

## KOREMATSU DAY

In California, a day named after  
a man who said, 'No.' **PAGE 3**

PHOTO: SHIRLEY NAKAO/KOREMATSU INSTITUTE



**PAGE 4**

Ellison Onizuka's family  
on Challenger tragedy.



**PAGE 6**

Poston's girl scouts.



'Biggest  
Loser'  
trainer  
takes  
over.

**PAGE 9**

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE COMMEMORATIONS PAGES 5 & 14



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Taking the 'Japanese' Out of JACL is Detrimental

It seems like the main motivation behind changing the organization name is due to the long-term shrinking membership. Some members believe that by increasing the potential membership pool to include all Asians, we will reverse this trend. Let's examine the numbers. Based on the U.S. Census data, Americans who declared themselves with solely

Japanese heritage has shrunk from 891,214 in 1990 to 766,875 in 2009.

Actually, if we consider the result of the U.S. melting pot effect, our potential membership pool has increased to over 1,220,000 (full or partial Japanese heritage reported in the 2007 Census). Thus, our potential Japanese heritage membership base has grown over the last two decades.

Thus, I conclude that we don't need to increase our potential membership pool to include all Asians. We need to truly understand the main reasons people do or do not join JACL.

A quick examination of the Silicon Valley JACL, which has gone from zero to over 100 members in one year (mostly members new to JACL) may demonstrate a direction for the future. The number one common characteristic of these new members is that they share a common Japanese heritage!

My conclusion is that taking the "Japanese" out of our organization will actually accelerate the demise of JACL.

The environment of this chapter is to promote fun, social and Japanese-oriented cultural activities.

Based on these observations, I believe we should look at reinventing JACL and its mission emphasis. I believe we should move toward promoting the cultural awareness and leadership potential of our Japanese members and celebrate our Japanese heritage! Of course we will continue to be proud Japanese American citizens who will continue promoting all Americans' civil rights, but this will no longer

be our primary mission.

**Ken Yamamoto**  
Silicon Valley JACL

\* \* \*

## Keep 'JACL'

From the ongoing discussion on the JACL name change, it is obvious that people have not thought out the effects of such a name change.

It is not a simple matter. It will destroy the JACL as we know it now. It will broaden the organization's mission and make it less effective as far as the JA community is concerned.

It may bring in some non-JA people, but there may be some JA members that will be less interested.

**Edwin Mitoma**  
South Bay JACL

\* \* \*

## A Rose By Any Other Name

I read with much interest the pros and cons about changing the Japanese American Citizens League's name to suggest that the membership is not limited to or is inclusive.

Now changing the name of this organization to become more inclusive of the diverse population is good consideration, but not the answer.

The JACL is a marvelous, wonderful and productive organization. It fills the needs of many. We need to look for ways to recruit and sustain members rather than change its name. Changing its name to magnetize individuals to join is a valid consideration, but not an option for me.

Now take the rose. It is a symbol of fragrance and beauty. Like the rose, the JACL is nationally recognized. A rose is a rose by any other name, so why change the name?

**T. Ted Yoneda**  
Stockton, Calif.

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## JACL Accepting Applications for 2011 National Scholarship Program

JACL is calling for applicants for its 2011 scholarships. JACL offers over 30 awards, with an annual total of over \$60,000 in scholarships.

Awards are available in the following categories: freshman, undergraduate, graduate, law, creative and performing arts and financial aid.

Informational brochure and applications for the scholarships are available on the JACL web-

site at: <http://jacl.org/edu/scholar.htm>.

Freshman applications should be sent to the applicant's local JACL chapter by March 1. The chapters will review the applications and forward the outstanding ones to national JACL by April 1.

All other national JACL scholarship applications should be sent directly to: National JACL

Scholarship Program, c/o Portland JACL, P.O. Box 86310, Portland, OR 97286.

The deadline for these applications is April 1. ■

For more information, contact Patty Wada, JACL regional director at 415/345-1075 or [jacl-ncwnpro@msn.com](mailto:jacl-ncwnpro@msn.com).

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# Civil Rights Leader Celebrates California's First Korematsu Day

Rev. Jesse Jackson called Korematsu a founding father of the new America.

By Christine McFadden  
Correspondent

Rev. Jesse Jackson and Fred Korematsu have more in common than first meets the eye. Both are civil rights leaders and activists who dedicated their lives to fighting injustice and racial discrimination.

On Jan. 30, California's first Fred Korematsu Day, one civil rights icon carried on the message of the other. Jackson described Korematsu, who passed away in 2005, as someone with "courage and selflessness" and whose strong legacy has carved out a designated day on the state calendar.

Last September, Calif. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 1775 into law designating Jan. 30 as Fred Korematsu Day. It marked what would have been Korematsu's 92nd birthday and the first day in U.S. history named after an Asian Pacific American.

"This is important," Jackson said in an interview with the *Pacific Citizen*. "Fred is a huge mall of force in our society ... who has not gotten the attention he deserves here or in the whole mix of authoritative leadership, and so coming to the event ... is a big deal to me."

Jackson, who met Korematsu for the first time in 1999 when the Nisei leader was honored with the PUSH/Rainbow Coalition Award, was the keynote speaker of the celebration held at Wheeler Auditorium at the University of California, Berkeley.

The event celebrated and stressed the importance of protecting civil liberties and standing up for rights. During World War II, Korematsu gained national attention when he evaded Executive Order 9066 and refused to be incarcerated after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. E.O. 9066 authorized the secretary of war to designate certain areas as military zones and cleared the way for the incarceration of over 100,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry.

In 1944, his case was taken all the way up to the Supreme Court in *Korematsu v. United States*, where he lost 6-3 in a ruling that constitutionally justified incarceration solely based on race in times of military necessity to uphold national security.

"Fred emerges as kind of a ... quiet, unassuming guy, just refuses to submit to racial discrimination," said Jackson. "And the historic Constitutional case — the case that upheld the incarceration of Japanese Americans — he wouldn't submit to that ... just as she [Rosa Parks] refused to go to the back of the bus, Fred refused to be incarcerated based on race."

## 'Human rights must remain non-negotiable'

Jackson, who was raised in South Carolina, noted that he didn't have any JA classmates growing up, but when he got involved in the 1984 presidential campaign, he became more exposed and "got put deeper into the culture."

"After all, while Japanese Americans were in concentration camps, we were deep in the cotton fields and we were behind the walls too ... we were locked out too," he said. "In some sense, Fred became that one light in the office that refused to be extinguished."

"The scars of those camps are passed on generation to generation, really," said Jackson about the WWII incarceration of JAs. "It helps to shape your consciousness. No matter how fast you run, you know someone is always just over [your] shoulder. There's always a shadow — but he [Korematsu] helped eliminate the darkness for we as a people, not just in the Bay Area, but around the world really."

Both Korematsu and Jackson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United



(Top) Jesse Jackson, with Karen Korematsu, keyed the Jan. 30 event celebrating the first Korematsu Day. Jackson met Korematsu (left) for the first time in 1999 when the Nisei leader was honored with the PUSH/Rainbow Coalition Award.

PHOTO LEFT: ERIC PAUL FOURNIER/KOREMATSU INSTITUTE

States, just two years apart — 1998 and 2000, respectively.

"I don't know why I received it," laughed Jackson. "I think I got it because they had a surplus, he got it because it was intentional."

He said Korematsu Day should have come earlier.

"Korematsu, Chavez, Martin Luther King, these guys are founding fathers of the new America, unlike Jefferson and Washington and Madison," Jackson said. "He's one of the new founding fathers of this country."

Jackson's main message for the celebration was one he said Korematsu would have agreed with, "Human rights must remain non-negotiable ... in the end, human rights will prevail."

## Carrying on Her Father's Legacy

UC Berkeley's Wheeler Auditorium holds 705 seats; Korematsu Day was not only a sold-out event, but accumulated a waitlist.

"I'm amazed by the response and the attendance," said Karen Korematsu, the daughter of Fred Korematsu, in an interview with the *Pacific Citizen*.

The turnout, said Karen Korematsu, reaffirmed that her father's legacy is still going.

"I already knew that my father was well-respected," she explained. "His legacy has just been absolutely amazing in its growth. People have realized that his story is so powerful."

Sponsored by the Fred T. Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education at the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco, the Korematsu Day celebration also featured Assembly members Warren Furutani and Marty Block, both co-sponsors of AB 1775, Def Poetry Jam spoken word artist Beau Sia, and a video message from Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota, the first Muslim American elected to Congress.

"This first Fred Korematsu Day is a historic occasion for all Californians and all Americans," said Ling Woo Liu, the Fred T. Korematsu Institute's director. "We are thrilled that the community came out in full force to show their support."

Several institutions also bear his namesake, including the Fred T. Korematsu Discovery Academy and the Fred T.

Korematsu freshman campus at San Leandro High School.

In the past few weeks, schools from all around California as well as other states, have received free Korematsu teaching kits. The kits, designed for both kindergarten through 12th grade, contain lesson plans (in addition to videos, posters, bookmarks, and pencils for elementary classrooms) specific to educating students about Korematsu's legacy and the JA incarceration.

Karen Korematsu said students have been learning "that one man can make a difference," and how "you can stand up against all odds, because he did."

Additionally present at the program were the lawyers who made up the legal team that successfully reopened his case and vacated his criminal conviction in 1984. After University of California, San Diego professor Peter Irons and researcher Aiko Yoshinaga Herzig discovered evidence revealing that the government had purposefully withheld — and in one instance, destroyed — intelligence information denying any JA wrongdoing, Korematsu's 1944 case suddenly resurfaced.

On the basis of governmental misconduct, Korematsu's case was reexamined under a writ of error *coram nobis*. Although the U.S. district court in San Francisco under Judge Marilyn Hall Patel overturned his previous conviction, the 1944 Supreme Court case ruling still stands to this day.

*Coram nobis* team members Dale Minami, Don Tamaki and Seattle University School of Law professor Lorraine Bannai were present, among others.

"All these people paved the way for this day," said Karen Korematsu, who co-founded the Fred T. Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education on April 30, 2009. "My father was my motivation in carrying on his legacy," she said.

At the event, Karen Korematsu brightened at the idea of Fred Korematsu Day becoming a national holiday.

"There's been talk about that, which has been very exciting," she said. "This is certainly just the beginning. As the KDA [Korematsu Discovery Academy] kids said [during the program]: 'We're reaching for the stars.'" ■

On the web: [www.korematsuinstitute.org](http://www.korematsuinstitute.org)

# Remembering Ellison Onizuka

On the 25th anniversary of the Challenger tragedy, friends continue to honor the astronaut's legacy.

By Joseph Craig  
Special to the *Pacific Citizen*

When Linda Onizuka first met her brother-in-law in 1969, she said one word came to mind, "Humble." It's a word that many of those who knew the man would use in describing Ellison Onizuka, even as the nation commemorates one of the most memorable tragedies in U.S. history.

On Jan. 28, 1986, people around the world watched in horror as the Space Shuttle Challenger was destroyed by a ruptured fuel tank 73 seconds after taking off.

Remembered in large part due to the inclusion of Christa McAuliffe, a 37 year-old schoolteacher from Concord, New Hampshire who was selected from more than 11,000 applicants to participate in the NASA Teacher in Space Project, often overlooked are the six others who were aboard that flight. One in particular remains a prominent figure in the Asian Pacific American community.

The incident, which took place a quarter of a century ago, set off a wave of emotions for those watching and had a lasting impact on the APA community who lost one of their own, Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka, 39, in the accident. As one of seven astronauts who boarded that fateful flight looking to take the next venture into space, Onizuka was excited to be joining a crew that would become forever engrained in history.

Now 25 years after that tragic event, Ellison's memory continues to live strong within a community that continues to embrace his legacy.

"I once asked him if he was afraid to go into space," said Linda. "He said he wasn't because the reward was always worth the risk. He even mentioned that sitting on the space shuttle was like sitting on a ticking time bomb until the rockets separated, but he always felt as though it was worth it."

Ellison, who graduated from Konawaena High School in Kealahou in 1964 didn't always dream about becoming an astronaut, according to Robert D. Culp, a professor in the department of aerospace engineering sciences at the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU) who served as Ellison's adviser throughout the astronaut's time in college.

"He spent many hours in my office," Culp said. "At that time he was primarily interested in flying. The astronaut bug, while probably inside him somewhere, did not drive him until later after he left CU. Then, he became the perfect example of a space enthusiast."

Upon departing CU, where Ellison earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree in the same year, Ellison started off as a test pilot before rising up the ranks and joining the astronaut program in January 1978.

Going through the program, Onizuka joined his first space mission on Jan. 24, 1985, on the Space Shuttle Discovery, which orbited Earth 48 times. According to Linda, Ellison viewed his entry and subsequent success in taking part in the space program as a way to educate others who had the dream of one day following his footsteps by entering the space program.

"One of the main things he wanted to do was go into space and bring back that knowledge for future generations," Linda said.

Following this first mission, Culp said Ellison took great care to return to his alma mater to share his experiences.

"He often visited my class and inspired the new aerospace engineering students. We have many mementos from when he flew into space and returned to visit us," he added.



Onizuka (left, back row), 39, told loved ones he wanted to go into space and bring back knowledge for the next generation.

At the University of Hawaii, Hilo, Onizuka Day was established 11 years ago to allow students between grades 4-12 and teachers to celebrate space and science in Ellison's memory.

Rose Tseng, Ph.D., who started Onizuka Day, said Ellison's message to students indicates his appreciation for education, which can be seen by a message he once delivered to students.

"In Ellison's message to the students of Hawaii, he said, 'Your vision is not limited by what your eyes can see, but only by what your mind can imagine,'" Tseng said. "'From your vantage point, your education and your imagination will take you to places we won't believe. So make your life count and the world will be a better place because you tried.'"

Many of those who witnessed the exploding space shuttle can still remember where they were and what they were doing as they watched the tragedy unfold. And still, Ellison holds a place in the hearts of many APAs who hold the astronaut — posthumously named a colonel — in the highest regards.

His life is celebrated with memorials across the nation including a Onizuka Air Force Station in Sunnyvale, Calif., Ellison S. Onizuka Space Center at Kona International Airport and a memorial and street in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

The memorial, a 12.5-foot-tall model of the space shuttle Challenger, is in need of refurbishment. Alan Murakoshi, president of the Ellison Onizuka Board, said the process of refurbishing the statue is still in the talking stages, but that should it be approved by the city of Los Angeles. The cost, however, could be fairly immense.

"We're working with the city of Los Angeles to get the necessary paperwork done to get it refurbished, something that wasn't done when it was first erected in the late 1980s," Murakoshi said. "If the project is approved, it's going to run somewhere between \$50,000 to \$100,000 to refurbish the statue."

The memorial's electrical components are in need of repair. The committee is working with the Community Redevelopment Agency in Los Angeles.

According to Murakoshi, timing for a potential refurbishment of the Space Shuttle Challenger has been tricky, with discussions running past what the board had hoped would be the deadline — the 25th anniversary of the Space Shuttle Challenger's explosion.

"Each year we have a space and science day at El Camino College and we were hoping to get the refurbishment done by that date to coincide with that celebration, which would have been April 30 of this year," Murakoshi said. "But we

couldn't meet that date. So now, if we end up going through with it, we're hoping to get it done by Ellison Onizuka's birthday, which is in June."

With such a momentous anniversary commemorating Ellison, Culp was quick to point out how he felt Ellison would like to be remembered.

"If he had a choice, I believe he would wish to be remembered as a consummate professional space explorer," Culp said. "He would want to be thought of as a role model for youth, and one who led the way to the expansion of the space frontier."

Tseng said that Ellison would appreciate the desire for youth to travel to space and the efforts of

another native of Hawaii as it pertains to the space program.

"Ellison wanted the students of Hawaii to reach for the stars, both figuratively and literally," said Tseng. "We certainly would know that he would be very excited by the increased interest in science, technology and especially in robotics. One of President Obama's objectives is to re-inspire the youth of today about space, so certainly Ellison would support that endeavor to carry on his enthusiasm and commitment to learning more about space."

While millions around the world remember Ellison for his passion to the space program and for the incident, which ultimately took his life, family members recall a different side of the astronaut. Beyond his profession, Linda said she remembers Ellison the person and misses being around the man who left two daughters behind.

"I'll always remember him being a very humble person," said Linda. "He was always there for you whenever you needed anything from him." ■



Ellison started off as a test pilot before joining the astronaut program in 1978.

# Remembering Parallel Experiences 10 Years After Sept. 11th

As communities across the nation commemorate Day of Remembrance ceremonies, one focuses on the continued fallout in the Muslim American community.

By Christine McFadden  
Correspondent

Nearly seven decades ago at the age of 12, former Sec. of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta received word from Executive Order 9066 that he had to report to an assembly center. Signed by President Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942, the order uprooted Mineta and 120,000 other people of Japanese ancestry.

The evacuation signs were placed everywhere and addressed to "Japanese ancestry alien and non-alien."

"When you think about it, you say well, who's a non-alien?" said Mineta to the *Pacific Citizen*. "So already they were starting to fight psychological warfare against us. They weren't even willing to acknowledge us as citizens. Now when's the last time you stood up, beat your chest, and said '... non-alien of the United States of America?' I don't think you ever have."

On Feb. 19, nearly seven decades after E.O. 9066 personally affected his life, Mineta will be one of the keynote speakers for the Day of Remembrance (DOR) ceremony at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. Speaking alongside Muslim American artist and activist Imam Hamza Perez, the theme for this year's DOR ceremony is based on another historic event that touched Mineta's life: the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks.

## Avoiding a Repeat of Racial Profiling

Mineta believes that this year's theme is appropriate "given the issues that came up after 9/11 about racial profiling."

Mineta was serving as secretary of transportation when the planes struck the World Trade Centers and the Pentagon. It fell under his responsibility to create the security regimen under which airlines would be able to get back into the air. He described a cry for keeping Middle Easterners and Muslims off airplanes.

He told both his staff and the press that he himself was subjected to racial profiling during World War II.

"And so one of the things I put in there was that there would be no racial profiling," he said.

Following Sept. 11, Mineta said during a cabinet meeting, Rep. David Bonior of Michigan said his large Arab American constituency was concerned about the rhetoric being raised against them.

"The president responded by saying, 'David, you're absolutely correct. We are also concerned about all that's going on. We want to make sure that what happened to Norm in 1942 does not occur today,'" said Mineta.

Ten years later, Mineta says people recognize it's wrong to round up and incarcerate people based on race.



PHOTO: ANDY FRAZER

DOR ceremonies like this one in San Jose, Calif., have expanded to include Muslim and Arab Americans.

"I only saw my dad cry three times," said Mineta.

The tears came on Dec. 7, 1941, when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, when his mother passed away in 1956 and when the family boarded the train in San Jose to go off to the Santa Anita Assembly Center in Arcadia, Calif.

"As we were pulling out of San Jose, I looked up and here were all these tears coming down."

Mineta was incarcerated at Heart Mountain in Wyoming until December 1943, when he was allowed to join his father in Chicago, where he was teaching Japanese to Army personnel in the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP).

"I always remember how cold the day was when we got there," he said about Heart Mountain. "The wind was blowing, the temperature was low, and being Californians we didn't have any clothes to take care of us in that kind of cold."

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the JACL was one of the first organizations to come out in support of the Muslim American community. Ten years later, that support has remained strong.

Mineta believes that "there was a big impact in recognition by the JACL coming out very quickly at the time [of 9/11]."

Community leaders say the Muslim and Arab American communities have many parallels with the JA experience during WWII.

## Bridging Communities

The Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR), JANM, and the JACL Pacific Southwest District are among the members of the DOR organizing committee.

"We came up with the theme as a committee and we thought it was really

important for us to remember the parallels that exist between what happened on 9/11 and what happened for the JAs during WWII," said Stacy Toyota, JACL PSW program coordinator. "We thought it was really important because it's been 10 years and we want to stand together with the Muslim American community. We know the struggles that they're going through."

JACL PSW is in its third year of a new program called "Bridging Communities," which pairs Muslim high school students with JA high school students.

"The youth is our future and if they're not aware of these issues, then who is going to do something about it? We thought it was important to make a program that really connected youth to the larger issues," said Toyota.

Imam Hamza Perez, another DOR speaker of Puerto Rican descent, turned his life around to become an Imam, quitting his former life as a drug dealer. The FBI raided his mosque in Pittsburgh. Perez is currently a hip-hop artist who had his story featured in the film "New Muslim Cool."

"The main goal that I had with the film initially was really to try to humanize the way that American Muslims are seen and to find a story that would be very rich, very realistic, and very nuanced — it was less in my mind that there were historical parallels," said Jennifer Maytorena Taylor, "New Muslim Cool" director.

"It was really more a sense of just what was happening at the time in the aftermath of 9/11. I was sort of vexed by what I found to be media depictions ... I was just really bothered by what I saw."

The Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre recently named Perez one of the year's "500 most influential Muslims in the world."

In the past, Los Angeles' DOR ceremonies

have been dedicated to organizing the Redress movement and bringing attention to those who were denied Redress. After Sept. 11, 2001, DOR has expanded to include Muslim and Arab Americans in the wake of similar discrimination.

"As we approach the 10th anniversary of 9/11 attacks, it is important to remember what makes our beloved country what she is, the upholding of our Constitution both in times of peace and conflict," said Munira Syeda, communications manager of CAIR Los Angeles.

"We have finally begun to acknowledge the atrocities committed during WWII against Japanese Americans, based solely on their heritage. This year must especially remind us that treating one of our own as the other undermines our core values and does nothing to keep our nation stronger or more secure."

Kay Ochi, of the NCRR, said the JA wartime experience has created a legacy of responsibility "to support other communities who have suffered similar injustices."

The country is on the path of "continuous progress," said Mineta.

"It's always said that our democracy is continually evolving and even the Constitution talks about a 'more perfect union' and that's what we all strive for ... through the freedoms that we have.

"But that is part of what makes this country so great," he continued. "Because it does allow us the opportunities to ... perfect our system." ■

## EXTRA!

Find a Day of Remembrance ceremony near you in the *P.C.*'s special DOR listing. **PAGE 14**

# Finding Poston's Girl Scouts



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MASADA FAMILY

The girl scout troop from the Poston II internment camp included Marion Masada, 12 (*back row, second from left*).

**An Arizona historian's search to identify Girl Scouts in a black and white photo from a World War II internment camp reunites a group of women over six decades later.**

**By Nalea J. Ko**  
**Reporter**

After over six decades, certain memories from Marion Masada's time at the Poston internment camp in Arizona have faded from her mind. She remembers munching popcorn and staying up late the night before her family was forced from their home and incarcerated behind barbed wire.

The identification number 13141 that was assigned to her family was burned into her memory by her mother, who feared that her children would become lost in the identical barrack housing.

But the 78-year-old can't recall other details of being incarcerated like the trip from her family home in Salinas, Calif. to the camp.

Other memories of camp life during World War II were preserved in time through photos Masada kept over the years. She eventually settled down in Fresno, Calif.

One of those black and white photos was of 12-year-old Masada, her Girl Scout troop and leader from the Poston II internment camp.

On the back on the photograph the scouts scrawled their names next to the date, 1945. Those names would become key information to Arizona historian, Nancy Buell, who had been researching different Girl Scout troops for years.

It would also serve to reunite a group of Japanese American women over six decades later.

"It was just the most wonderful feeling," Masada explained about hearing from some of the women, who were pictured in the 1945 Girl Scout photo. "I had always in my heart wanted to locate and hear about what happened to their lives."

After hearing from Buell, who was conducting research

for the Girls Scouts 100th anniversary in 2012, Masada put a notice in Asian Pacific American publications to locate the scouts. The notice, published in tandem with Masada's Girl Scout troop photo, requested help in locating those in the image.

Friends and relatives contacted many of the Girl Scouts soon after the photo was published.

"There's so many people sending me these articles," explained former Girl Scout Sally Hirai, 77, a Washington state resident. "I'm the one in the pigtails. I must have been mad that day [laughs]."

With the assistance of other community members, the notice would eventually help locate the nine Girl Scouts and leader pictured in Masada's photo. Many used the opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances.

"We talked for over an hour. We haven't talked for over 65 years, or more," said 77-year-old Jane "Teiko" Oka about speaking with Masada over the phone.

Looking at the photographed faces from her past, Masada recounted the stories she heard about each woman after reconnecting with them.

Two of the former scouts, Akiko Nakagawa and Mayumi Yasumoto (their maiden names), had previously died. Masada explained that the leader, Momoko Iwakiri, was believed to be in a nursing home in Texas.

The search for the identity of the Girl Scouts began with Buell, who wanted to document their experiences in the troop. Buell says every internment camp had Girl Scout troops. But each Girl Scout has a different story to tell, she says.

"As many as I can talk to the better," Buell said. "It's a continuing puzzle."

But like Masada many of the other Girl Scouts say their memories of the troop are limited.

"We weren't very active so I guess that was one of the reasons," said May Sasao, 77, who now lives in San Jose, Calif. "We really didn't do that much while we were in camp. I remember going for a hike, but I don't remember any major projects we did or anything like that."

The details about their time in the Girl Scouts are a little fuzzy. But most remember the troop going on a hiking trip to the Colorado River and getting lost. Oka recalls another hiking trip to the mesas.

Buell was interested in learning how the Poston Girl Scouts obtained their uniforms. But each Girl Scout had a different theory. Some thought their mothers sewed the uniforms.

"We had to buy them. I think they ordered it at Sears or Montgomery Ward," said 78-year-old Nancy "Nobuko" Mukai,

"I don't know whether we had to buy our uniforms — we probably did," Oka explained. "I was looking at the photograph and I thought 'Oh, my God! My parents had to buy that. They were earning \$156 a month!'"

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, some 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese nationals were incarcerated beginning in 1942. Poston was comprised of three different camps, which were built along the Colorado River Indian Reservation.

At Poston, which was operated by the War Relocation Center, internees were used as laborers. Some 18,000 internees were housed at Poston, according to the Poston Restoration Project. Detainees were released in 1945.

Those in the Girl Scout troop say the living conditions at Poston were cramped and dusty.

"I remember how hot it was. We got sick when we first rode the train. We were from Salinas," said 78-year-old Kaye "Kuni" Nakayama. "They had scorpions and rattlesnakes. Things like that I remember."

Most of the former Girl Scouts say they joined the troop to occupy their time at camp.

"I know we made origami for the popcorn to sell. We used to sell those," Mukai said, who added that they did not sell cookies then. "I used to take care of my grandma so she would give me her share."

Some of the former Girl Scouts say they have kept in contact with a few of the other women from their troop.

Masada hopes to hold a reunion for all of the former Poston Girl Scouts in her troop.

"I'm going to suggest that we meet in San Jose," Masada explained. "Wouldn't that be nice?"

Having reconnected with her old Poston camp acquaintances, Masada has been adding her fellow Girl Scouts' contact information in her new address book.

"If you saw my address book now, it's a mess," Masada explained. "I bought myself a new one. I've been little

by little sticking in addresses in my book. So I have three address books now [laughs]."



"It was just the most wonderful feeling," Masada said about hearing from some of the women, who were pictured in the 1945 Girl Scout photo.

## Hawaii Senate Passes Same-Sex Civil Unions

By Mark Niesse  
Associated Press

HONOLULU—The Hawaii Senate has passed a bill creating civil unions for same-sex couples, rushing it on a path toward becoming law.

The Senate voted 19-6 for the bill Jan. 28, sending it to the state House of Representatives for additional consideration.

Hawaii would become the sixth state to grant some of the rights of marriage to same-sex couples without authorizing marriage itself.

A civil unions bill also passed the Illinois Legislature last December. Five states and the District of Columbia permit same-sex marriage.

Democrats, who control the Hawaii Legislature, have said they plan to approve the bill quickly this year and send it to new Democratic Gov. Neil Abercrombie for his signature. Abercrombie has said he supports civil unions.

A similar bill was vetoed last year by then-Gov. Linda Lingle, a Republican.

"This is a matter of civil rights. We would no longer feel that we're second-class citizens," said Gary Okabayashi of Honolulu, who has been in a relationship with his partner for 32 years.

"We would have a sense of pride and integrity because the state has finally recognized us as equal." The bill would grant both same-sex and opposite-sex couples the ability to enter

into a civil union with the same state rights, benefits and responsibilities as marriage.

Advocates of civil unions said November's elections showed that voters supported candidates who backed equal rights for gay and lesbian couples. Only one incumbent state legislator who backed civil unions lost re-election.

Opponents said legal recognition of gay partnerships would put the state on a path toward same-sex marriage.

"It will erode parental rights and undermine the building blocks of society, which is the family unit — father, mother and children," Halley Hobson of Ewa Beach.

Many of those testifying against civil unions cited their religious faith as a reason they couldn't accept the government starting a new category of partnership that's different from the traditional family.

"In my love for God ... I cannot stand by idly in some misguided or blind sense of tolerance and allow this bill to pass," said Mark Brians of Honolulu.

The legislation now moved to the House for further consideration.

Hawaii nearly legalized gay marriages more than a decade ago.

A Hawaii Supreme Court decision would have allowed the practice, but 70 percent of voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1998 allowing the Legislature to reserve marriage for opposite-sex couples. ■



## Fred Korematsu Day Proclamation

Berkeley JACL members and supporters attended the Jan. 25 Alameda County Supervisors meeting in Oakland, Calif. where Supervisor Keith Carson presented a proclamation establishing Fred Korematsu Day on Jan. 30. Carson also read a short history of Fred Korematsu's civil rights credentials. (Pictured, l-r) Jim Duff, Supervisor Keith Carson, Susan Muranishi, Ken Korematsu and Al Satake. ■

## APA Leaders Demand Limbaugh Apology

**Lawmakers are calling for a boycott because of the radio show personality's racist impersonation.**

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

SACRAMENTO—Rush Limbaugh's mock imitation of the Chinese language has stirred a backlash among Asian American leaders at the state and federal level.

California state Sen. Leland Yee, a Democrat from San Francisco, is leading a fight in demanding an apology from Limbaugh.

"The comments that he made — the mimicking of the Chinese language — harkens back to when I was a little boy growing up in San Francisco and those were hard days, rather insensitive days," Yee said. "You think you've arrived and all of a sudden get shot back to the reality that you're a second-class citizen."

Yee has rallied civil rights groups in a boycott of companies like Pro Flowers, Sleep Train and Domino's Pizza that advertise on Limbaugh's talk show. He also launched an online petition asking people to join the boycott.

During a Jan. 19 program, Limbaugh said there was no translation of President Hu Jintao's speech during a visit to the White House.

He launched into a 20-second-long imitation of the Chinese leader's dialect.

"He was speaking and they weren't translating. They normally translate every couple of words, but Hu Jintao was just going, 'ching chong, ching chong, chong,'" Limbaugh said.

He then launched into a 20-second-long imitation of the Chinese leader's dialect.

The next day, Limbaugh said he "did a remarkable job" of imitating China's president for someone who doesn't know a language spoken by more than 1 billion people.

"Back in the old days, Sid Caesar, for those of you old enough to remember, was called a comic genius for impersonating foreign languages that he couldn't speak," Limbaugh said. "But today the left says that was racism; it was bigotry; it was insulting. And it wasn't. It was a service."

Limbaugh's station operator Clear Channel Communications Inc. did not respond to requests for comment. Clear Channel's Premiere Radio Networks Inc. is home to Limbaugh, Jim Rome, Ryan Seacrest, Glenn Beck, Bob Costas and Sean Hannity.

After Yee complained about Limbaugh's crude imitation, Limbaugh poked fun at the Chinese American lawmaker, who's running for mayor of San Francisco. Yee also said he received racist death threats to his San Francisco and Sacramento offices.

Limbaugh's mimicry "perpetuates an ugly practice of using Asian and Asian Pacific Americans as fodder for jokes by caricaturing them in mindless, one-dimensional

stereotypes," said the JACL in a Jan. 21 press release.

There are about 14 million, or 4.5 percent, AAs in the United States, more if counting those of mixed races. In California, Asians make up more than 12 percent of the state's 38 million population.

While AA lawmakers demand an apology from Limbaugh, some are increasingly concerned for Yee's personal safety. Public officials have been put on alert after the deadly rampage in Tucson where U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was shot while meeting with constituents.

Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Tony Beard Jr. confirmed the Legislature has launched an investigation and is cooperating with other security agencies.

"We need to stand up for civility and be respectful of one another. Otherwise the consequences are dreadful as we can already see in the death threats against Senator Yee," said Rep. Judy Chu, a Democrat who represents a large Asian district outside Los Angeles.

Yee, who has a chance to become San Francisco's first elected Asian American mayor, said he has no plans to change his behavior because doing so would amount to "stepping down." He said his staff has received additional security training.

Rep. David Wu, the first Chinese American to serve in Congress criticized Limbaugh's antics as "pathetic childishness." ■

## Bill Seeks Full Benefits For WWII Filipino Veterans

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A new bill has been introduced in Congress to grant full benefits to Filipino soldiers who served under the American flag during World War II.

Rep. Jackie Speier, who sponsored the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011, said the bill is "an effort to rid ourselves of our shameful history".

It would restore those benefits including an average monthly pension of \$1,500, medical care and burial services, supporters say. Widows would also receive benefits under the bill.

About 200,000 Filipinos served alongside U.S. soldiers during WWII to defend the Philippines from the 1941 Japanese invasion and resist subsequent Japanese occupation.

After the war, however, Congress passed the Rescission Act of 1946, stripping Filipino veterans of their status as U.S. veterans. This denied Filipinos the benefits they were promised.

The veterans have campaigned for decades to win these benefits back. They've had some victories, including when Congress passed a bill allowing thousands to immigrate and become U.S. citizens. Burial rights in national cemeteries came a decade later. ■



# VERY

## truly yours

BY HARRY K. HONDA

### One Oshogatsu that the Bunny (2011) Battered

WHEN “VTY” READ 70,000 customers in California lost their telephone service because of the rainstorm four or five days before Christmas, it included our house and service has yet to be restored. Outdoor phone techies came, saying the line was OK. But still unsatisfied, we’re now waiting (as this column is being written) for an indoor techie to check — a hell-bent way to introduce the *Oshogatsu* spirit in any house.

Even more harrowing (for us) was driving midday southbound on Interstate 5 (the West Coast freeway from the Canadian border to Baja) on New Year’s day, then learning approximately 150 miles from Los Angeles that the “Grapevine” — a 55-mile stretch over the Coast Range with Tejon Pass, 4,300 feet elevation — was completely closed by California Highway Patrol, high winds, snow and ice.

Of course, we relied on the CHP’s direction to exit I-5 at Buttonwillow, some 20 miles east to Bakersfield and took State Route 14 south, the alternate route from Mohave over this mountain. Instead, we chose a second alternate via US 395 (the way to Manzanar) further east through Cajon Pass, at 4,000 feet. What should have been a comfortable six-hour drive from Palo Alto to Diamond Bar (home) decomposed to 14 hours — at least we were not stranded on the highway overnight freezing in the car.

Our Christmas cards usually mention the trips of the year and for 2010, it was flying to the JACL convention in Chicago by Southwest Air in June and to Gallup, New Mexico in September via Amtrak for dedication of Hershey Miyamura High School. The JACL convention in Chicago was in competent hands. The “group travel” with the Japanese American Korean War Veterans is a scheme other organizations should adopt to save on round-trip rail fares.

Thanks to the Christmas cards we’ve received information on related trips others have had, especially the November cruise headed by Hershey and Terry Miyamura from Los Angeles to the Mexican Riviera to help raise funds for the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington. One expected to meet more supporters. Another said nearly 60 came, adding it was the best cruise ever. And those who attended the MIS-Southern California *bonenkai* in

downtown Las Vegas in early December happily met the Miyamuras there, who stayed overnight and drove home in the morning — a bonus, even if you paid “tuition at the slots”.

ONE YEAR-END LETTER, dated Jan. 1, 2011, is particularly newsworthy for passing along in the *Pacific Citizen*, a family-kind of a newspaper 80 years ago. Excerpts follow.

“Rather than fight the stress and depression of the Holiday Season, I have decided to forgo greeting cards for the last few years. I suspect people may have thought I left this good earth or was in a hospice battling for the last breath of my life. Fortunately, it was neither and I have managed to survive the last few years relatively unscathed except for a triple bypass and aortic valve replacement in August 2007.”

Don’t hold your breath, as this column ain’t saying who it’s from — this active JACLER of at least 50 years will recognize the above as will others inside this wide circle of friends.

“Although I resigned from tons of committees and organizations, I still support many in under the radar ways and seem to be busy as ever. I have been concentrating on end of life things for myself and my family. With millions of projects contemplated over the years, each year I realized that there’s no way I can accomplish even a small iota of things I would like to do.

“Therefore, annually, I have continuously narrowed my scope to a few projects, which will require the rest of my life to complete if I should be lucky enough to live so long. I tell my family that I can go any day and I am prepared for the occasion...

“I work out fairly regularly. I try to hit the JCC (Jewish Community Center) for my 5 a.m. workout. I do free motion lifting and exercise, shadow box, shadow judo, shadow karate (teaching myself through book), jump rope, shoot the basketball hoops and jog around the

basketball court and do some wind sprints. I do this in a hot shower and thoroughly massage my head and face with shampoo, soap and hot water as well as scrub my whole body. This is the best part of my day.” Indeed a routine for baby boomers about to retire.

To be continued — we’ve just passed our 750-word limit. ■

Harry K. Honda is the editor emeritus of the *Pacific Citizen*.

‘Our Christmas cards usually mention the trips of the year and for 2010, it was flying to the JACL convention in Chicago by Southwest Air in June and to Gallup, New Mexico in September via Amtrak for dedication of Hershey Miyamura High School.’

### THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN

## Purpose in Death, Purpose in Life

BY PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN



Tragedies like the one in Tucson sink deep into our emotional core.

Death is a mysterious beast, striking from its lair abruptly, seemingly inadvertently.

It assaults with puzzling accuracy, indefinable complexity and devastating tenacity.

And then we are left alone to attempt to put everything back together again.

Last month, as the nation came face-to-face with the nastiness of the vile attack in Tucson, Arizona, the rest of us had to search for solace in the wreckage.

I was sitting in my in-laws’ family room on that fateful Saturday morning doing my usual Huffington Post read on my iPhone app when I learned about the shooting. My mother-in-law is from Arizona. Her mother is still there.

As I recounted the events as they were unfolding, the three of us — my wife included — were stunned at the brash lunacy that drove a wild man to such behavior. The whole thing was in a sense paralyzing — another shooter wreaking havoc on the innocents. It was horrible.

Thinking about the judge and the child that were slaughtered that day reverberated within me. I thought about the sense of loss suddenly thrust upon their families.

That same loss and longing stung me as well as I was forced to face the reality of my own losses of those close to me.

Grand public tragedies like these bring to mind the quiet, more private tragedies that many of us have suffered in our own lives. Everyone has lost someone intimately close.

These public tragedies sink deep into our emotional core whether or not we were acquainted with the victims from the Tucson tragedy. These moments bring to surface the raw emotions of our own private losses and threaten us with disruptive chaos.

Surely, there must be some grand purpose that will emerge from the tragedy in Tucson.

Sell-out proponents of every stripe will seek to drum up support for their own pet projects: more or less gun control, more or less government, more or less of this or that. What sacrilege!

We must find a deeper, firmer purpose in life that is equal in death.

The greater the tragedy, the greater our resolve for the better must be. As a nation we grieve and mourn together and as a nation we must rebuild and uplift.

We cannot cry as we listen to President Obama implore us to be as good a nation as the sweet 9-year-old, Christina Taylor Green, born on Sept. 11, 2001, would have imagined, and then honk our horns on the freeway, lash out at customer service representatives on the other side of the phone line or neglect to hold doors open for complete strangers.

The only order in chaos is to find purpose in life. Live the life the way the departed would have. Break through the present. Surely, there are lessons to be found in the lives of those who have passed.

We cannot be prisoners to death.

There must be some greater purpose in death. I refuse to believe that death is the end. I reject the notion that death is a finale. There must be an encore. ■

Peter Shigeki Frandsen is a Mount Olympus JACL member.

# Boxer Cara Castronuova in the ‘The Biggest Loser’ Ring



PHOTO: TRAE PATTON/NBC

Castronuova is of Chinese descent.

**Cara Castronuova, a two-time Golden Gloves champ, brought her boxing training to ‘The Biggest Loser’ ranch to help contestants lose weight in the ring.**

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

Contestants on “The Biggest Loser” have shed weight and tears on camera for 10 seasons, but Cara Castronuova says it is also an emotional experience for the show’s trainers.

A professional boxer and certified trainer, Castronuova says she was “crying all the time” with contestants on season 11 of the NBC show. Once ranked as the No. 2 boxer in the nation by USA Boxing, the New York native says she brought her training to the weight loss show. The 30-year-old explained that everyone has an inner fighter.

She went toe-to-toe with some contestants in the boxing ring to help them tap into their inner fighter and lose weight. On the show’s premiere, contestants were given the choice to work with the original “Biggest Loser” trainers or take a chance with the “unknown” trainers: Castronuova and Brett Hoebel.

Taking a break from training the contestants, Castronuova told the *Pacific Citizen* in a phone call that her whole life is now dedicated to “The Biggest Loser.”

***Pacific Citizen:* Being one of the new trainers on “The Biggest Loser” ranch you must have had to prove yourself.**

**Cara Castronuova:** It just required a lot of hard work and dedication. It means living with them, spending the majority of my time here in California at the ranch. So I really put my work into getting to know them so that they see I’m coming from a good place, and I really do want to help them.

***P.C.:* Contestants on ‘The Biggest Loser’ seem to shed as many tears as they do pounds. Have you cried yet?**

**Castronuova:** I cry all the time [laughs]. I’m the trainer that probably cries the most. The contestants are always crying, but I have my meltdowns. It’s usually because I’m really touched by something someone does.

***P.C.:* Was it intimidating to come on board as a new trainer since fans of the show love trainers Jillian Michaels and Bob Harper?**

**Castronuova:** It’s nerve racking somewhat. But I like it when it’s challenging and intimidating. That’s when I perform the best. Knowing that Bob and Jillian have set these high standards and these high bars, it challenges me to be the best that I could be.

***P.C.:* You’ve said on the show that everyone has an inner fighter. How do you bring out that fighter?**

**Castronuova:** It’s just a day-by-day thing that you do by spending all the time with them, showing them that they’re strong, showing them that they can surpass limitations that they had set in their mind.

***P.C.:* You’ve been boxing since you were a kid right?**

**Castronuova:** Yeah, I’ve been boxing since I was five. I started learning when I was five from my dad who was a Marine boxer. He really was big on me and my brothers learning how to fight. Whenever we’d have fights as kids my dad would have us [laughs] box it out with each other with gloves on.

***P.C.:* I know you’ve had a difficult life. How has that shaped you as a fighter?**

**Castronuova:** It’s shaped me as a fighter. It’s shaped me as a “The Biggest Loser” trainer and as a person. The more adversity you have in your life it’s kind of how you react to it. My dad he passed away when I was 14 from — he was obese but he also was very affected by the war, the Vietnam War.

So when I was 14, he passed away. And my mom was left basically with four kids. My mom was Chinese, born in the Philippines. She’s Chinese Filipino. She was from another culture, so she came to this country, raising four kids who were like Americanized and completely running amok. She had no choice but to work 15-hour days. It was really hard for us.

***P.C.:* Did you rebel after your father’s death?**

**Castronuova:** Yeah, I rebelled for a little while. I was very angry. I just really didn’t want to deal with much, not going to school. I just was angry. I wound up just not doing well in school and getting kicked out of a school actually. I went on to my next school and wound up picking myself up and getting A’s and getting into a really good college and doing really well.

My mom really stepped up to the plate. She

worked her butt off to make sure that we had everything we needed. People always say, ‘Oh, your dad probably affected you because he was a Marine and he was a fighter.’ Of course he affected me. But my mom just had this warrior spirit where she never let anything get her down.

***P.C.:* Her ‘warrior spirit’ must have influenced you a lot.**

**Castronuova:** It was an influence as a kid just to see such a strong person. She grew into her voice.

When I was 26, which was four years ago, she passed away in a car accident, which was bothersome to me especially because she worked so hard to get to the point she did. She was finally ready to retire after fighting her whole life to give us what we needed and to get to a good place herself.

Then she’s driving and she gets into a car accident. It was just heartbreaking to me. At that point in my life I was boxing I was trying to really, really competitively box at the time. I just stopped for a little bit. I was like, ‘I can’t do it without my mother.’

She was always there in my corner at every single fight, pushing me mentally.’ Because I loved it, I came back to it. I picked myself up and kept fighting. That all led me to being here right now, it all led to this.

***P.C.:* I know you said your dad was obese. Is it emotional now to work with ‘The Biggest Loser’ contestants?**

**Castronuova:** It’s emotional. Of course it is. We have a father and daughter couple and I know how it feels to grow up without a dad. For me I get emotional. I don’t want this girl to know what it feels like to not have a dad go to your wedding.

***P.C.:* Do you share your story with the contestants?**

**Castronuova:** Yeah, I do. I’m like, ‘It stinks.’ I’m like, ‘You don’t want that, trust me, for your daughter. Every time you feel weak just think about that.’

***P.C.:* Do you still compete as a boxer?**

**Castronuova:** I’m not competing right now. I wish I could. I was actually thinking about that today. I don’t have the time to train like a boxer trains, which is a job in and of itself. But I plan on doing so in the future.

***P.C.:* I saw you in the History Channel’s ‘Warrior Women’ where you said you have a shirt from your first fight. Is that right?**

**Castronuova:** Yeah, I still have the shirt. It had blood on it from the other girl and I kept the shirt. It sounds pretty sick, but it’s true. I have a lot of mementos like that [laughs]. And my mom was at that fight. I’ll always remember that!

***P.C.:* What will you do after ‘The Biggest Loser’ season 11 ends?**

**Castronuova:** I would like to continue on with ‘The Biggest Loser’ and really learn as much as I can. I could really use it to continue to help morbidly obese people lose weight.

It is something that is extremely important to me considering how much it has affected my life. In my mind it’s the closest thing I could ever be to a doctor because I’m helping them cure a disease that’s preventable. It’s something that I just want to grow with and keep pushing forward with. ■

# Eat Rich, Eat Right for Chinese New Year

By Associated Press

Have your luck and eat it, too. That's the philosophy behind traditional Chinese New Year's dishes, which are loaded with symbolic meaning auguring prosperity for the coming year.

Want to live long? Eat long noodles — just be sure not to cut them.

Need a bit more in the bank? Serve fish, the Chinese name for which sounds like the word for surplus.

And don't forget dumplings, which also symbolize prosperity and are traditionally eaten late on the eve of the New Year.

The Year of the Rabbit starts with the big "reunion dinner" on New Year's Eve — Feb. 2 this year — a meal reserved for family and resonant with culinary customs.

Carolyn Jung, a San Francisco Bay food writer who blogs at [www.foodgal.com](http://www.foodgal.com), remembers sitting at the table as the youngest of her family, and only girl, helping her mom fold dumplings by hand and "waiting eagerly for her to pan fry them or boil them so that we could dig in."

Chinese New Year is celebrated in many parts of the world that have sizable populations of Chinese immigrants, and other Asian cultures have similar celebrations. With so many people involved, the customs aren't uniform, though the hope for a prosperous new year is a constant.

The festival lasts 15 days, with some days set aside for visiting and other rituals. It wraps up with a Lantern Festival on the final night.

For Patricia Tanumihardja, who grew up in Singapore and is of Chinese and Indonesian descent, the holiday means eating pineapple



tarts, which can take different forms but generally call for a luscious pineapple jam stuffed into flaky pastry.

"Every year that was the one thing I wanted to eat," says Tanumihardja, author of "The Asian Grandmothers Cookbook."

This is the time when luxury ingredients such as shrimp or abalone shine and fish is served whole to symbolize plenty. Serving whole poultry also is a sign of family unity and Tanumihardja sometimes makes a whole braised duck for a holiday meal.

In Singapore, a raw fish salad is served in restaurants with the ingredients kept separate on a large plate or tray. Before they eat, diners stand and toss the salad as high as they can saying auspicious words like "Every year we'll have prosperity."

As a kid, Jung saw Chinese New Year as mostly about the food — and the red envelopes filled with crisp dollar bills that are handed out to children. She spent the money and kept the brightly decorated envelopes, keeping them neatly stowed away in a drawer.

As she grew up, the holiday

became more about family. These days she often makes her mom's tomato beef chow mein, a blend of east and west cooking styles typical in Chinese American kitchens.

"I remember so many times peeking over her shoulder as she crisped up the noodles in the pan," says Jung, who would sneak noodles right out of the pan until she was shooed away.

Jung's mother passed away some years ago, and a lot of her recipes are gone, "but this was one that I did get her to write down."

The recipe isn't strictly orthodox New Year's fare, but the noodles symbolize the traditional wish for long life.

And making a dish in memory of her mother fits Jung's grown-up perspective on the holiday.

"As I get older and the family gets larger with significant others and kids and people moving away, it's one of the holidays where we really make an effort to gather and to see each other and catch up."

And those red envelopes come in handy, too. These days she fills them with crisp bills of her own and gives them away to her nieces.

■

## Civil Rights Coalition Asks Court to Block More of Arizona's Immigration Law

**The provisions violate day laborers free speech rights, according to the coalition.**

A coalition of civil rights organizations has asked a federal court to prohibit Arizona from enforcing two key sections of SB 1070 targeting day laborers, pending a final court ruling on the provisions' constitutionality.

Last April, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed SB 1070, a tough state law that required police to question the immigration status of suspects when there is reasonable suspicion. Before SB 1070 went into effect, U.S. District Court

Judge Susan Bolton blocked key components of it ruling that immigration matters are the federal government's responsibility.

But several other measures in the law including provisions banning drivers from hiring day laborers off the street went into effect.

According to the coalition, these provisions cause irreparable harm to day laborers and those who seek to employ them by curtailing their First Amendment rights.

"All workers have a First Amendment right to seek work, particularly in public areas. The unconstitutional provisions of SB 1070 have severely violated workers' free speech rights and

restricted their ability to earn a living," said Julie Su, litigation director for the Asian Pacific American Legal Center.

The civil rights coalition includes the JACL, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center and Asian Americans for Advancing Justice, among others.

At its national convention last July, the JACL national council passed a resolution to join future legal efforts to repeal the law before its effective date.

The move came after the JACL national board, last May, voted 8-6 to join a class action lawsuit opposing SB 1070. ■

## National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

### S. Carolina Considers Anti-Illegal Immigration Law

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina legislators are considering an anti-illegal immigration law similar to Arizona's. The bill was up for debate in Senate Judiciary, but the meeting ended before senators could get to that issue.

It would allow police to check the immigration status if an officer thinks a person is in the country illegally. Republicans in both chambers have called it a top priority for this year.

### Idaho Pays Tribute to Medal of Honor Recipients

BOISE, Idaho — A bill in the Legislature aims to name a state highway after Idaho recipients of the nation's highest military honor.

Veterans groups approached Sen. John Goedde, R-Coeur d'Alene, about naming northern Idaho's State Highway 3 after Medal of Honor recipients. The senator introduced legislation on Jan. 25 to name the roadway "North Idaho Medal of Honor Highway."

### Wyoming House Set to Debate Gay Marriage Bill

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — After repeated unsuccessful attempts in previous years, the Wyoming House passed legislation on Jan. 24 to stop recognition of out-of-state gay marriages and civil unions.

The bill, House Bill 74, now heads to the Senate, which was considering gay marriage legislation of its own.

### Girl Sues Over Handicapped Space Denial

PHILADELPHIA — The mother of a brain-damaged Philadelphia girl has sued the city's parking authority over its rejection of an application seeking a handicapped parking spot in front of their home.

Nil Sok filed the federal civil rights suit on Jan. 20 against the Philadelphia Parking Authority on behalf of her 12-year-old daughter, Salina. The lawsuit claims her application was denied because they couldn't get consent from a neighbor.

According to the suit, the parking authority requires a neighbor's permission if the applicant's home is less than 20 feet wide. Sok's home is 18 feet wide. The suit seeks a reserved spot and the elimination of the consent requirement.

### R.I. Upped Interpreter Services Following Complaint

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The state of Rhode Island has agreed to improve language services following a 2007 complaint from the American Civil Liberties Union.

The state announced Jan. 18 that the Rhode Island Department of Human Services has signed an agreement with the federal government to improve the assistance given to people who speak little or no English.

The state in 2007 laid off all its Southeast Asian language interpreters, prompting a complaint from the ACLU that the state was violating a 1997 agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide timely interpreter services.

### Koreans Mark More Than 100 Years of U.S. Migration

NEWARK, N.J. — Korean immigrants nationwide celebrated a milestone this month that marked more than 100 years since their predecessors arrived in America to work in Hawaii's sugarcane fields.

In events from New York to Los Angeles, Koreans observed Jan. 13 — designated in 2003 as Korean American Day by the U.S. Congress — with celebrations and reflections on their changing diaspora.

### Churches, Buildings Marred by Spray-Painted Hate Messages

ORANGE COUNTY, Calif. — Orange County police continue to search for suspects after spray-painted racial slurs were discovered at two local, Catholic churches and other buildings.

The spray-painted graffiti targets Catholics, Asians, Mexicans and African Americans.

Brea police Sgt. Bill Smyser said the incidents are being investigated as vandalism because the graffiti was not on a business associated with any ethnicities or a place of worship. Police officials in Anaheim, Santa Ana, Irvine and Brea are collaborating to determine who is leaving the graffiti. ■

# Tiger Mom's Memoir Meets Ferocious Roar

By Leanne Italie  
Associated Press

NEW YORK—A new memoir of tough parenting, in the so-called Chinese style, from a self-proclaimed tiger mother has unleashed a ferocious roar.

Fallout was swift for Yale professor Amy Chua after she published an essay in the *Wall Street Journal* describing the heavy-handed methods she used with her two daughters.

Her "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother" shot to No. 6 in the Amazon sales rankings recently. Adult offspring of Asian and Asian American immigrants are weighing in on Chua's provocative description of Eastern-style parenting: No sleepovers or playdates. Grueling rote academics. Hours of piano and violin practice. Slurs like "lazy" and "garbage," and threats to burn stuffed animals when things don't go mom's way.

Some see truth and a borderline abuser. Others see a dangerous stereotype with the potential to feed China haters and xenophobes. Still others publicly thanked their moms for similar, though less extreme, methods.

Few had read the book themselves, missing out on more facetious nuances and details on Chua's journey to a softer approach with Sophia, 18, and Louisa, nicknamed Lulu and about to celebrate her 15th birthday with — gasp — a sleepover party.

"It's been tough on my kids," Chua said. "They want to speak out over the thing that has hurt me the most, when people say, 'Oh, doesn't that kind of strict parenting produce meek robots?' My daughters could not be



further from meek robots. They're confident, funny, kind, generous, with very big personalities, and they're always calling my bluff."

Chua, 48, insists her tone in the book is self-deprecating. It's a point she considers lost in the blogosphere, including heat from moms employing Western philosophies she doesn't consider better or worse, but more lax and undisciplined.

"My first reaction was, 'Is this a joke?' I kept waiting for the punch line," said Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, 44, a second-generation Chinese American and mother of four in Ann Arbor, Mich. She had parents with high expectations but none of Chua's histrionics. "Her methods are so crude. The humiliations and the shaming. The kids will hear that voice in their heads for the rest of their lives."

Christine Lu's memories of her tiger mom growing up in L.A. are full of sorrow. Mom's ramrod tactics failed on her ("life at home used to be horrible") but they worked on her older sister. She hit

28 and spiraled into a depression that led to her suicide after the startup where she worked fizzled.

"She graduated from Harvard with an MBA. That was the first time she had ever experienced failure," said the 34-year-old Lu. She stopped short of blaming her mom, adding: "It's the culture. Amy is a product of the culture, too."

It's a book of extreme parenting, for sure, a memoir and not a how-to manual,

Chua cautions. Her parenting choices reflect her upbringing: No TV, no pets, no grades under A, no parts in school plays, no choice of extracurricular activities, no musical instruments except piano or violin.

When Lulu had trouble with a tricky piece of music, Chua denied her bathroom breaks and threatened to ship off her dollhouse to the Salvation Army until she got it right — which she did with pride. When she pushed back at age 13, rejecting the violin, mom allowed for tennis instead, keeping a keen eye on her game.

As a young adult, Chua said she rebelled in her own way. She married an American Orthodox Jew after hearing from her dad: "You'll marry a non-Chinese over my dead body." Now my dad and my husband are the best of friends."

Regrets? "I wish I hadn't lost my temper," she said. "I wish I hadn't been harsh. I wish I would have let them have more freedom." ■

## APAs in the News

### Utah Councilwoman Jani Iwamoto Appointed

Councilwoman Jani Iwamoto was appointed in Utah as minority leader of the Salt Lake Council for 2011. She will represent the Democratic caucus.

Iwamoto was the first Asian American in the state of Utah to be elected to public office when she began a four-year term in 2008. She is also the only woman on the county council.



### JANM Receives National Medal

Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard presented the Japanese American National Museum with the highest national honor for a museum.

JANM officials received the National Medal for Library and Museum Service on Jan. 28. The Institute of Museum and Library Services distributed 10 of the medals.

### JAVA Installs New Officers

The Japanese American Veterans Association approved and installed newly elected officers at its general meeting. The incoming officers are Gerald Yamada (president), Col. Bruce Hollywood (vice president), LTC Alan Ueoka (secretary) and LTC Mark Nakagawa (treasurer).

Incoming President Gerald Yamada identified three goals for the organization, one of which includes educating the public about contributions made by Nisei soldiers during WWII, among other goals.

### Governor's Council Approves Duffly for Mass. SJC

Appeals Court Associate Justice Fernande "Nan" Duffly endured a close vote Jan. 24 to take her place as the first Asian American member of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

Newly elected Councilor Jennie Caissie, a Republican from Oxford, broke the suspense by declaring she would support the 61-year-old nominee. The nine-member panel ended up voting 4 to 3.

During a six-hour confirmation hearing last week, Duffly faced stern questioning from Councilors Thomas Merrigan and Christopher Iannella, who accused her of being an activist judge and unnecessarily removing children from their fathers in divorce cases.

### San Francisco's First Asian American Mayor Sworn-In

San Francisco welcomed its first Asian American leader Jan. 10 when City Administrator Edwin Lee was sworn in as interim mayor before a crowd of hundreds.

The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to appoint Lee to fill the remainder of Mayor Gavin Newsom's term. Newsom was sworn in Jan. 10 as California's lieutenant governor.

The 58-year-old will serve as interim mayor until next January, when the winner of November's mayoral election will take over. Lee, a city employee for more than 20 years, has said he does not plan to run.

### Assemblyman Warren Furutani to Chair API Caucus

Assemblyman Warren Furutani announced Jan. 24 that he was unanimously re-elected as chairman of the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus.

Established in 2001, the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus aims to advocate for California's APA community, among other things.

### GFB National Education Center Elects New Chairman

The Go For Broke National Education Center's board elected former California Assemblyman George Nakano as its new chairman. Nakano's term began Jan. 1. He replaced Michael Ozawa.

Nakano is a former math teacher at Jordan High School. He was elected in 1998 to serve in the California State Assembly.

During two legislative sessions, Nakano helped secure \$1.5 million to fund Go For Broke's education program. The program raises awareness about the World War II heroics of the 100th Battalion, Military Intelligence Service and 442nd Regimental Combat Team. ■



# Federal Agencies Publish Plans to Increase Participation of Asian Americans

The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Interagency Working Group (IWG) has released the first set of agency plans to increase Asian Pacific American access to the federal government.

The agency's plans are part of the administration's "commitment to assure that all Americans have a seat at the table," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, who serves as the initiative's co-chair with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke.

Plans will be released on a rolling basis on the initiative's website through the end of February. The

public comment period will be open for 30 days from the posting date of each plan.

On Oct. 14 President Barack Obama signed an executive order that restored the White House Initiative and President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to address issues concerning the APA community.

The executive order mandates that agencies develop plans to increase access to and participation in federal programs in which APAs remain underserved.

Strategic activities include providing training and access to 2010 Census data and developing

a national partnership program that incorporates national APA organizations.

Twenty-three participating agencies developed agency plans over a four-month period with input from numerous offices within each agency. Each plan details the agency's strategic activities and performance outcomes for the next one to two years.

"In order for the federal government to take meaningful steps, it is crucial that people go online, view the plans, and provide feedback," said Kiran Ahuja, the initiative's executive director. ■

On the web: [www.aapi.gov](http://www.aapi.gov)

# NPS to Offer \$3 Million in JA Confinement Sites Grant Program

The National Park Service (NPS) is now accepting applications for grants to preserve and interpret the U.S. confinement camps and other sites where more than 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were detained during World War II.

This year's deadline for applications is March 1.

Congress assigned a total of \$4 million in grant money to the JACS program during its first two years. The president's budget plan for FY 2011 calls for \$3 million more in grants. However, Congress has yet to pass the federal operating budget for FY 2011 and thus the funds have not been committed to this year's grant program. The NPS expects to be able to award grants for FY 2011 after Congress passes the appropriations bill.

During its first two years, the JACS program awarded \$3,895,000 to eligible groups and entities — non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and state, local and tribal governments — that are working to preserve the confinement sites and their histories.

So far, the program has granted funds to 42 projects that involve 16 states (and the District of Columbia): Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Although many of the projects are tied to single, specific locations, some also range across multiple sites and are conducted from other places and states.

"These projects are helping us understand better a shameful chapter in America's not-so-distant past," said Kara Miyagishima, the JACS program manager for NPS. "As stewards of many important places in America's cultural history, we in the National Park Service are glad to assist

groups and communities that want to preserve these sites. Collectively, their efforts can deliver sobering lessons about how vulnerable our freedoms can be — even those protected by the Constitution."

The program, established by Congress in 2006, aims to preserve and interpret the places where Japanese American men, women and children — most of them U.S. citizens — were relocated and held after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941. Congress has authorized that up to \$38 million in grants can be awarded over the life of the program. Funds can be used to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair and acquire historic internment sites. The goal is for present and future generations to learn about and gain inspiration from the sites and those who were held in them.

In 2010 the NPS awarded 23 grants totaling \$2,925,000. Grant amounts can vary widely. In Idaho, The Friends of Minidoka received \$17,295 to document and rebuild the historic Honor Roll that once stood near that camp's entrance, listing all those from Minidoka who served in the U.S. Army. In Park County, WY, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation received \$832,879 to finish building an 11,000-square-foot Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center at the camp site.

The program encourages applicants to raise project funds from other sources to meet a 1-for-2 "match" with the grant money, which is awarded in a competitive process. Successful grantees must provide \$1 in non-federal funds or "in-kind" contributions for every \$2 they receive in federal money.



More than 50 historical locations are eligible for grant-funded work. They include the 10 War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps that were set up in 1942 in seven states: Amache, Colorado; Gila River and Poston, Arizona; Heart Mountain, Wyoming; Jerome and Rohwer, Arkansas; Manzanar and Tule Lake, Calif.; Minidoka, Idaho and Topaz, Utah. Also eligible are more than 40 other locations in 16 states, including civilian and military-run assembly, relocation and isolation centers. Of the 10 WRA sites, three are now units of the National Park Service (Manzanar National Historic Site, Minidoka Internment National Monument, and Tule Lake National Monument) and four are National Historic Landmarks (the Rohwer cemetery, and the Granada, Topaz and Heart Mountain camps). ■

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Application materials and a list of informational meetings are available on the JACS website: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hpg/JACS/index.html>.

**PACIFIC WEST:** Tom Leatherman, 925/943-1531 ext. 122, [tom\\_leatherman@nps.gov](mailto:tom_leatherman@nps.gov)

**INTERMOUNTAIN:** Kara Miyagishima, 303/969-2885, [kara\\_miyagishima@nps.gov](mailto:kara_miyagishima@nps.gov)

**MIDWEST:** Rachel Franklin-Weekley, 402/661-1928, [rachel\\_franklin-weekley@nps.gov](mailto:rachel_franklin-weekley@nps.gov)

**HAWAII:** Frank Hays, 808/541-2693 ext. 723, [frank\\_hays@nps.gov](mailto:frank_hays@nps.gov)

## AAs Saw No Gains in Homeownership Rates After Foreclosure Crisis

Asian Pacific American homeowners saw their greatest loss of equity following the national foreclosure crisis despite their higher median income, according to a new study by the Asian Real Estate Association of America (AREAA) and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

While AAs made some improvement in their rate of homeownership between 2005 and 2007, increasing from 59 percent to 60.3 percent, the study revealed that the national foreclosure crisis wiped out any modest improvements by 2008, returning the rate of homeownership to 59 percent by 2009.

The study is entitled, "Following the Path to Asian American Homeownership Report: An Analysis of the United States, California, New York, Texas, and Select U.S. Metropolitan Areas."

"There is limited research on how Asian Americans fared during

the subsequent foreclosure crisis, but preliminary assessments and anecdotal evidence indicate that they lost considerable ground," said Melany De la Cruz-Viesca, assistant director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. "Especially troubling is the loss in equity many Asian American homeowners face."

The median property value of APA homeowners decreased from 2007 into 2009.

"This finding again reinforces AREAA's longstanding concerns that Asian Americans are disproportionately affected by the housing bubble because of population concentrations in markets such as Los Angeles, Chicago and New York, where housing costs are high," said Kenneth Li, AREAA chairman.

Another factor affecting homeownership is language barriers.

According to the study, 71 per-

cent of APAs speak a language other than English at home, compared with 20 percent of the total population. Additionally, 2009 data showed that 32 percent of APAs "speak English less than very well" compared with nine percent of the total population.

The study sheds light on homeownership patterns in APA communities, and provides a mixed picture of how the foreclosure and economic crises are affecting APAs. While the study showed that APAs had far larger median household incomes than the total population (\$73,745 for APAs versus \$61,021 for the total population), it found that APAs still lag behind the total population in terms of homeownership.

According to the 2008 Census, AAs make up five percent of the total U.S. population. ■

On the web: [www.areaa.org](http://www.areaa.org)

## Nikkei Community Internship Program is Accepting Applications

Celebrating its 10th year, the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council recently announced that its popular Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) program is now accepting applications. Prospective interns must submit their applications by March 4.

During the past 10 years, over 100 interns and over 20 Japanese American community groups in Los Angeles and the Bay Area have participated in the program.

The goal of NCI is to provide cultural exposure and develop the net generation of community leaders by networking with various Nikkei organizations and connecting interns with mentors in the JA community. The internship also aims to provide a fun learning experience that creates energy and a desire to participate in the JA community.

The program will run from June

19 – Aug. 13. Interns will be placed in community organizations and spend four days a week working on Nikkei community projects and one day in cultural training and leadership development activities. Interns will receive an educational scholarship of up to \$2,000. Applicants must be age 18 by the start of the program.

The Nikkei Community Internship is funded through support from Union Bank and Southwest Airlines, as well as other generous donations from various community sponsors. The program is coordinated by the JACL Pacific Southwest District in Los Angeles and the Japanese Community Youth Council in San Francisco.

For more information, visit [www.nikkeiyouth.org](http://www.nikkeiyouth.org) or contact Stacy Toyota at the JACL Pacific Southwest District at [stoyota@jacpsw.org](mailto:stoyota@jacpsw.org). ■

## JA Leadership Delegates to Head to Japan in March



The Japanese American Leadership Delegation Program, which works to strengthen U.S.-Japan relations, is now celebrating its 11th anniversary. Sponsors include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and co-organized by the U.S.-Japan Council.

This year 13 Japanese American leaders from throughout the United States will participate in a delegation visit to Japan from March 4-12. The delegation will visit Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka for a variety of exchanges with high-level leaders. A symposium will be held on March 7 in Osaka and will feature three delegates as panelists.

Selection to the 2011 delegation emphasized leaders from the business, communications, education, and government sectors. This year's delegation includes: Phyllis Campbell (Seattle) chairman, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Pacific Northwest; Erwin Furukawa (Los Angeles), vice president, Customer Programs and Services, Southern California Edison; Kathryn C. Iyata-Arens (Chicago), associate professor, Department of Political Science, DePaul University; Bill Imada (Los Angeles), chairman and CEO, IW Group, Inc.; Val T. Iwashita (Honolulu), headmaster, 'Iolani School; and Susan Morita (D.C.), partner, Arnold & Porter LLP.

Other delegates include: Gary S. Moriwaki (New York); partner, Tax & Estates Department, Fox Rothschild LLP; Susan Muranishi (San Francisco); county administrator, Alameda County; Gary Oda (Honolulu), president, Allied Builders System; Kenneth A. Oye (Boston), director, Program on Emerging Technologies (PoET) associate professor of Political Science and Engineering Systems MIT; Genevieve Shiroma (San Francisco), board member, Agricultural Labor Relations Board, State of California; William Tsutsui (Dallas), dean and professor of History, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, Southern Methodist University; and Mari Watanabe (Portland), executive director, Oregon Nikkei Endowment. ■

## APFC Launches \$20,000 Verizon Scholarships Program

The Asian Pacific Community Fund in partnership with Verizon has established a scholarship program to support students pursuing a college degree in math, science and related majors.

"We hope to especially support those who excel academically, are leaders amongst their peers and are making a difference in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities," said Debra Fong, Asian Pacific Community Fund's executive director.

A total of 20 scholarship awards of \$1,000 will be made in 2011.

The first application cycle, which will be open to current first-year college students, will have a submission deadline of March 30. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May as a part of the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration.

The second scholarship round will begin in May and be open to college-bound high school seniors. A total of seven awards will be made in the second round.

The third round of scholarships will begin in August and be open to college juniors. Five scholarships will be awarded.

Established in 1990, the Asian Pacific Community Fund is a community-based, non-profit fund that was created to educate and encourage individuals and companies to support Asian Pacific American communities through workplace giving programs. ■

On the web: [www.apcf.org](http://www.apcf.org)

## Arkansas Center Gets Memorabilia from Rohwer Internment Camp

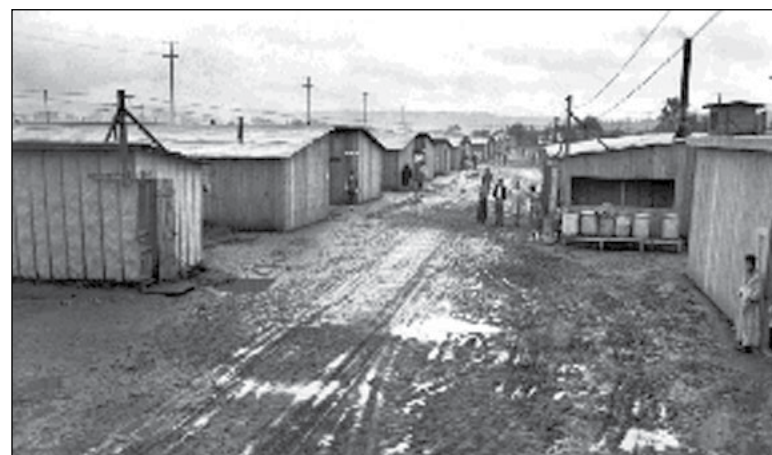
By Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Memorabilia from a Japanese American internment camp set up in Arkansas during World War II has been donated to the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Little Rock.

Rosalie Gould of McGhee has donated her collection of several hundred works of art and other materials produced by people held at the Rohwer Camp, the Butler Center announced Jan. 19.

The Rohwer camp operated in Desha County in southeast Arkansas from September 1942 to November 1945 and held nearly 8,500 people at its peak. Gould's collection includes hundreds of documents and photographs dealing with the camp's schools and government, along with 185 handwritten autobiographies of internees.

Much of the collection stems from the work of an art teacher who taught at the camp, Mabel "Jamie" Jamison Vogel. Her students gave her many of the works they created, and she kept other items accumulated during her work at



the camp. Gould and Vogel became close friends and Vogel left her collection to Gould when she died, according to the Butler Center.

Appraiser Jennifer Carman said the materials in Gould's collection are "unique among internment collections." They include copies of a newspaper, published by camp residents, that documents day-to-day life.

The Rohwer site, most of it demolished decades ago, has been designated a National Historic Landmark. It includes a cemetery with the graves of 24 internees who died at the camp as well as memorials erected by the camp's

residents. It also contains a memorial dedicated to the 31 JA soldiers from Rohwer who died fighting on behalf of the United States in World War II.

David Stricklin, head of the Butler Center, welcomed Gould's donation.

"This collection really contains two stories. The first is the extraordinary testament it makes to the perseverance of American citizens in the face of a truly unfortunate wartime situation," Stricklin said.

The Rohwer camp was one of two in Arkansas, with the other at Jerome, in Drew County. ■



JAPANESE AMERICAN  
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# GO.SEE.DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS\*



**Toyo Miyatake  
Street Dedication  
LOS ANGELES, CA  
Feb. 10, 11:30 a.m.  
Between 2nd & 3rd Streets**

In Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, where the famed photographer once worked, a street will bear his name. Councilwoman Jan Perry and Archie and Alan Miyatake will attend.

**Info: Serena Ngo at [littletokyohs@gmail.com](mailto:littletokyohs@gmail.com) or 213/473-3030 ext. 169**

## CCDC

**Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage  
OWENS VALLEY, CA**

**April 30, 12 noon  
Manzanar National  
Historic Site**

**U.S. Highway 395**

Each year, hundreds of people attend the Manzanar Pilgrimage. The event is sponsored by the Los Angeles-based Manzanar Committee. Participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks.

**Info: 323/662-5102**

## NCWNP

**Contra Costa JACL Installation Luncheon**

**EL SOBRANTE, CA**

**Feb. 26, 12:30-3 p.m.**

**Royal Palace Restaurant**

**3550 San Pablo Dam Rd.**

**\$15/person**

Join the Contra Costa JACL for its installation luncheon at the Royal Palace Restaurant. The event features guest speaker Tim Kawakami, a sports columnist with the Bay Area News Group.

**Info: 510/243-6688**

**Asian Fashion Show and Mother/Daughter Luncheon**

**SAN LEANDRO, CA**

**Feb. 26, 12 noon-3 p.m.**

**San Leandro Library**

**300 Estudillo Ave.**

**\$20/general; \$30/couples**

As part of the Big Read program, attendees will enjoy a dim sum luncheon while watching models walk the runway.

**Info: 510/577-3971**

**California Film Premiere  
of 'Enemy Alien'  
SACRAMENTO, CA**

**Feb. 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
California Secretary  
of State's Auditorium  
1500 I. St.**

A gripping story about an innocent Palestinian American human rights activist imprisoned after Sept. 11, filmmaker Konrad Aderer of New York, whose Japanese American grandmother was interned during World War II, investigated this case and presents his film.

**Info: 916/685-6747 or  
[www.nctor.com](http://www.nctor.com)**

## PNW

**An Intimate Dinner  
with George Takei  
PORTLAND, OR**

**Feb. 19, 5-7 p.m.**

**Portland Marriot**

**Downtown Waterfront**

**1401 SW Naito Pkwy**

**\$100/general; \$1,500/table**

To remember the day in 1942 when President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, the Oregon Nikkei Endowment will host actor and activist George Takei at this special fundraiser.

**Info: 503/224-1458 or  
[www.oregonnikkei.org](http://www.oregonnikkei.org)**

## PSW

**Film Screening of  
'The Harimaya Bridge'**

**PACOIMA, CA**

**Feb. 12, 2 p.m.**

**San Fernando Valley Japanese  
American Community Center  
12953 Branford St.**

The San Fernando Valley JACL is hosting this special screening. The film's writer/director Aaron Woolfolk will be available after the movie. A \$10 donation is requested. A bento may be purchased for \$10, but must be ordered by Feb. 1.

**Info: Nancy Gohata at 818/899-4237.**

**Little Tokyo Historical Society  
Shinnenkai Luncheon  
LOS ANGELES, CA**

**Feb. 5, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

**Chop Suey Café & Lounge**

**347 E. First St.**

**\$10 /general**

Little Tokyo Historical Society, an all-volunteer organization, will celebrate its major accomplishments of 2010, including its first publication, "Los Angeles' Little Tokyo" and share its ambitious plans for 2011.

**RSVP: Serena Ngo at  
[littletokyohs@gmail.com](mailto:littletokyohs@gmail.com) or  
213/473-3030 ext. 169.**

**Ryu Goto's Violin Recital  
CERRITOS, CA**

**Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.**

**Cerritos Center**

**for the Performing Arts**

**12700 Center Court Dr.**

**\$35/general**

Join us for a night of music with 22-year-old Ryu Goto, an accomplished violinist with a growing fan base in Asia, North America and Europe.

**Info: 800/300-4345 or  
[www.cerritoscenter.com](http://www.cerritoscenter.com)**

**The Art of Iaido Seminar  
PASADENA, CA**

**Feb. 19-20**

**Pasadena Buddhist Church  
1993 Glen Ave.**

The seminar will feature, Katsuo Oda, a guest instructor from Shizuoka Prefecture in Japan. He is an expert in the art of drawing and cutting with the Japanese sword. The seminar is expected to attract over a dozen practitioners.

**Info: [www.eanet.com/sckf](http://www.eanet.com/sckf)**

## DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EVENTS



**Livingston-Merced and Cortez JACL**

**Day of Remembrance**

**MERCED, CA.**

**Feb. 19, 5-8:30 p.m.**

**Merced County Fairgrounds**

**900 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way**

Celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Merced Assembly Center monument at the gala dinner.

**Info: Janet Fujimoto at 209/723-8588 or  
Bob Taniguchi at 209/383-5161**

**Day of Remembrance  
Ceremony**

**MOORESTOWN, NJ**

**Feb. 19, 1-4 p.m.**

**Moorestown Friends**

**School Dining Hall**

**110 E. Main St.**

**\$5/members; \$10/non-members**

This event will featuring a follow-up discussion to the violent incidents that took place at South Philadelphia High School.

**Info: Cliff Akiyama 267/235-9426 or Don Kajioka at  
[dkajioka@verizon.net](mailto:dkajioka@verizon.net).**

**New England JACL**

**Day of Remembrance**

**MEDFORD, MA**

**Feb. 12, 1:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Asian American Center**

**Sophia Gordon Hall**

**15 Talbot Ave.**

The New England JACL is partnering with the Asian American Center at Tufts University to present a program featuring Junichi Suzuki's documentary "442nd: Live With Honor, Die With Dignity." The film will be followed by comments from Susumu Ito, a 442nd RCT veteran.

**Info: Tufts Asian American  
Center at 617/627-3056**

**Twin Cities JACL**

**Day of Remembrance**

**BLOOMINGTON, MN**

**Feb. 12, 11 a.m.-12 noon**

**Transfiguration Lutheran**

**Church**

**11000 France Ave S.**

Local students will read stories from internment camp survivors as archival photographs are projected, and a commemorative candle lighting ceremony will be held. Former WCCO reporter Maya Nishikawa will moderate.

**RSVP: Lucy Kiriha at  
[mikio29@comcast.net](mailto:mikio29@comcast.net) or  
952/831-2866 by Feb. 8 for free  
box lunches after the program.**

**JANM's Day of Remembrance  
LOS ANGELES, CA**

**Feb. 19, 2 p.m.**

**Japanese American**

**National Museum**

**369 E. First St.**

This year's theme "September 11: Ten Years After" was selected by the DOR committee because of growing anti-Muslim sentiments. The committee felt that it was important to support the Muslim community.

**Info: 213/625-0414**

**CCDC JACL**

**Day of Remembrance**

**FRESNO, CA**

**Feb. 20, 11 a.m.**

**Pardini's Catering and**

**Banquets**

**2257 West Shaw Ave.**

**Cost: \$40/general; \$20/Nisei  
veterans and youth**

The Day of Remembrance is a national observance remembering the forced internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. In the Central Valley, the day is highlighted with the Distinguished American Awards. The 2011 awardees include Assemblyman Juan Arambula, the Charles Pashayan family and David "Mas" Masumoto.

**Info: 559/960-0852**

**Monterey Bay**

**Day of Remembrance**

**SALINAS, CA**

**Feb. 27, 1:30 p.m.**

**Salinas Community Center**

**940 N. Main St.**

The highlight of this Day of Remembrance observance will be the performance of "Hold These Truths: The Journey of Gordon Hirabayashi" by actress and playwright Jeanne Sakata and starring Ryun Yu.

**Info: Mas Hashimoto at  
[hashi79@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hashi79@sbcglobal.net) or  
831/722-6859**

# IN MEMORIAM

**Goto, Keiko, 74**

Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 21; survived by siblings, Yoko Horimoto and Tom (Ruth); also survived by nieces and nephews.

**Hashimoto, Kiyo Sato, 95**

Chicago, IL; Jan. 24; survived by son, Fred (Joan); daughters, Christine and Pamela (Robert); 2 gc.

**Higa, Raymond Tetsuo, 67**

Pearl City, HI; Jan. 27; a retired Leeward Lounge bartender and Vietnam War veteran; survived by brothers, Herbert and James; sister, Jean Yamanaka-Kane.

**Kirihara, Shigeko, 84**


St. Louis, MN; Nov. 5; survived by husband of 57 years, Jim; children, Terry (Cecelia), Randy (Julie), Marsha Mangen (Mike); sister, Toshi; brother, Masanobu; 6 gc; memorials preferred to the Twin Cities JACL Scholarship Fund.

**Hisamoto, Alfred Mitsuo, 89**

Wahiawa, HI; Jan. 2; survived by wife, Mieko; sons, Wayne Hisamoto and Dwayne Yap; daughter, Patricia; brother, Hidemi; sister Norma Kido; 3gc.

**Inouye, Harumi**

Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 4; survived by sister, Emiko Tsuji; brother, Hiro (Mary) Hino; son, Randall (Susan); brother-in-law, Masaru; many nieces and nephews; 5 gc.

**Kai, Hideko Frances, 89**

Walnut Grove, CA; Jan. 11; she is survived by her daughter, Pam

Kai.

**Kamisato, Ernest Hideo, 87**

Honolulu, HI; Jan. 8; he was a general contractor; survived by wife, Dorothy; brother, Tadao; sisters, Gladys Kamisato, Jane Larson and Jessie Teruya.

**Kariyama, Tom, 84**

Gardena, CA; Jan. 26; predeceased by brother, Makin and Takeshi; survived by sister, Hanako Matsuno; sister-in-law, Susie Kariyama; many nieces and nephews.

**Matoba, Yuka, 106**


Sebastopol, CA; Jan. 12; she passed away two weeks shy of her 107th birthday; her family was interned at Amache internment camp during World War II; predeceased by her husband, Katsuzo; children, Katsuki "Kats," Haruki "Hank," Mary Yamamoto, Tomiko Hayakawa and Asako; survived by daughters, Ann Bradley, Vicki Epling, Twinkle Yagi and Haru Hamamoto; sons, Akio and George; 13 gc; 21 ggc; 2 gggc.

**Nakamura, Michael Tsuneo, 94**

Pearl City, HI; Jan. 7; former owner of the North American Life Insurance Agency; survived by son, Randal; daughters, Sharon Kurz and Myrtle James; sister, Yuriko Yanagisako; 6 gc; 4 ggc.

**Sakamoto, Marie Toshiko, 84**

Santa Monica, CA; Jan. 16; survived by her sister, Teruko (Don) Morinaka; brother, Hiroto

Kawanishi; nieces and nephews.

**Shojinaga, Katsumi, 79**

Granada Hills, CA; Jan. 24; survived by wife, Alice Yasuko; children, Susan (Richard) Sirovy; Cheryl (John Fukunaga); Steven (Marina); brothers, Sueo (Sumiye), George (Kathryn), Thomas Sr., and Richard (Grace); sisters, Fumie Drobkin, Kiku Yuen, Nancy Braithwaite, Shigeko (Randall) Deese and Janet (Robert) Matsuda; many nieces and nephews; 5 gc; 1 ggc.

**Taniguchi, Betty Fusae, 85**

Waipahu, HI; Jan. 11; survived by husband, Kiyoto; son, Edward K.; daughters, Iris Y. Mulder and Lori F. Taniguchi; sister, Momoe Kataoka; 2 gc; 2 step-gc; 3 step-ggc.

**Tomita, Yukiko, 80**

Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 16; survived by husband, Toshiyuki; brother, Yoshimi (Yuki) Shiraki; children, Kurt (Gaye), Mark (Joanne), Derek (Joan), Grant (Stacy); brother-in-law, Akira (Nako) and Yoshinori (June); nieces and nephews; 8 gc.

**Yoshida, Nancy Sachiko, 71**

Torrance, CA; Jan. 19; she is survived by her mother, Miyoye Takahashi; husband, Shigeo Yoshida; sister, Jean Fujita. ■

## HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES

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

**Tributes**, which honor the memory of your loved ones with original copy and photos, appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.

**For more information:**  
pc@pacificcitizen.org or  
(800) 966-6157

## Barney Hajiro, Medal of Honor Recipient, Passes



By Pacific Citizen Staff

Barney Hajiro, the country's oldest living Medal of Honor recipient, passed away Jan. 21 in Honolulu at the age of 94.

During World War II Hajiro had been awarded three Distinguished Service Crosses while serving with the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Europe.

One of his DSC' was upgraded to a Medal of Honor when legislation was passed in 2000 to upgrade the DSC' of 22 Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

While a member of the 442nd, Hajiro helped free the towns of Bruyeres and Biffontaine in France's Vosges Mountains. On Oct. 29, 1944, Hajiro led a charge of "Suicide Hill" and helped destroy two machine gun nests, killing two enemy snipers before being wounded.

Hajiro was the oldest of nine children and left the eighth grade to help work in the sugar-cane fields in his hometown of Maui.

He is survived by his wife Esther, son Glenn and one grandson. ■

### TRIBUTE

## Dr. Tsukasa Matsueda

September 28, 1925 - January 28, 2011



Beloved husband, father, grandfather, Dr. Tsukasa Matsueda passed away peacefully on January 28, 2011 at the age of 85.

Tsukasa was a graduate of UC Berkeley, received a Doctorate Degree from the University of Massachusetts, and was a Fulbright Scholar and teacher for 33 years. A former Rohwer and Tule Lake internee, Tsukasa was also a 525th MIS US Army Veteran.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, June, sister Yori Kawakita (Yoneo), brother Kanow; children Bob (Ranko), Julie (Jon Osaki); grandchildren Ken, Mika, and Lee.

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# A Japan Trip to Remember

**The Min Yasui oratorical contest winner thanks local Japan JACLers for showing her around during her recent trip.**

**By Nicole Horiuchi Gaddie**

This past summer I had the opportunity to travel to Chicago to compete in the national JACL's Min Yasui oratorical competition, a contest traditionally held at each biennial national JACL convention. I won the oratorical contest and my prize was airfare to Japan and three nights hotel for two!

I recently returned from my trip and I had an amazing time. I wanted to share some of the things I learned with the JACL.

The JACL Japan chapter president John Ino greeted me the first day and was a very generous host. John was raised in Mill Valley, Calif. and recently took a position at a Tokyo university teaching bio ethics. Their vice president is Asako Suzuki who teaches English at a Yokohama high school. I met Asako in Chicago this past summer when she attended the national convention.

While visiting with John, he explained to me the difference in



focus of the JACL Japan and the JACL U.S. One of the primary objectives of the JACL in the U.S. is eliminating racial prejudice and maintaining social justice. In Japan almost everyone is Japanese so they don't have these issues.

In the U.S. the JACL puts a strong emphasis on remembering the events of WWII. This includes the 442nd regimental combat team, internment camps, and personal sacrifices made by all Japanese during that time.

John explained to me that during the war some similar events took place in Japan however the victims were the Japanese Americans. The JAs visiting Japan during WWII weren't interned, but they weren't allowed to leave the country because they were viewed as a threat. It's definitely a different

point of view that many of us in the U.S. fail to realize.

John explained that the Japan JACL's main focus is on social networking. Their chapter is always open to visitors from the U.S. and they are a great resource if you have any questions about Japan. For instance when I was there, John arranged for four University of California students to take me around Tokyo and show me everything from shrines to popular shopping spots.

It was truly a great experience and it wouldn't have been the same if I hadn't made contact with the JACL Japan chapter. They were very helpful and I would highly recommend anyone thinking of traveling to Japan to contact the Japan JACL.

Other Japan JACL members we met were Nancy Kose, a Japanese Brazilian, and Jon Kojaku, JD-MBA, originally from Gardena, Calif. These friendships were possible through the national JACL and I will always be appreciative of this opportunity that was given to me. ■

*Nicole Horiuchi Gaddie is the most recent Min Yasui oratorical contest winner.*

## JACL Announces 'Bridging Communities' for H.S. Students

The JACL is now accepting applications for Bridging Communities 2011. In its third year in Los Angeles, Bridging Communities is now being launched in San Francisco and Seattle.

The program is open to high school students of all ethnic and religious backgrounds. Through education, dialogue, creative art, and community service, the program seeks to bring Japanese American youth together with youth of other communities of color to understand history, build identity, and garner a sense of passion to engage with and preserve the confinement sites where more than 120,000 JAs were detained during World War II.

JACL will be partnering with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) in all three cities, and with Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCR) in Los Angeles. Through these partnerships, and with support from other JA, Muslim American and Arab American civil liberties groups in all three locations, JACL hopes to create dialogue and understanding between different communities that share similar histories and

struggles.

The National Park Service (NPS) Confinement Site grant sponsors Bridging Communities. Participants will have the opportunity to connect to the confinement sites through visits and service learning with the NPS at the Manzanar national historic site, Minidoka internment national monument or Tule Lake national monument. ■

### Bridging Communities

For more information or to download an application, contact the individuals below.

#### LOS ANGELES — PSW

Yuka Ogino  
yogino@jacpsw.org or 213/626-4471

Program starts Feb. 19  
<http://www.jacpsw.org>

#### S.F. BAY AREA — NCWNP

Jess Kyo  
jkyo@jacl.org or 415/921-5225  
Program starts Feb. 20  
<http://www.bcsfba.wordpress.com/>

#### SEATTLE REGION — PNW

Mackenzie Walker  
mwalker@jacl.org or 206/623-5088  
Program starts March 26  
<http://www.jacl.org/bc-seattle>

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