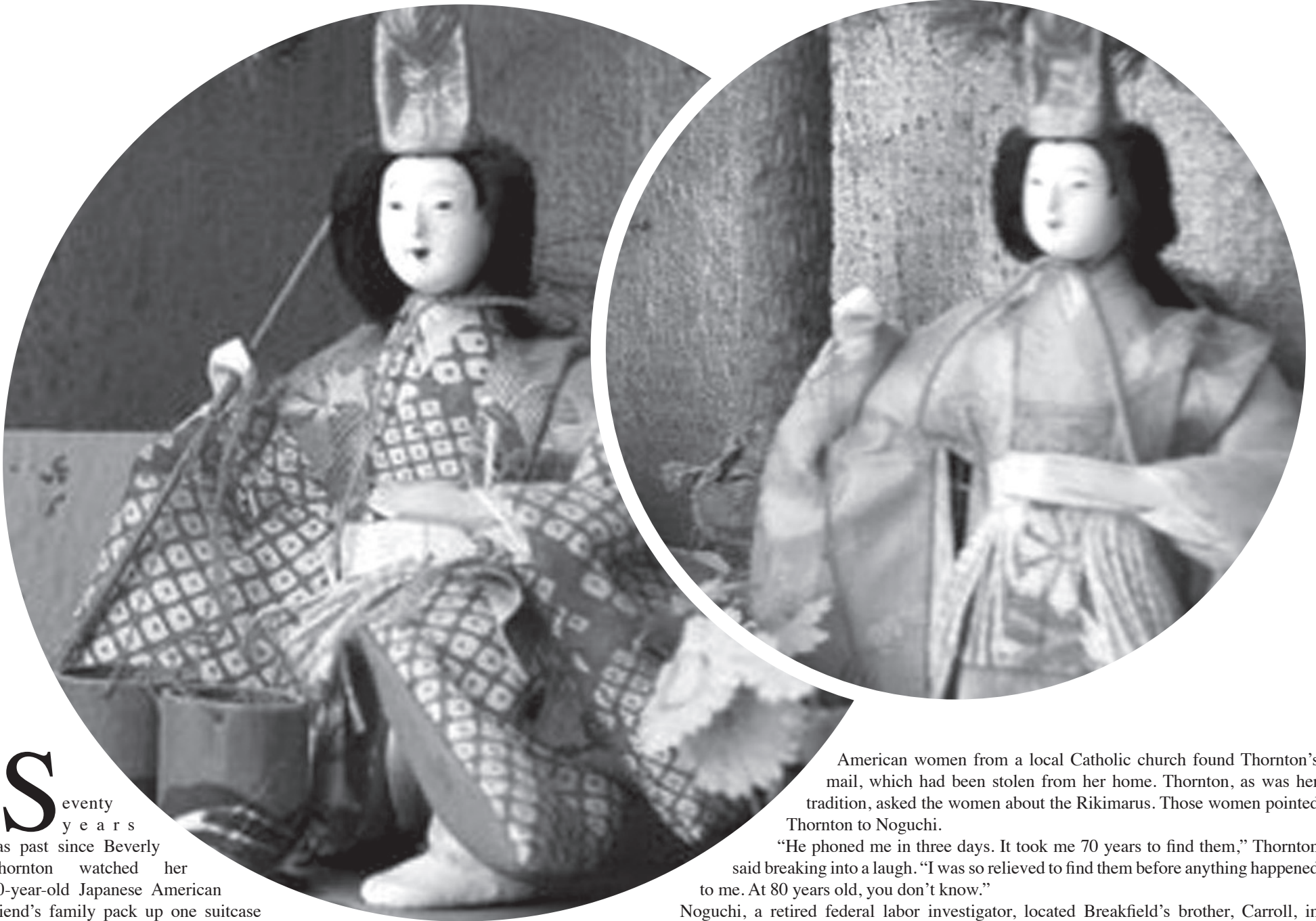
Helen Kawagoe (pictured left) with former Atty. General Janet Reno and former Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta at the 2000 JACL National Convention, which was held in Monterey, Calif.

Pre-WWII Japanese Dolls Returned After Childhood Friends Reunite 70 years later

JAPANESE DOLLS, WHICH WERE RETURNED TO THEIR OWNER AFTER 70 YEARS, ARE NOW ON DISPLAY AT THE CALIFORNIA MUSEUM'S ONGOING EXHIBIT 'UPROOTED! JAPANESE AMERICANS DURING WWII.'

*By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter*





Seventy years has past since Beverly Thornton watched her 10-year-old Japanese American friend's family pack up one suitcase per person and leave her Sacramento, Calif., neighborhood.

Before being unjustly incarcerated at Tule Lake when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1942, the Rikimaru family left a few belongings with their neighbors.

All that Thornton had to remember her elementary school friend, Marianne Rikimaru, were memories of walking to school together and eating strawberries in nearby fields. Thornton's family was also entrusted with the Rikimaru's Japanese dolls, which were traditionally given to daughters on Girl's Day.

The Rikimaru family left the heirlooms behind for safekeeping when they were forced to leave their home along with some 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry who were interned during World War II.

"I remember that day. It was not great. Her mother was crying and it was awful," said Thornton, now 80, about her childhood friend's mother saying a final good-bye. "But I knew that I had to return them to her. I never for a minute thought I was ever going to keep them. But I couldn't find her."

Thornton never lost hope that she'd one day return the Japanese heirlooms to their rightful owner. Throughout the years, she'd ask random Asian Americans if they knew the Rikimarus, all to no avail.

"I treasured them because I knew that they needed to go back to her. I just knew back in my heart that's the way it was going to be," Thornton said of the dolls that she kept sometimes on display in her living room. "I was so relieved when I found them. Just so thankful."

Late last year on Dec. 1, Thornton fulfilled her promise, reuniting with her friend, who married and now goes by Marianne Breakfield.

"I know we had them and we talked about them. But I didn't think I'd ever see any of them again," said Breakfield, 80, about her family's Japanese dolls. "They're in good shape, and they're just a little bit dusty."

Breakfield made the road trip in the rain with her daughter, Angela Roland, and granddaughter, Nicole. Also joining the childhood friends for the reunion were their other former Sacramento neighbors, Martin Palmer, 86, and Ruth Palmer Mayfield, 79.

The reunion, which was captured in a Dec. 5 article in the Sacramento Bee, was made possible thanks to the investigative skills of Andy Noguchi, the civil right's chairman with the JACL Florin chapter.

The search for the Rikimarus heated up after being cold for 70 years when two Japanese

American women from a local Catholic church found Thornton's mail, which had been stolen from her home. Thornton, as was her tradition, asked the women about the Rikimarus. Those women pointed Thornton to Noguchi.

"He phoned me in three days. It took me 70 years to find them," Thornton said breaking into a laugh. "I was so relieved to find them before anything happened to me. At 80 years old, you don't know."

Noguchi, a retired federal labor investigator, located Breakfield's brother, Carroll, in Oregon. "I guess my name was on the box that Beverly had the dolls in," Breakfield said. "And he said, 'Yeah, that's my sister.'"

It took Noguchi several days to solve the 70-year-old mystery.

"This included getting a good description of the Rikimaru family, going through camp records, searching and making phone calls," Noguchi said. "My former career as a labor investigator definitely helped. Part of my job was locating people sometimes months or years after they had left work."

Noguchi helped again when an official with the California Museum read the Sacramento Bee article and wanted to contact Breakfield. Dori Moorehead, executive director of the California Museum, read that article with her family and knew the story should be included in the museum's ongoing exhibit about the Japanese American experience during World War II.

"One of the many people that helps us at the museum, Andy Noguchi, connected us to Marianne, and we reached out to her to ask her to allow us to share her story in our exhibit," Moorehead said.

The dolls, which include a noble couple and a farm couple, are now featured in the California Museum's exhibit called "Uprooted! Japanese Americans During WWII." Former Japanese American internees lead school tours through the exhibit for the museum's educational program "Time of Remembrance," which ends March 22.

"We educate 50,000 school children each year, and this story is one that they can relate to and understand," Moorehead said. "We are so proud to have these dolls on display for everyone to see."

Breakfield said she remembers her mother displaying the dolls every year in their childhood home, which were a part of a larger collection.

"When we had to evacuate so fast, then my mother apparently gave [the dolls to] the close friends that lived around there," Breakfield said. "I think maybe she divided them up or something because Beverly got three, not the whole set. It's only three."

The others dolls are still missing, Breakfield says. But Breakfield says she's not upset that her family has never retrieved their other belongings.

"I really am not. To me, that's something that happened [in the past]. Why dwell on it? It's not going to do any good," she said.

For more information about the California Museum's exhibit "Uprooted! Japanese Americans During WWII," visit www.californiamuseum.org.



PHOTO: JASSC

A woman pays her respects during last year's inaugural "Love to Nippon" tribute in Los Angeles.



Memorial Event to Commemorate the Second Anniversary of Japan Quake

LOS ANGELES — "Love to Nippon," a community-wide tribute to commemorate the second anniversary of the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami in Japan, will be held on Sunday, March 10, from 2:30-5:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles Police Department headquarters' Ronald F. Deaton Civic Auditorium.

The event, presented by the Japan America Society of Southern California, Nichi Bei Fujin Kai and Love to Nippon Project, will remember loved ones lost and those still suffering from the devastating effects of Japan's worst-ever natural disaster. The memorial will offer prayers, flower and incense offerings and a program that will include classical Japanese dance and musical tributes from local community and religious organizations.

Janet LeBlanc and Jennifer Usyak will serve as emcees, and guest presenters will include the Honorable Jun Niimi, consulate general of Japan; LAPD Deputy Chief Terry Hara; classical dancer Madame Hisami Wakayagi; composer/singer Yusuke Tominaga; the Holiness Youth Choir and the Orange County Friendship Choir; and David Stone, Los Angeles Fire Department battalion chief and first responder in Japan, will lead a panel discussion on what Los Angeles is doing to prepare for its own potential earthquake and tsunami.

Building on the response to last year's inaugural event, "Love to Nippon" also will feature activities to raise awareness of disaster preparedness, including outdoor booths and displays that will offer brochures and other items to help prepare the community for future natural disasters. The event's sponsors are hoping to have "3.11" designated as an official disaster preparedness day for all of Southern California.

The "Love to Nippon" project was founded in 2011 by earthquake and tsunami survivor Masako Unoura, who resides in Los Angeles but was visiting her hometown of Ofunato, Iwate Prefecture, when the earthquake and tsunami struck. Together with the support of Doug Erber, president of the JASSC, Unoura created "Love to Nippon" with the goal of commemorating the disaster each year for 10 years and to work to establish "3.11" as an official day of disaster preparedness.

Attendees are encouraged to bring flowers or incense in loving remembrance of family members and friends lost in the disaster, as well as to offer hope to those still suffering from the disaster's devastating effects. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit the JASSC website at www.jas-socal.org.

NATIONAL NEWSBYTES

By Pacific Citizen and Associated Press

Charred Human Remains of Alleged Murderer Found in Burned Cabin

BIG BEAR LAKE, CALIF. — The search in the snowy wilderness of the San Bernardino Mountains for accused killer Christopher Dorner appears to be over. On Feb. 12, authorities surrounded Dorner after he barricaded himself inside a cabin following an earlier gun battle with law enforcement officers that resulted in the death of a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputy. The cabin caught fire and hours later authorities confirmed that human remains were found within the burned debris. Positive identification is pending. Dorner, who posted an online manifesto declaring war against the LAPD for wrongly firing him in 2009, began his deadly rampage on Feb. 3, when he allegedly murdered Monica Quan, an assistant women's basketball coach at Cal State Fullerton and the daughter of ex-Los Angeles Police Department Captain Randal Quan, and her fiancée, Keith Lawrence. Dorner is then accused of killing Riverside police officer Michael Crain on Feb. 7. Officials have not yet released the identity of the suspect's fourth victim.

Duke Fraternity Suspended Amid Protests Over Racially Themed Party

DURHAM, N.C. — The parent organization of Kappa Sigma fraternity has suspended its Duke University chapter over a party some claimed was racist after photos depicting partygoers in Asian-stereotype costumes and a greeting that mocked Asian dialect were distributed. The school's Asian Student Alliance filed a complaint and held a protest rally that was attended by 500 people on Feb. 6. "This protest is about the destructive prejudice that must be uprooted from every corner of Duke to make this place an inclusive and safe place for all," ASA President Ting-Ting Zhou said at the protest. Kappa Sigma executive director Mitchell Wilson said the national organization will investigate the party and take decisive action based on the outcome of that probe.

Grand Jury Indicts Sushi Chefs and Restaurant for Serving Whale Meat

LOS ANGELES — A federal grand jury has indicted the Hump restaurant in Santa Monica and two of its sushi chefs on conspiracy and other charges for allegedly serving illegal and endangered whale meat, according to an announcement from the U.S. attorney's office. Typhoon Restaurant, parent company of the now-shuttered Hump, and Kiyoshiro Yamamoto and Susumu Ueda were named in the nine-count indictment. Other charges include conspiracy to import and sell meat from the endangered sei whale and lying to federal investigators. If convicted, Yamamoto faces up to 67 years in prison, and Ueda faces a maximum 10-year term. Typhoon would be fined upwards of \$1.2 million if found guilty. The chefs and the parent company are due in U.S. District Court in the coming weeks.

Original Iwo Jima Monument Coming to NYC Auction

NEW YORK — A long-forgotten piece of history from World War II is going up for sale. An original monument commemorating the raising of the American flag at Iwo Jima in 1945 is being offered Feb. 22 at Bonhams auction house. It's expected to bring up to \$1.8 million. The 12 1/2-foot statue was constructed nine years before a much larger, 32-foot sculpture of the flag-raising now in Arlington, Va. The monument is inspired by a Pulitzer Prize-winning Associated Press photograph showing six American servicemen raising the flag as Allied forces struggled to capture the Japanese-held island. ■

APAS IN THE NEWS

President Obama Nominates Raymond T. Chen to Serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit



WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama has nominated Raymond T. Chen to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. If confirmed, Chen will become the first Asian Pacific American to serve on the Federal Circuit in more than 25 years.

Chen's nomination on Feb. 7 is welcomed by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Assn. "Raymond Chen will be an excellent addition to the Federal Circuit and we are proud to support his nomination," said Wendy Shiba, president of NAPABA. "His many years of experience at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office together with his temperament and intellect make him an exceptionally well-qualified nominee for this court, and we commend President Obama for nominating him."

Chen has served as deputy general counsel for intellectual property law and solicitor at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office since 2008. Chen received his B.S. in electrical engineering in 1990 from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his J.D. in 1994 from New York University School of Law.

Since joining the USPTO, Chen has represented the agency in numerous appeals before the Federal Circuit. In addition, he has co-chaired the Patent and Trademark Office Committee of the Federal Circuit Bar Assn. and is a member of the Advisory Council for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Said Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA-27), who also is chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus: "I commend President Obama for his continuing dedication to the robustness of our federal judiciary through the nomination of highly qualified and diverse individuals like Raymond Chen. . . . With a stellar background in the sciences, law, public service and community engagement, Raymond exemplifies the knowledge and talent that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community can bring to our nation's courts." ■

'Allegiance' Wins Outstanding New Musical Award



PHOTO: HENRY DIROCCO

(From left) Lea Salonga, Telly Leung, George Takei and Paul Nakauchi starred in the Old Globe Theatre's "Allegiance: A New American Musical," which just took home honors for best new musical.

LA JOLLA, CALIF. — The Japanese American internment play "Allegiance: A New American Musical" won three awards at the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle's 2012 Craig Noel Awards ceremony, held Feb. 4 at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

"Allegiance," which had its world premiere in September 2012 at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre, was named outstanding new musical. Also taking home honors was star Michael K. Lee, who plays resister Frankie Suzuki (a character inspired by real-life Heart Mountain resister Frank Emi), for outstanding featured performance in a musical (male) and musical director Lynne Shankel for outstanding orchestrations.

The musical's Lea Salonga, who plays Kei Kimura, was nominated for outstanding featured performance in a musical (female); the award went to Eileen Bowman for "Guys and Dolls" (Lamb's Players Theater). In addition, "Allegiance" director Stafford Arima was nominated for outstanding direction of a musical; the award ultimately went to Susan Stroman for "The Scottsboro Boys" (The Old Globe). Other nominations for "Allegiance" included Howard Binkley for outstanding lighting design (the eventual winner was Scott

Zielinski for "An Iliad" at the La Jolla Playhouse) and Darrel Maloney for outstanding production design (Ian Wallace for "Tortilla Curtain at the San Diego Repertory Theatre was the winner).

Actor George Takei, who stars in the show and developed it along with Jay Kuo (music, lyrics, book) and Lorenzo Thione (book), said, "I'm thrilled . . . What a night for our show. Now, it's on to Broadway. I can't wait."

"Allegiance" stirred much debate after its 2012 premiere. The play, which is a dramatization of life at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming, tells one family's story of life in a Japanese internment camp. It came under criticism for its portrayal of JACL and its former National Secretary Mike Masaoka.

But the play's creators say "Allegiance" portrays a divisive period of time for the Japanese American community, which is bound to draw differing opinions.

Its creators hope the production spurs an open dialogue about the Japanese American experience during World War II.

For more information and updates about "Allegiance: A New American Musical," visit www.allegiancemusical.com.

442nd Regimental Combat Team to Celebrate 70th Anniversary



A 70th anniversary reunion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team will be held in Honolulu from March 22-24. The weekend's festivities will be presented by the sons, daughters and friends of the unit's Nisei veterans from across the country to celebrate their friendships, families and achievements during and after World War II.

"The Legacy Lives On" is the theme of this year's gathering, and organizers hope the event's offerings will bring together veterans and their families to inspire the next generation of young Americans to keep the Nisei soldiers' legacy alive.

Activities for veterans, widows, families and friends of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Infantry Battalion, the Military Intelligence Service and the 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion will include a Hawaiian get-together at the Veterans Memorial Building, a memorial service at Fort DeRussy in Waikiki and the 70th anniversary luncheon and program at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel.

Additional activities include recognition by the Hawaii State Legislature, tour of Honouliuli Internment Camp and visits to various World War II sites.

All veterans and widows will receive a free pass to the weekend's official events, including the anniversary banquet.

Event co-chairs are Gwen Nishizawa Fujie (daughter of the late Toshio "Bulldog" Nishizawa of 522nd FAB 'B' Battery of the 442nd RCT) and Clayton Fujie (nephew of Susumu Nakagawa and the late Goro Inaba of the 100th Inf. B and the late Walter Minaai of MIS).

For more information on the 70th Anniversary of the 442nd RCT, visit www.442sd.org or email gwenfujie@gmail.com.

Who Says 'Monday Mornings' Are Dull?

TNT'S LATEST MEDICAL DRAMA 'MONDAY MORNINGS' PREMIERED ON FEB. 4, STARRING KEONG SIM.



David E. Kelley's drama "Monday Mornings" is based on the novel by Dr. Sanjay Gupta.

By Leiloni De Gruy, contributing writer

One never knows what injury a patient will walk — or be taken by gurney — into Chelsea General Hospital with. But one thing is for sure: If the treating physician makes even the slightest error, that doctor will be lambasted in front of his or her peers. At this fictitious TV medical institution, accountability is everything because each patient is constantly suspended between life and death.

When Korean American actor Keong Sim read this story line in the script for TNT's new medical drama "Monday Mornings," he jumped at the opportunity to audition for the role of Dr. Sung Park.

"These kinds of roles — written by David E. Kelley and the cast that we have — are rare opportunities that come around for someone of my type," said Sim of the limited acting roles available for Asian American actors.

Dr. Sanjay Gupta's novel, of the same name, is the basis for "Monday Mornings." The show follows Chelsea General doctors as they go about their routines, including being dragged into weekly meetings held in Room 311, where they are held accountable for any medical missteps. Couple that with the stressors in their personal lives, and it's no wonder you have a character like Sim's, a gruff neurosurgeon with a horrible bedside manner and a limited command of the English language.

The language barrier, Sim says, caused him to consider how his character's traits could fuel stereotypes. However, after developing his character, Sim says he realized that Dr. Park has much more depth. "He is a guy who is very principled," Sim said.





PHOTO: DOUG HYUN/TNT

Keong Sim (center) stars as Dr. Sung Park, a gruff neurosurgeon who strives to be the best doctor despite his limited command of the English language.

His character, Sim says, also strives to be best doctor, believing that success in the medical field will lead to gaining respect from others. These are feelings with which Sim says he is familiar.

After acting for nearly 15 years in films, television and stage productions, this is Sim's first reoccurring role in a series. Sim says auditioning is a process that requires much preparation — he must be willing to give it his all, right down to shaking hands with the right people and forming relationships in the industry to get the next gig.

Sim drew on those experiences and applied that to his character.

There was another commonality that the character

that his Julliard-trained instructor was not as focused on him playing the Bach violin duet to perfection. Instead, Sim's violin teacher was fixated on getting him comfortable with holding the instrument, "so that it wouldn't look awkward onscreen," said Sim. "He had me sit across from the violin and would have me pick it up then put it back down," he added.

This went on until Sim was able to handle the violin like a professional musician.

With so much determination, it's hard to conceive that Sim had conceded to defeat at one point. "I went through the whole audition process," he said. "In my business, we get rejected all of the time. It's just the nature of it. You never get a call when you don't get a

'These kinds of roles . . . are rare opportunities that come around for someone of my type.'

and actor shared. Sim's parents are natives of North Korea. His father, in particular, was in medical school before he was forced to enlist in the military. The dream of being a medical professional was shattered in an instant. For Sim, playing the role of Park somehow allows him to repair what his father lost.

Helping Sim get further into character were realistic medical sets and actors who convincingly displayed symptoms of real-world injuries. He also had to brush up on medical terminology, terms that would have the average person tongue-tied.

Still, with all of this accomplished, other challenges were thrown into the mix. Sim's character also dabbles with the violin, which meant the actor would have to learn to play the instrument in less than eight days. "It was really stressful, but at the end of it, I did the best I could," said Sim. "When do you get paid to learn a musical instrument? It was a pretty cool challenge."

Sim called the experience a "Yoda moment," saying

role. You only get a call when you get a role."

The network test was fittingly on a Monday. Sim was told he would know if he obtained the part of Dr. Park within five business days. By the end of Friday, Sim began to believe that he didn't get the role. The following Monday rolled around, and at the end of the business day, Sim called his manager. The call was not about the audition, but about a credit card payment Sim needed to make in order to update his biography on a website. Sim was strung along until the end of their conversation, but before he hung up, his manager slapped him with the good news.

"It was surreal," Sim said. Actually, he is still in disbelief, despite having already shot a season of the show and bearing witness to the billboards and teasers on television.

"I'm excited to see what else is in store," he said. *New episodes of TNT's "Monday Mornings" air every Monday at 10/9c.*

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LEGAL NOTICE

To merchants who have accepted Visa and MasterCard at any time since January 1, 2004: Notice of a 6+ billion dollar class action settlement.

Notice of a class action settlement authorized by the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York.

This notice is authorized by the Court to inform you about an agreement to settle a class action lawsuit that may affect you. The lawsuit claims that Visa and MasterCard, separately, and together with banks, violated antitrust laws and caused merchants to pay excessive fees for accepting Visa and MasterCard credit and debit cards, including by:

- Agreeing to set, apply, and enforce rules about merchant fees (called *default interchange fees*);
- Limiting what merchants could do to encourage their customers to use other forms of payment through, for example, charging customers an extra fee or offering discounts; and
- Continuing that conduct after Visa and MasterCard changed their corporate structures.

The defendants say they have done nothing wrong. They say that their business practices are legal and the result of competition, and have benefitted merchants and consumers. The Court has not decided who is right because the parties agreed to a settlement. On November 27, 2012, the Court gave preliminary approval to this settlement.

THE SETTLEMENT

Under the settlement, Visa, MasterCard, and the bank defendants have agreed to make payments to two settlement funds:

- The first is a “Cash Fund” – a \$6.05 billion fund that will pay valid claims of merchants that accepted Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards at any time between January 1, 2004 and November 28, 2012.
- The second is an “Interchange Fund” – estimated to be approximately \$1.2 billion – that will be based on a portion of the interchange fees attributable to certain merchants that accept Visa or MasterCard credit cards for an eight-month “Interchange Period.”
- Additionally, the settlement changes some of the Visa and MasterCard rules applicable to merchants who accept their cards.

This settlement creates two classes:

- A *Cash Settlement Class* (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class), which includes all persons, businesses, and other entities that accepted any Visa or MasterCard cards in the U.S. at any time from January 1, 2004 to November 28, 2012, and
- A *Rule Changes Settlement Class* (Rule 23(b)(2) Settlement Class), which includes all persons, businesses, and entities that as of November 28, 2012 or in the future accept any Visa or MasterCard cards in the U.S.

WHAT MERCHANTS WILL GET FROM THE SETTLEMENT

Every merchant in the Cash Settlement Class that files a valid claim will get money from the \$6.05 billion Cash Fund, subject to a deduction (not to exceed 25% of the fund) to account for merchants who exclude themselves from the Cash Settlement Class. The value of each claim, where possible, will be based on the actual or estimated interchange fees attributable to the merchant’s MasterCard and Visa payment card transactions from January 1, 2004 to November 28, 2012. Payments to merchants who file valid claims for a portion of the Cash Fund will be based on:

- The money available to pay all claims,
- The total dollar value of all valid claims filed,
- The deduction described above not to exceed 25% of the Cash Settlement Fund, and
- The cost of settlement administration and notice, money awarded to the class representatives, and attorneys’ fees and expenses all as approved by the Court.

In addition, merchants in the Cash Settlement Class that accept Visa and MasterCard during the eight-month Interchange Period and file a valid claim will get money from the separate Interchange Fund, estimated to be approximately \$1.2 billion. The value of each claim, where possible, will be based on an estimate of one-tenth of 1% of the merchant’s Visa and MasterCard credit card dollar sales volume during that period. Payments to merchants who file valid claims for a portion of the Interchange Fund will be based on:

- The money available to pay all claims,
- The total dollar value of all valid claims filed, and
- The cost of settlement administration and notice, and any attorneys’ fees and expenses that may be approved by the Court.

Attorneys’ fees and expenses and money awarded to the class representatives: For work done through final approval of the settlement by the district court, Class Counsel will ask the Court for attorneys’ fees in an amount that is a reasonable proportion of the Cash Settlement Fund, not to exceed 11.5% of the Cash Settlement Fund of \$6.05 billion and 11.5% of the Interchange Fund estimated to be \$1.2 billion to compensate all of the lawyers and their law firms that have worked on the class case. For additional work to administer the settlement, distribute both funds, and through any appeals, Class Counsel may seek reimbursement at their normal hourly rates, not to exceed an additional 1% of the Cash Settlement Fund of \$6.05 billion and an additional 1% of the Interchange Fund estimated to be \$1.2 billion. Class Counsel will also request reimbursement of their expenses (not including the administrative costs of settlement or notice), not to exceed \$40 million and up to \$200,000 per Class Plaintiff in service awards for their efforts on behalf of the classes.

HOW TO ASK FOR PAYMENT

To receive payment, merchants must fill out a claim form. If the Court finally approves the settlement, and you do not exclude yourself from the Cash Settlement Class, you will receive a claim form in the mail or by email. Or you may ask for one at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com, or call: 1-800-625-6440.

OTHER BENEFITS FOR MERCHANTS

Merchants will benefit from changes to certain MasterCard and Visa rules, which will allow merchants to, among other things:

- Charge customers an extra fee if they pay with Visa or MasterCard credit cards,
- Offer discounts to customers who do not pay with Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards, and
- Form buying groups that meet certain criteria to negotiate with Visa and MasterCard.

Merchants that operate multiple businesses under different trade names or banners will also be able to accept Visa or MasterCard at fewer than all of the merchant's trade names and banners.

LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

Merchants who are included in this lawsuit have the legal rights and options explained below. You may:

- **File a claim to ask for payment.** You will receive a claim form in the mail or email or file online at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.
- **Exclude yourself** from the Cash Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class). If you exclude yourself, you can sue the Defendants for damages based on alleged conduct occurring on or before November 27, 2012 on your own at your own expense, if you want to. If you exclude yourself, you will not get any money from this settlement. If you are a merchant and wish to exclude yourself, you must make a written request, place it in an envelope, and mail it with postage prepaid and postmarked no later than **May 28, 2013** to Class Administrator, Payment Card Interchange Fee Settlement, P.O. Box 2530, Portland, OR 97208-2530. The written request must be signed by a person authorized to do so and provide all of the following information: (1) the words "In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation," (2) your full name, address, telephone number, and taxpayer identification number, (3) the merchant that wishes to be excluded from the Cash Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class), and what position or authority you have to exclude the merchant, and (4) the business names, brand names, and addresses of any stores or sales locations whose sales the merchant desires to be excluded.

Note: You cannot be excluded from the Rule Changes Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(2) Settlement Class).

- **Object to the settlement.** The deadline to object is: **May 28, 2013**. To learn how to object, see: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com or call 1-800-625-6440. **Note:** If you exclude yourself from the Cash Settlement Class you cannot object to the terms of that portion of the settlement.

For more information about these rights and options, visit: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.

IF THE COURT APPROVES THE FINAL SETTLEMENT

Members of the Rule Changes Settlement Class are bound by the terms of this settlement. Members of the Cash Settlement Class, who do not exclude themselves by the deadline, are bound by the terms of this settlement whether or not they file a claim for payment. Members of both classes release all claims against all released parties listed in the Settlement Agreement. The settlement will resolve and release any claims by merchants against Visa, MasterCard or other defendants that were or could have been alleged in the lawsuit, including any claims based on interchange or other fees, no-surcharge rules, no-discounting rules, honor-all-cards rules and other rules. The settlement will also resolve any merchant claims based upon the future effect of any Visa or MasterCard rules, as of November 27, 2012 and not to be modified pursuant to the settlement, the modified rules provided for in the settlement, or any other rules substantially similar to any such rules. The releases will not bar claims involving certain specified standard commercial disputes arising in the ordinary course of business.

For more information on the release, see the settlement agreement at: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com.

THE COURT HEARING ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT

On September 12, 2013, there will be a Court hearing to decide whether to approve the proposed settlement, class counsels' requests for attorneys' fees and expenses, and awards for the class representatives. The hearing will take place at:

United States District Court for the
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11201

You do not have to go to the court hearing or hire an attorney. But you can if you want to, at your own cost. The Court has appointed the law firms of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP, Berger & Montague, PC, and Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP to represent the Class ("Class Counsel").

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this case (*In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation*, MDL 1720), you may:

Call toll-free: 1-800-625-6440

Visit: www.PaymentCardSettlement.com

Write to the Class Administrator:

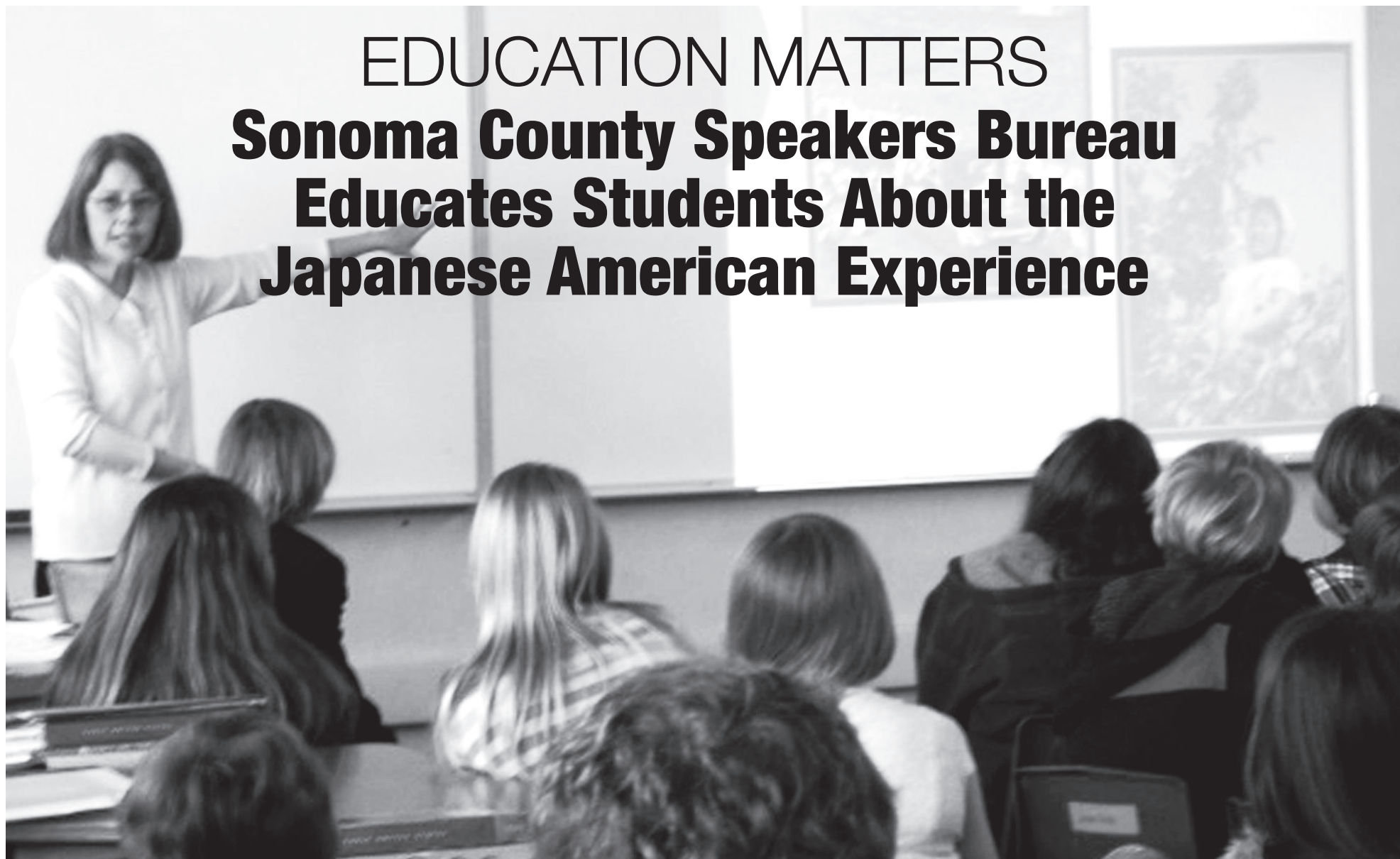
Payment Card Interchange Fee Settlement
P.O. Box 2530
Portland, OR 97208-2530

Email: info@PaymentCardSettlement.com

Please check www.PaymentCardSettlement.com for any updates relating to the settlement or the settlement approval process.

EDUCATION MATTERS

Sonoma County Speakers Bureau Educates Students About the Japanese American Experience



Sonoma County JACL Oral History committee coordinator Jodi Hottel conducts a PowerPoint presentation at a local school.

Sonoma County JACL members Marie Sugiyama and Jodi Hottel volunteer their time educating students about the importance of Japanese American history. As volunteers in their JACL chapter's Oral History committee, the women are reaching out to today's youth, as well as adult and cultural groups in the Sonoma County area, to ensure that the lessons of Japanese American history are not forgotten.

In 2012, the Sonoma County JACL Oral History committee's Speakers Bureau completed more than 20 engagements, reaching approximately 1,600 individuals, the majority of whom were middle to high school students.

The Oral History Project's Speakers Bureau was formed in 1999 as a result of numerous requests for speakers to educate the public about the wrongful incarceration of Japanese Americans in concentration camps during World War II. With the number of Issei and Nisei available for speaking growing smaller, original project chair Lucy Kishaba and members Jim Murakami, Cynthia Hayashi and Sugiyama knew it was important to ensure that the stories of Japanese Americans would never be forgotten.

The committee's first task was to prepare a group of speakers and develop a mission statement on which to focus their efforts. Their goal was to continue the legacy of the Japanese American experience — from stories of internment during World War II to reminders that civil liberties of every individual must be actively safeguarded — and carry it on through oral presentations to school and civic groups.

From there, a letter of introduction and a teacher request form was developed and sent to local schools. The chapter also hosted an event for all past and prospective speakers to dialogue and discuss resources and needs.

A PowerPoint presentation containing family photos and video clips was created to aid



Oral History committee chair Marie Sugiyama was among the original founders of the chapter's Speakers Bureau in 1999.

the speakers. Such a presentation allows each speaker to customize their presentation to the interests and needs of different audiences. A curriculum and resource guide containing background materials and additional historical photos was also made.

To assist new speakers into the bureau, an experienced partner is assigned to help them become more comfortable with speaking in front of an audience. In addition, the chapter conducts training sessions, both in groups and one-on-one.

A volunteer coordinator is available to field requests and sends them out to the speakers, who then confirm if they are able to fulfill the request. The feedback thus far from teachers and other community groups has been more than positive, with several requesting the speakers to return again in the future.

Today, the bureau's current speakers are Nisei and Sansei, as well as a few Shin-Issei. All are primarily members of the Japanese American community in Sonoma County. Some of the

speakers either had family members or were themselves interned in concentration camps.

Current Oral History committee members include chair Sugiyama, as well as Sharon Beckman, Michael Bryant, Nancy Davlin, Mark Hayashi, coordinator Hottel, Henry Kaku, Cynthia Kishi, Phyllis Tajii and George Thow. Speakers Bureau members are Esther Abe, Sanae Chambers, Jason Higashi, Carol Kawase, Sachiko Knappman, Kota Mizutani and Meg Mizutani.

The Speakers Bureau is offered as a free service. Speakers recount a variety of experiences on various topics — living conditions in camp, the effect on their family life, serving in the U.S. military during World War II, the postwar experience and the local story of acts of kindness bestowed by residents of Sonoma County.

For more information about this program, contact the Speakers Bureau, Sonoma County JACL, 515 Petaluma Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472, or email: sonomacojacl@yahoo.com.

Greetings From JACL's National Convention Committee

By Floyd Mori

JACL National Director Emeritus

JACL National Conventions are always a place to learn, share new experiences, make new friends and reconnect with old friends. The conventions are a chance for delegates to be involved in the process of moving this important organization forward.

Having been established in 1929, the JACL has been holding conventions for a very long time. The conventions were held every other year until a few years ago. After years of work by a small circle of leaders, the National Council passed a resolution to hold annual conventions, with the first off-year convention held in 2011 and hosted by the Pacific Southwest District in Southern California.

Although the JACL now meets for conventions annually, some matters of business such as budget approvals and National Board elections are still held every other convention on the even years. Certain awards and the Oratorical Contest are presented only during the even-year conventions as well.

Being an off-year convention in 2013, this will be an opportunity for delegates and boosters to have some extraordinary experiences in the nation's capital. The format for this convention will be different from previous conventions for several reasons.

There will be an Opening Banquet on the first evening instead of a Sayonara Banquet at the end in order to gain more participation from leaders in Congress and the civil rights arena. A reception will be held at the National Archives where the original Redress Bill will be on display. A special Closing

Reception is also being planned. Speakers and Plenary Session participants will feature high-level government officials. The entire convention promises to provide outstanding and memorable experiences.

It is desirable to hold this year's convention in Washington, D.C., because this is the 25-year anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (The Redress Bill). This important piece of legislation provided for an apology from Congress and the President of the United States, along with some reparations to the Japanese Americans who were forced from their West Coast homes and incarcerated during World War II. This commemoration should remind us of the importance of upholding the Constitution, which was not done in 1942. The theme of "Justice for All" will be followed throughout the convention.

Washington, D.C., is a truly amazing and beautiful place. We hope members and friends of the JACL from across the community will take advantage of the opportunity to attend and be a part of this historic convention.

Floyd Mori is the immediate past JACL national director and the 2013 convention chair.



The 2013 JACL convention committee during a recent meeting

REGISTRATION

A separate form must be completed for each individual registration.

Convention Package includes:

Opening Banquet	Closing Reception
Continental Breakfasts	Plenary Sessions
Youth Luncheon	National Council Sessions
Archives Reception	Workshops
Awards Luncheon	Exhibits

Online: To register online visit:

www.jacl.org/2013

By mail: Additional forms are available online, or by e-mail at

2013registration@jacl.org, or by calling 202-223-1240.

Mail payment & form to:

2013 JACL National Convention

Attn: Registration

P.O. Box 27085

Washington, D.C. 20038-7085

Last Name, First Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Home Phone

Mobile Phone

E-mail

JACL Chapter:

Delegate? ☐ YES

Vegetarian Meals:

☐ YES ☐ NO

Interested in Booster Activities? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Special Requests, Accessibility (i.e. wheelchair, walker):

DEADLINE TO REGISTER JULY 1 ST	Early Bird (by June 1 st)	After June 1 st	
Convention Package	\$250	\$300	
Youth (25 & under)	\$200	\$250	\$ _____
Opening Banquet	\$200	\$225	
Youth (25 & under)	\$125	\$150	\$ _____
Awards Luncheon	\$100	\$115	
Youth (25 & under)	\$85	\$100	\$ _____
Youth Luncheon	\$50	\$75	\$ _____
Archives Reception	\$75	\$90	
Youth (25 & under)	\$60	\$75	\$ _____
*limited space			
Closing Reception	\$75	\$90	
Youth (25 & under)	\$60	\$75	\$ _____
*Booster Activities are optional and will be priced separately			
GRAND TOTAL:			\$ _____

There is no charge for Workshops. See details on Convention website.

For questions, contact:

2013registration@jacl.org, 202-223-1240

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Cancellations must be received by June 1, 2013 for a 100% refund. Cancellations received between June 1, 2013 and July 1, 2012 will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be issued for cancellations after July 1, 2013.



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REGISTRATION

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



PHOTO: CHSA

Chinese Historical Society of America's 50th Anniversary
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
 Throughout February
Chinese Historical Society of America Museum
965 Clay St.

The Chinese Historical Society of America will celebrate its 50th anniversary with free admission in February. This month's scheduled events include a book lecture on Feb. 16 with Chinese American food writer Grace Young, author of "Stir-Frying to the Sky's Edge." There also will be a dragon dance, a special exhibit and crafts for children on Feb. 23.
Info: Call (415) 391-1188 ext. 101, or visit www.chsa.org.

CALENDAR

>>EDC

JACL Philadelphia Chapter Installation Luncheon
VILLANOVA, PA
March 23, Noon

Azie on Main
789 E. Lancaster Ave.
 The JACL Philadelphia chapter will hold its annual recognition of graduates and installation luncheon.
Info: Email philadelphia@jaccl.org.

>>NCWNP

J-Sei 22nd Annual Crab Feed
EL CERRITO, CA
Feb. 24, 4-7 p.m.
El Cerrito Community Center
7007 Moeser Lane.
Cost: \$40/Advance tickets, \$45/At the door, \$15/Children 12 and under

The dinner will include fresh Dungeness crab, Asian salad, garlic noodles, rolls, desserts and beverages. Kaz Iwahashi, Ben Takeshita and Esther Takeuchi will be recognized. Take out can be picked up from 4-6 p.m. Prize tickets are \$2 each or \$10 for six.
Info: Call (510) 848-3560 or email laddie@j-sei.org.

Day of Remembrance
SALINAS, CA
Feb. 24, 1:30-4 p.m.
Salinas Community Center
940 N. Main St.

The Day of Remembrance event marks the 71th anniversary of the unjust incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese descent during World War II.

Info: Contact Mas Hashimoto at hashi79@sbcglobal.net or call (831) 722-6859.

CAAM Fest Film Screening of 'Linsanity'
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
March 14, 7 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.
The Castro Theatre
429 Castro St.
Cost: \$55/General admission; \$45/CAAM Members

Director Evan Jackson Leong presents his documentary "Linsanity," which follows NBA basketball player Jeremy Lin. The event concludes with the opening-night gala reception at the Asian Art Museum at 9:30 p.m.
Info: Visit www.caamedia.org or call (415) 863-0814.

Film Screening of 'The Land of Eb'
HONOLULU, HI
March 11, 7-9 p.m.
Doris Duke Theatre
900 S. Beretania St.
Cost: \$5-\$10/Suggested donation

Director Andrew Williamson and leading actor Jonithen Jackson present "The Land of Eb," a film about a Marshallese family struggling to survive on the fringes of society. The film is sponsored by the Hawaii People's Fund, the JACL Honolulu chapter and Kokua Kalihi Valley.
Info: Call (808) 593-9969.

>>PNW

Portland Taiko 'Insatiable' Performance
PORTLAND, OR
March 29, 8 p.m. and

March 30, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Portland State University
Lincoln Hall
1620 SW Park Ave.
Cost: \$16-\$30

Portland Taiko's "Insatiable" performance includes contemporary reflections on Japanese folk dance. The performance is under the artistic direction of Michelle Fujii.
Info: Call (503) 288-2456 or email info@portlandtaiko.org.

>>PSW

Manzanar School Reunion
LAS VEGAS, NV
Aug. 5-7
California Hotel and Casino
12 E. Ogden Ave.
 Plans for the 2013 Manzanar School Reunion are underway. Everyone who attended schools in Manzanar, as well as those interested in Manzanar, are encouraged to attend this year's reunion.
Info: Call Cherry Uyeda at (818) 981-2629 or Ray Kawahara at (714) 521-4036.

JACCC's Lecture Series 'Tale of Genji'
LOS ANGELES, CA
Feb. 23, 2 p.m.
Japanese American Cultural & Community Center
244 S. San Pedro St.
Cost: \$15/Suggested donation
 The JACCC's first "On the Verdana" lecture series this season will opening with the event "The Tale of Genji." Guest speakers include Harvard University's Dr. David Damrosch, Seftel productions' Joshua Seftel and

Pomona College's Dr. Lynne Miyake.
Info: Call Wakana Kimura at (213) 628-2725, ext. 146, or email wkimura@jaccc.org.

Book Signing of 'Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgendered Son, and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance'
LOS ANGELES, CA
March 16, 2 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
 Author Marsha Aizumi will share her memoir "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgendered Son, and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance." Her son, Aiden, will join her for a Q&A session.
Info: Call (213) 625-0414 or visit www.janm.org.

Go for Broke Poker Tournament
INGLEWOOD, CA
Feb. 24, 1 p.m.
Hollywood Park Casino
3883 W. Century Blvd.
Cost: \$150/Buy-in, \$100/WWII veterans
 Go for Broke National Education Center will host the Texas Hold'em Charity Poker Tournament to benefit its Hanashi Oral History program. Proceeds benefit the GFBNEC's Hanashi Oral History and educational programs.
Info: Contact Jillian Kwong at jillian@goforbroke.org or call (310) 222-5711.

Fuji Music Japan Musical Workshops

OXNARD, CA
March 2, 9 and 16
Oxnard Buddhist Temple
250 S. H St.
Cost: \$20/Per person

Fuji Music Japan will host music workshops where participants can learn odori dance, shamisen or shime taiko.
Info: Call Kimisen Katada at (805) 620-7287 or email fujijapanesemusic@gmail.com.

>>MDC

The JACL Cincinnati-Dayton JACL Installation Dinner
MONTGOMERY, OH
March 24
Montgomery Inn
9440 Montgomery Rd.
Cost: \$35/Per person
 Join the Cincinnati-Dayton JACL at its annual installation dinner. Officers for the Cincinnati and Dayton JACL chapters will be installed, and the event will feature keynote speaker Dr. Santa Ono.
Info: Call Hiroko Nishiyama at (513) 631-7885 or visit <http://cincinnati-jacl.org>.

ADVERTISE HERE

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

FOR MORE INFO:

pc@pacificcitizen.org
 (800) 966-6157

In Memoriam

Eto, Wataru, 89, Watsonville, CA; a lifelong resident of Watsonville and graduate of Watsonville High School; he is a WWII veteran of the U.S. Army, 442d RCT; he farmed strawberries until he retired; he is preceded in death by his brothers, Tom, Mitsugu and Harry Eto; he is survived by his three sisters, Ruth Yamamoto, Barbara (Ted) Wada and Hatsuko Imoto; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Fukumoto, Ryoko, 96,



Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 19; Hawaii-born Nisei; she is survived by her children, Kiyo (Kimi), Yosh and Yukiko Fukumoto; 4 gc; 4 ggc; many nephews, nieces and other relatives.

Harada, Yoshiaki George, 90,



Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 19; a California-born Nisei; he was predeceased by his wife, Rose Fumiko Harada; beloved father of Gerald (Cher) and Dennis (Jenny) Harada; brother of Bill and Jack Harada; also survived by many other family members; 4 gc.

Iizuka, Mitsuko, 88, Gardena, CA; Jan. 21; a Nisei from Gardena, she is predeceased by her beloved husband, Takuji (Tug) Iizuka; survived by her children, Richard (Teresa) Iizuka and Jo Anne (Craig) Ogino; 2 gc.

Iseri, Carl Kiyoharu, 82, Ontario, OR; Jan. 30; he was born to Mat and Kisa Iseri; he attended Thomas Grade School until 1942 when his family was evacuated to Tule Lake Relocation Center; he was a member of the Snake River Japanese American Citizens League, and both the Nisei bowling and golfing associations; he was preceded in death by his parents, Mat and Kisa Iseri, 8 brothers and 2 sisters; Carl leaves behind his loving wife of 56 years,

Bev; daughter Gay Lynn and grandson Adam; daughter Janie (Howie Henrikson); and son, Bill; brother, Oscar (Ann); sister-in-law Ikue Iseri; and numerous nieces, nephews and their families.

Jonokuchi, Nobuko, 63, Mission Hills, CA; Jan. 29; she is survived by her husband, Paul Jonokuchi; sons, Richard, Howard, Scott and Andrew Jonokuchi; siblings, Yoshiaki Takeuchi and Toshiko (Ryuji) Nanbu; mother-in-law, Emiko Kunimasa; brothers-in-law, Edward (Joan) Kunimasa, Harold and Edmond Jonokuchi; uncle, James (Aiko) Jonokuchi; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in the U.S. and Japan.

Kameda, Donald Akio, 92, Honolulu, HI; Jan. 2; a WWII Army veteran who served on the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; he is survived by his wife, Tsuyuko; daughters, Diane Sasaki and Patricia Yamamoto; 5 gc; 3 ggc.

Miyamae, Donald Takeo, 75,



Downey, CA; Jan. 31; he is survived by his beloved wife, Iliana; children, Teri (James) Takemoto, Traci (Jonathan) Gwyn and Kristi Miyamae; step-children, Dennis Rivera, Evelyn (Michael) Swisher and Jonathan Lopez; 5 step-grandchildren; sister, Janet Chiyo Miyamae; also survived by other relatives; 3 gc.

Motonaga, Herbert Minoru, 79, Monterey Park, CA; Jan. 22; he is survived by his beloved wife, Mildred; children, Derik Motonaga and Gail (Jim) Chang; siblings, Makoto (Kikue) Higashiya and Helen Kiyabu; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

Naito, Teruo, 92, Santa Monica, CA; Jan. 31; he is predeceased by his wife, Mary Naito; son, Melvin Naito; survived by his children, Naomi, Larry (DJ) and Arthur Naito; siblings, Sayuri Watanabe and Chiyoko Satake; brother-in-law, Sam (Lillian) Kusaka; sister-in-law, Kate Odahara; also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Nakajima, Hiroshi, 84, Poitiers, France; Jan. 26; a Japanese

physician who led the World Health Organization in campaigns to fight malaria and other infectious diseases; survived by his wife, Martha Ann DeWitt; two sons.

Nakamura, Iwao, 91, Pahala, HI; Dec. 22; a WWII Army veteran who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team Company I; he is survived by wife, Ayako; sons, Todd T. and Kent T.; daughter, Jean E. Miyashiro; brother, Keiji; sisters, Kimiko Nomura, Nobuko Aoki, Shizuko Kibe and Asano Tokunaga; 1 gc.

Nakao, Yoshiko, Y., 87, Gardena,



CA; Jan. 20; she is survived by her son, Kerry T. Nakao; daughter, Cheryl K. Nakao-Miller, spouse Miller; and other relatives; 2 gc.

Nishimoto, Yoshihiro, 71,



Northridge, CA; Jan. 26; he is survived by his loving wife, Satomi Nishimoto; daughter, Christine (Federico) Sanchez; son, Eric Nishimoto; brother, Kouji Nishimoto; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Okuda, Masaru, 86, Culver City, CA; Feb. 1; veteran of WWII and the Korean Conflict, a Purple Heart Recipient; he is survived by his wife, Carol Okuda; daughter, Janice Okuda; siblings, Richard (Carol), Robert (Harriet), Glenn Okuda and Jean (Albert) Tawata; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Park, Ki Suh, 80, Stanford, CA; Jan. 16; a Korean-born architect who helped rebuild L.A. after the 1992 riots; he is survived by his wife of 56 years, Ildong Park; sons David, Kevin and Edwin; six siblings; 4 gc.

Sugidono, Jiro, 89, Watsonville, CA; Jan. 19; a WWII U.S. Army

TRIBUTE

GRACE MATSUSHIMA

Matsushima, Grace, 86, Fairview Park, CA; Dec. 21; born in El Centro, Calif.; she is survived by her husband, John, brother, Mark, nieces, Elizabeth O. Rahel, Leslie T. Morris, Anne T. Kelso, Nancy T. Oakland, Patricia T. Blaney, Mona T. Strick, nephews, Richard Fujimoto and Dean Takahashi. Preceded by her son, Col. Mark Matsushima (U.S. Air Force), sister, Amy Ono and brother, Gene Takahashi.



Funeral services private. Memorial contributions, if desired, may be made to the American Cancer Society.

veteran; he graduated from Watsonville High; survived by his wife of 56 years, Jane; sons, Doug (Candace), Steven and Ron; daughter, Lori (Peter) Zaloumis; brother, Ichiro; sisters, Grace Fujita and Alice Okine; 5 gc.

Tagawa, Alice Hatsuko, 86, Torrance, CA; Jan. 19; survived by her daughter, Susan Kimie Oda; son, Rick Yukio (Denise); also survived by many other loving family members; 4 gc.

Tamura, Sueo, 80, Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 30; after being interned in Rohwer, Ark., the Tamura family returned to California to become farmers; he served in the Air Force; he is survived by his brother, Kunima; sisters, Emmie (Frank) Yamaguchi and Nobuko (John) Mitsuuchi; sister-in-law, Toshi; nieces and nephews, Pat (Joseph) Greenbank, Lloyd, Susan (Greg) Kishiyama, Richard (Liza), Marie, Karen Nakamura, Denise Yamaguchi, David Mitsuuchi, Ronald (Leslie) Mitsuuchi, Lori (Michael) Nichols, Trisha (Ryan) Bosman, Gene Yamamoto, Gale (Michael) Northrup, Tania (Brian) Cook, Steve (Alicia) Kawasaki, Harvey Kawasaki, Marian (John) Toner, Joyce Kawasaki, Wanda (David) Kimura; and many grandnieces, grandnephews and other relatives.

Usui, Dorothy Mitsuko, 94,

Fresno, CA; she is survived by her children, Wayne (Joni) and Darleene; 3 gc.

Wada, Barbara Kikuko Eto, 78, Watsonville, CA; survived by her husband of almost 59 years, Ted; children, Mitchell, Norman (Traci) and Lori (Derek) Etow; siblings, Ruth Yamamoto and Hatsuko Imoto; 1 gc.

Yamashita, Tesshu, 71, Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 20; he is predeceased by beloved parents, Bishop Kenko (Sizue) Yamashita; he is survived by his beloved sisters, Reiko Yamashita and Hiromi Yamashita; also survived by other relatives in Japan.

Yoshisato, Yasuko, 93, Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 17; she is survived by her daughter, Lisa (Roy David White) Yoshisato-White; also survived by many nieces and nephews.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

"In Memoriam" is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis.

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POP >> continued from page 2

Many others have tried to climb from the Japanese charts to the U.S. Top 40 over the years and failed.

If AKB48 cracks the code and has a hit, they can do no better than Kyu Sakamoto, the one Japanese artist who climbed to the top of the American charts in 1963 with the song titled “Sukiyaki.”

The song has nothing to do with Japanese food. The single had been a No. 1 hit in Japan in 1961, and a British jazz group recorded it in 1963, but the head of the British label deemed the Japanese title “Ue O Muite Arukou” (“I Will Walk Looking Up”) too hard for Westerners to pronounce, so he arbitrarily chose one of the few Japanese words that people in the West would know at the time. Another familiar word was “Sayonara,” which would have been more appropriate, because the song is a lament about a man who walks alone looking up at the sky as tears fall because he’s lost his love.

When an American label released Sakamoto’s original, they used the British instrumental version’s title. The song’s haunting melody came through even without translation (though an English version was a minor hit in 1980 for the R&B group A Taste of Honey): Sakamoto sang of heartbreak in a plaintive voice that made him akin to Elvis Presley in Japan. After a string of hits mimicking American rockabilly and early rock songs in addition to Japanese pop like “Sukiyaki,” Sakamoto died in a 1985 plane crash.

The poignancy of the success of “Sukiyaki” is all the more vivid today because in a recent BBC poll of “Songs That Changed Your World,” “Sukiyaki” came in at No. 8. The reader who submitted the song made the case that the hit “did as much or more to change the attitudes of Americans toward their former enemies as any policy or speech.”

... Many older Americans have said this song marked the first instance where they began to see Japanese people not just as a former enemy or some mysterious, exotic race, but as people with feelings no different from their own, and capable of expressing beautiful, tender emotions.”

I’m a bit skeptical. The Tokyo Olympics was right around the corner, in 1964, and I think that brought Japan out of the post-war era more than the hit song.

Then again, I still love “Ue O Muite Arukou,” and I recently sang it with gusto in a karaoke bar in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo, and all the Japanese Americans in the room joined in. The Japanese, however — especially younger Japanese — looked at us like we were just weird.

Go figure.

This column is an adaptation of a blog post on Gil Asakawa’s Nikkei View (www.nikkeiview.com).



PHOTO: AKB48/YOUTUBE

Japanese pop star Minami Minegishi of the girl group AKB48 posted an emotional YouTube video on Jan. 21 after she was caught leaving a man’s apartment. In the video, the pop star, with her newly shaved hair, apologizes to her fans.

Terry Shima to Receive 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Terry Shima is among the 18 recipients of the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal — the nation’s second-highest civilian honor — which will be awarded by President Barack Obama in an official White House ceremony on Feb. 15.

Shima, of Gaithersburg, Md., was drafted into the Army in 1944 and became a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a unit of Japanese Americans who volunteered for combat duty during World War II. In November 2011, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the 442nd RCT, the 100th Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service.

Currently, Shima is chair of the Japanese American Veterans Assn.’s Outreach and Education Committee, having previously served as the nonprofit organization’s executive director from 2004-2012. JAVA serves Japanese American veterans and their families.

“It is my distinguished honor to award these individuals the 2012 Citizens Medal for their commitment to public service,” said President Obama in a statement. “Their selflessness and courage inspire us all to look for opportunities to better serve our communities and our country.”

The Citizens Medal was established in 1969 to recognize American citizens who have performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens. President Obama is recognizing Americans whose work has had a significant impact on their communities but may not have garnered national attention. Nearly 6,000 nominations were submitted for awards consideration.

In addition to Shima, other recipients of the 2012 Citizens Medal include Billy Mills, a first lieutenant in the Marine Corps who won a gold medal in the 10,000-meter run at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics; Adam Burke, an Iraq War combat veteran and Purple Heart recipient who opened Veterans Farm, a farm that teaches veterans of all ages how to make a living off the land; and all six administrators and teachers who were killed during the 2012 Newtown, Conn., school shooting tragedy. ■



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