

# PACIFIC CITIZEN



## KRISTI'S BIG DREAMS

The Olympic gold medalist's latest project is all about inspiring kids.

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PHOTO: BLAKE LITTLE



PHOTO: SHUZO UEMOTO

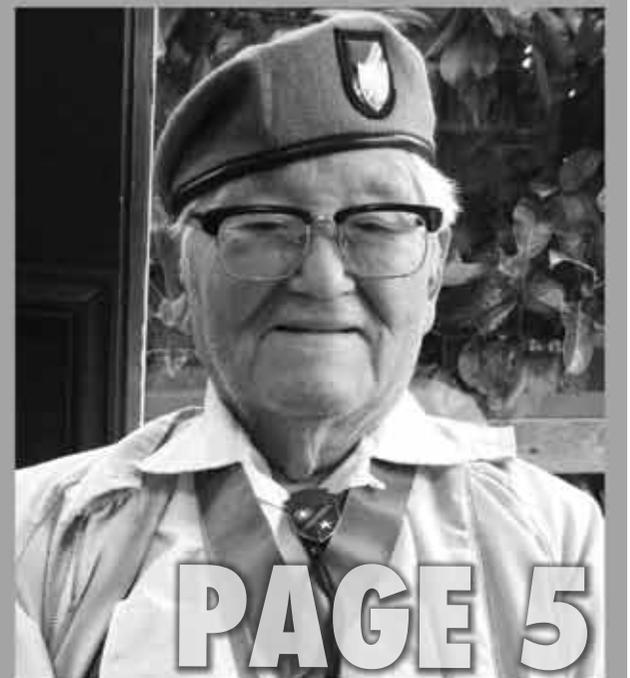
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Taiko groups to rock out at conference.



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National board takes on budget.



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Roy Matsumoto on WWII secrets.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Is JACL History Being Ignored?



After I read the 12 year-end articles by the national JACL board (*Pacific Citizen*, Jan. 21-Feb. 3, 2011), I was struck by the lack of any mention of civil rights issues. After all, Japanese American civil rights is the very core of the JACL mission. I would think that JACL members, like me, are interested to know how their dues, donations and

loyalties are being applied to today's civil rights issues.

From the articles I cannot determine if there are any civil rights items on the board's current agenda. We are told about: scholarships, leadership programs, declining membership, dwindling revenues, camp preservations and gold medal awards. Only preservation and the gold medals may be considered advocacy efforts, the rest are important structural efforts but do little to further the organization's responsibility to advocate for Asian American civil rights.

A short list of what we are not hearing about might include: assaults on religious freedom, indefinite detentions and due process, fairness for same sex couples, and immigrant rights. These are all issues that reflect directly on the JACL's legacy. Surely some — maybe not all — are within reach of our limited resources.

Thanks to its long history of helping the JA community overcome injustices and prejudices, the JACL has earned the respect and legitimacy of its peers, both locally and nationally. I appreciate that it is important to understand history but not be hostage to it. However, the JACL should build on this legacy, not ignore it.

Lary Schectman  
Chicago Chapter

## Allegiance Question

Congratulations to *Pacific Citizen* contributing writer Christine McFadden for her thoughtful discussion of the loyalty to the United States of those who were wrongfully incarcerated during World War II.

It was a difficult question 69 years ago. With the wrongful U.S. government actions inflicted under the Patriot Act, questions of loyalty could continue to be difficult to answer.

Henry Sakamoto  
Portland, Oregon

\* \* \*

## Keep the Presses Rolling!

Your articles are relevant, informative, educational and well-written. Your reporters write real news with purpose! — not just fluff, i.e. festivals, restaurant reviews, etc.

It's important to continue publishing *Pacific Citizen* as so many Asian American papers have folded. Keep us informed. Keep the presses rolling!

Patricia Akizuki  
Santa Clara, Calif.

## Republican Viewpoint

Thankfully I finally picked up the Feb. 18-Mar. 3 edition of the *Pacific Citizen* and read it. I completely agree with James Kumpel's letter to the editor. I am a conservative Republican. You do not represent me.

Most of the time I read the *P.C.* and am infuriated by your biased articles. Time and time again I ask myself why I stay a part of this organization. You wonder why your membership is dwindling? You need to make yourselves relevant to all Japanese Americans, not just the liberal ones to survive.

Tracie Sasaki-Seibert  
via email

\* \* \*

Send signed letters with your name and contact information to: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org) or Letters *Pacific Citizen* 250 E. First St. Suite # 301 Los Angeles, CA, 90012



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## SPRING CAMPAIGN

# Pacific Citizenship

By Hugh Burleson



JACLers who rely closely on their *Pacific Citizen* newspaper for information on Nikkei communities around this nation will be up to date on issues not only that concern Japanese Americans and other minorities, but also issues that affect the *P.C.* itself.

Ten months ago at the Chicago JACL national convention, we wrestled with the proposal by the national board to move the paper lock, stock and barrel into the

JACL national headquarters in San Francisco as a money-saving measure. On the convention floor, questions arose about how the costs and impact on the paper of such a move had been calculated and factored in.

It became clear that (1) the existing staff would mostly be lost because they cannot freely relocate (e.g., working spouses with job rights in

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## NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

# Another Busy Time for JACL

By Floyd Mori



This spring has ushered in another busy time for the JACL. There continues to be a flurry of programs, appointments, meetings, events and issues. There is much work to be done.

A national JACL staff meeting and board meeting were held in April, at which I announced my plans to retire from the position of national JACL executive director effective before the end of the year. Upon becoming director of

public policy in D.C. in 2005, my intent was to stay for two years. With the subsequent appointment to succeed John Tateishi, I have been shuttling between the nation's capital and the JACL headquarters. After only a short time in Washington, I could see that it is extremely valuable and important for our organization to have a visible and active presence in the nation's capital (which I had expressed to Tateishi at the time). Incidentally, Mike Masaoka recommended some 50 years ago that the JACL move its headquarters to D.C. (documented in the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper).

Your committed JACL staff is working hard to serve the organization and the community. We were sorry that Craig Ishii, PSW regional director, left the post at the end of April and wish him well in his future endeavors.

At the national board meeting, it was discussed that members want

SEE **MORI/PAGE 16**

JACL 2011 convention Los Angeles  
JULY 7-10  
**7 WEEKS**  
[WWW.JACL.ORG/CONVENTION](http://WWW.JACL.ORG/CONVENTION)

## JACL MEMBERS Change of Address

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# A Father and Son Duo Honor Their Family Tradition of Taiko



PHOTO: YUTA KATO

Toshi Kato works on one of his taiko drums. His wares will be on sale at the upcoming North American Taiko Conference.

**Taiko players from around the country will flock to the North American Taiko Conference — which is advertised as the largest taiko gathering in the world — in August.**

**By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter**

Yuta Kato, 29, says he started playing taiko for recreation as a “fat, chubby kid” with a California rice-pounding group, but then he studied more intensely because his father wanted him to get exercise.

The Japanese American studied under Seiichi Tanaka who founded the San Francisco Taiko Dojo, the first taiko group in the United States. Studying taiko techniques was emphasized as much as being physically fit, says Yuta Kato.

Taiko practice with Tanaka consisted of running, doing push-ups and sit-ups, among other things. The lessons would shape Yuta Kato’s “chubby” figure and his future.

“My dad suggested, ‘Why don’t you learn taiko under Master Tanaka?’ Since I was a fat, chubby kid he wanted me to get more exercise,” Yuta Kato explained. “I don’t know what I would look like now if I didn’t have taiko.”

Yuta Kato’s father drove him — and his sister Julia Asano — to practice two to three times a week for the San Francisco Taiko Dojo Rising Stars Dream Team. It was a commute that was about 45 minutes away.

Despite the commute, Yuta Kato’s father wanted to nurture his children’s passion for taiko.

“I finished my work, my gardening job, at about 5 o’clock,” says Toshi Kato, Yuta’s father. “I was so tired, but I had to drive the kids.”

Yuta Kato continued performing taiko throughout college, joining Kyodo Taiko at the University of California, Los Angeles. He later founded Yukai Daiko at UCLA. His exposure to taiko as a child perhaps left a lasting impression.

Today Yuta Kato is the coordinator of the North American Taiko Conference, what is known as the largest gathering in the world for taiko players.

His father also pursued a career in taiko, selling the drums at the conference in 2003 and eventually leaving his garden-

ing job.

The father and son duo will both be on hand at the three-day conference when it kicks off Aug. 18.

Some 500 participants are expected to flock to Stanford University for the event that includes taiko workshops, discussions, leadership forums and performances.

The event was so popular that tickets for the conference sold out in the first week of May. This is the first time the conference, which is held every two years, sold out of tickets a little over three months before the opening day, says Yuta Kato.

“Four hundred and fifty is the maximum capacity for workshops,” Yuta Kato explained. “There’s a waiting list right now. But we don’t think too many of the people will be getting into the workshops.”

Tickets for the event’s Taiko Jam concert to be held Aug. 19 are still available and can be purchased at the conference’s website ([www.taikoconference.org](http://www.taikoconference.org)). The Taiko Jam concert, free and open to the public, will be held Aug. 20.

Taiko groups are traveling from all over the nation and world to participate in the conference.

“I have been attending the conference on and off since 1997, but this will be the Genki Spark’s first appearance,” said Genki Spark founder Karen Young, who is traveling with five others from Boston, Mass. “For many of us who have been around for a while, the conference is like a mini family reunion, it’s a time to catch up, appreciate, and reflect on our community as a whole.”

Other conference attendees are traveling from overseas to learn from workshop leaders like Taiko Project’s Bryan Yamami, San Jose Taiko’s Roy Hirabayashi and Kenny Endo of Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble, among others.

“This is the first year O Daiko is joining the North American Taiko Conference and Summer Taiko Institute,” said 26-year-old Yeeman Mui, who is traveling with three others from Hong Kong. “We want to absorb as much as we can and bring the knowledge back so that we can share with them our experience.”

The travel expenses for some groups outside of the West Coast can be costly. Groups like Taiko Kauai are shelling out about \$1,200 for each member to participate in the event. But participants say the experience is well worth the expense.

“The conference is the only place where taiko enthusiasts come together from all different levels and places with so many different groups, instructors, vendors coming together to focus on every facet of taiko drumming,” explains Judi Murakami, who is traveling from the island of Kauai in Hawaii.

Conference organizers say the popularity of the event is evidence that taiko in the United States is growing.

“The NATC is growing in popularity as the growth of taiko in North America increases,” says Hirabayashi. “We are not quite sure how many groups exist in North America, but every year, there are many more new groups.”

For Yuta Kato the growing popularity of taiko is evident within his family. Taiko has become a family affair for the Katos.

His father quit his gardening job to make and sell taikos through his business, Kato Taiko. Toshi Kato makes about five to six taikos every month from recycled wine barrels.

Originally from Tokyo, Japan, Toshi Kato says he was not interested in traditional Japanese instruments in his youth. A “Beatles” fan, Toshi Kato had a taste for rock ‘n’ roll music.

But after his children became involved in taiko, so too did the whole Kato family. His daughter, Julia, married into the Asano family, one of the largest taiko manufacturers in Japan.

“That was amazing. I didn’t expect anything like it,” says Toshi Kato about his daughter marrying into a taiko family. “We’re kind of a taiko family right now.”

Toshi Kato says his income from his taiko company is about the same as when he was a gardener, but the work is more enjoyable.

“When I was a gardener the body was so strong. But now it’s getting weak, weak, weaker. So I don’t want to do that anymore,” says 60-year-old Toshi Kato. “I’m working almost six days a week, sometimes seven days a week. It’s kind of enjoyable to make the taiko, too. I don’t care about sometimes working 10 hours a day. I never worry about it.”

Keeping with the Kato tradition, the taiko maker will sell his wares at the event’s Taiko Marketplace, where 12 other vendors are registered to have booths alongside him. ■

**For more information: [www.taikoconference.org](http://www.taikoconference.org)**

## JACL Nat'l Board Votes to Draw from Nat'l Endowment Earnings to Make Up 2010 Deficit



Members of the national JACL board discuss the financial state of the organization.

### The organization's \$106,426 deficit in 2010 is blamed on declining membership numbers.

By Lynda Lin  
Assistant Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—To patch the 2010 year-end budget deficit, the JACL national board, on April 16, voted to draw \$100,000 from the unrestricted earnings of the National Endowment Fund. The amount taken from the fund will be replenished with 1 percent interest, according to board members.

The \$100,000 was taken from the National Endowment Fund's accumulated earnings or interest as a loan to help with JACL's cash flow problem.

JACL closed out 2010 with a \$106,426 deficit, according to the revenue and expenditures report. The Reserve Fund, which is usually JACL's first source for urgent revenue, was drawn down in 2009.

"Since we had no reserve fund to draw from, our only course of action in order to meet critical expenses, like payroll, made it necessary to draw from the next 'line of defense,' the unrestricted portion of the National Endowment earnings," said Larry Oda, JACL secretary/treasurer.

The National Endowment Fund was established in 1936 at \$100,000. In 1952, more donors gave to the fund from the money received from the Japanese American Evacuation Act, which sought to compensate JAs for economic losses because of the forced World War II evacuation.

"The National Endowment Fund was established as a 'rainy day' fund whose principal was restricted for use when three-fourths of the national council found there to be an 'emergency,'" said Floyd Shimomura, JACL legal counsel.

Because the principal was not touched, a national council vote was not required.

"However with the use of the \$100,000 accumulated earnings, the national board has used almost all the accumulated earnings that were available, so this source of additional funding has been effectively tapped out for the near future," added Shimomura.

The cause of the deficit is a familiar one for the JACL — lagging membership revenue, say board members. At the end of 2010, membership income, which was projected to be

\$944,755, only came in at \$792,230.

"If we are unable to develop more revenue from our membership, we will continue to face financial challenges," said David Kawamoto, JACL national president.

Membership income, JACL's largest single revenue source, has been declining because of the organization's aging membership, said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

"We have not been able to replace falling membership with equal numbers of new members. This is an organization-wide challenge," said Mori, who also pointed out that corporate, foundation and government support have been increasing.

Phillip Ozaki, JACL membership coordinator, hosted a membership workshop during the weekend meeting to help board members fundraise.

At the meeting, Mori stressed the importance of diversifying JACL's membership to be more inclusive of all Asian Pacific Americans.

A new JACL chapter has been formed in Louisiana led by chapter president Jennifer Vu, former legislative aide to Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao. Most of the new members are from the Vietnamese American community, said Mori, who "saw the value of being connected to a national organization."

"I strongly support a restructuring of our membership categories that would allow for a much broader outreach to a larger universe of potential supporters of the JACL," said Mori to the *Pacific Citizen*.

"Maintaining healthy and high-impact programs is essential in marketing for additional funding. Whether we have to draw on our existing funds in the future depends on what kind of commitment we have towards expanding membership," he added. "We have to join the new electronic age of communication and fundraising at a much more robust pace. The other factor is whether our national board becomes more involved in the fundraising function of JACL in tapping outside sources of funding. Fund development should be the responsibility of all officers."

Board members say decreasing membership income is a major concern because it is tied directly to declining discretionary funding.

"Our mantra has been to diversify our funding sources to reduce our reliance on membership dues, but until we have no assets, property or staff, we will need a source of unre-

stricted revenue that will pay our overhead costs," said Oda.

Mori also pointed to the *P.C.* "requiring more as a percentage of total discretionary funds."

"Printed advertising is on the decline so the *P.C.* must do as the rest of the JACL programming by finding outside program funding rather than relying more heavily on discretionary funds," said Mori.

Oda raised concern about the budgeting and reporting process.

"There are a number of factors that contribute to a balanced budget, and we are dealing with a combination of them; from unrealistic or inaccurate estimations of program and membership revenue to unintended or unexpected expenses. What hasn't been done is to look at what JACL is and decide how we are to fulfill our core mission with our diminishing resources," he said.

"We have two ends of the spectrum in two very successful programs, the *Pacific Citizen* and scholarships. The *P.C.* is the most tangible membership benefit and our most profitable program and our scholarships are a highly visible source of pride for our community that creates a lot of goodwill but no revenue," said Oda.

The possibility of more cuts in expenditures in 2011 was discussed among board members, but no future action was approved at the national board meeting.

In 2011, membership attrition is predicted to be at 6 percent.

As of Feb. 28, JACL has an \$8,861 deficit. Membership income, which was budgeted to be \$758,686, came in at \$135,0954 on the same date.

JACL's investment funds were also reported out on Feb. 28. As of that date, the Legacy Fund is at \$6,388,652, the Life Trust Endowment Fund is at \$531,447, the National Endowment Fund is at \$445,757, the Masaoka Endowment Fund is at \$354,635 and the JACL Reserve Fund is at \$3,548.

"To have a healthy budget in the future requires matching our mission to our revenues," said Oda. "We need sufficient revenues to sustain the organization, diligent oversight of programs to ensure that the promises we make are being kept, and consistent monitoring of expenditures to eliminate a deficit." ■

To download the Feb. 28 budget report: [www.pacific-citizen.org](http://www.pacific-citizen.org).

# WWII Veteran Roy Matsumoto Reveals War Secrets of Honor, Sacrifice



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN MATSUMOTO

Msgt. Roy H. Matsumoto's (pictured top and in a photo with fellow MISers, Roy is on the right) story will be told in the documentary "Honor and Sacrifice: Nisei Patriots in the MIS," a film co-produced by his daughter Karen Matsumoto.

**From the moment she heard her father first speak about his life, Karen Matsumoto knew that his experiences should be made into a documentary.**

**By Christine McFadden  
Correspondent**

About ten years ago, Msgt. Roy H. Matsumoto began sharing details of his life with his family that he had been forced by the government to keep a secret for 50 years. Due to the classified nature of his undercover work as a linguist and intelligence specialist for the Military Intelligence Service during World War II, he was told, "Keep your mouth shut." If he said anything, he could have been put in jail.

When he finally did start talking, his daughter Karen described it as being "like a watershed moment."

"I was really surprised," recalled his other daughter, Fumi. "It was very funny because my mom, I'm sure, is probably still skeptical about it. He's really kind of this mild-mannered guy. Even now, I read about this stuff and I really have a hard time believing it."

From the moment she heard her father first speak about his life, Karen Matsumoto knew that his experiences should be made into a documentary. Matsumoto is credited with saving the lives of over 800 American soldiers in the MIS.

Karen and documentary director Lucy Ostrander of Stourwater Pictures produced "Honor and Sacrifice: Nisei Patriots in the MIS", a 17-minute documentary that they are fundraising to expand. With added time to the documentary, Ostrander says they can "tell Roy's complete story."

Even now, there are still some things about Roy's past that he is not allowed to talk about — they remain restricted, classified information by the government, potentially to be released at a later date.

"Some of the things I never mentioned," he said.

## A 50-year Secret

There are many ironies and close calls in Roy's life that make his story stand out, said Karen.

Born in Los Angeles, Roy returned to Japan where he was raised and educated. When he returned to America, he worked as a delivery boy for a grocery store for Japanese families who spoke different dialects, allowing him to expand his language skills. However, his job and education were cut short after the Pearl Harbor attack when he was

sent to a concentration camp in Jerome, Arkansas, as a teenager.

"We never knew any of this," said Fumi. "[We] knew nothing of the internment camp experience."

He volunteered for service in the U.S. Army from behind barbed wire at Jerome, despite his family remaining in the camps and brothers in Japan fighting for the Imperial Japanese Army.

"I wanted to get out any way I could, except escaping," Roy said. "[The] machine gun was sitting toward the inside and if you got too near the fence, you'd be shot."

Roy also wanted a chance to prove his loyalty to America, told by his mother in Japan: "You're an American, and you've got to be loyal." He said that he saw his chance to prove that he and all of the Nisei — including other Kibei — were loyal Americans. "That was my determination."

Roy became linguist for the Merrill's Marauders, a special operation unit stationed in the Southeast Asian Theater. Karen speculates that her father experienced internal conflict "knowing that he could be fighting his relatives and friends out there."

Roy actually ended up interrogating his cousin and rescuing his brother from a POW camp in Burma.

Roy is credited with saving the lives of over 800 American soldiers. He twice saved his own battalion during the U.S. campaign in Burma, India and China.

While in Burma, Roy had to maintain a low profile due to his Japanese ancestry.

"He carried hand grenades because if he were caught, he knew he'd be tortured," said Fumi. Even after the war, his role as a JA in the Southeast Theater remained a secret. "Honor and Sacrifice" is technically not Matsumoto's first movie appearance. A documentary was made post-war with Roy's role in Burma portrayed by a Filipino actor.

"We thought: let's set the record straight," said Karen.

After the war, Roy remained in the service, entering China and becoming an intelligence specialist for the Detachment 202 Office of Strategic Services. He was tasked with interrogating Japanese prisoners and escorting war criminals to Sugamo prison in Japan. He retired from the Army in 1963 after 20 years of service.

Roy, himself, is one of the most highly decorated Nisei soldiers, and has the unique distinction of being honored in both the MIS Hall of Fame and the Army Ranger Hall of Fame. He also holds five Bronze Stars, an Honorary Green Beret, a Burmese Medal of Freedom, a Burmese Green Be-

ret, a Combat Infantryman's Badge, and two Distinguished Unit Citation ribbons, among many other awards.

He was most recently honored at the Berkeley City Club, receiving the JACL Legacy Award.

## The Mission to Tell the Full Matsumoto Story

Karen Matsumoto and Lucy Ostrander have been working together for the past eight years, making films about the JA internment experience. Two years ago, they received the Washington Civil Liberties Education Program Grant fund in the amount of \$21,000 to produce a 17-minute documentary on Roy as well as a curriculum guide for middle schools and high schools all over Washington.

They're now looking to tell his full story and the stories of his friends in the MIS.

"He's also interested in having other Nisei recognized for the work that they've done," said Karen. She says that not much has been written about the MIS.

"I find Roy's story amazing, heart-wrenching and poignant," said Ostrander.

The filmmakers recently received the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) grant for \$24,000 and have enlisted the support of numerous other organizations. The National Japanese American Historical Society has pledged to raise \$10,000, and the Berkeley JACL as well as Humanities Washington have granted money for the film's elongation. Karen believes that the recent CCLPEP grant will now be enough to complete the film, and is aiming to get something out by November of this year.

"He's been in ill health," Karen said of her father. Roy's current goal is to be present in D.C. later this year for the Congressional Gold Medal presentation to the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the MIS.

Additional funding allows for the film to include interviews from Roy's Merrill's Marauders Platoon leader as well as military historian James McNaughton, author of "Nisei Linguists."

"This documentary film has been a way to really recognize the work that the MIS did," Karen said. "For me, it's just been a real personal journey — something I could do for my father as a legacy to him." ■

**To make a tax-deductible donation to the production of the film: [www.bijac.org](http://www.bijac.org)  
A free copy of the DVD will be sent for any donation of \$35 or more.**

## WHY I'M A JACLER

# The Hashimotos: The Heart and Soul of Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Since 1929, JACL has been a membership-based, grassroots organization. The national membership network has been instrumental in fighting for change and making a difference. Whether it's Issei immigration rights, the fight for Redress or the fight for same-sex rights, JACL has made a difference.

In this issue we are introducing a new, special section called 'Why I'm a JACler' that will highlight members who are making a difference. To make this an ongoing campaign, please nominate individuals who you think deserve this recognition.

### MAS & MARCIA HASHIMOTO

**JACL Chapter:**  
Watsonville-Santa Cruz  
**Hometown:**  
Watsonville, Calif.  
**Ages:**  
75 and 64  
**Generation:**  
Nisei and Sansei

The key to finding the time to be active in numerous community projects can be summed up by Mas and Marcia Hashimoto in one word: retirement.

The retired schoolteachers say they spend most of their free time working for their Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter.

In addition to their work with JACL, Mas Hashimoto says annually he speaks to about 3,000 high school and university students about being interned at Poston during World War II.

In recognition of their community work the Hashimoto duo has received numerous honors. They are both past recipients of the Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award.

Last year at the JACL national convention the Hashimotos accepted, on behalf of their chapter, the George Inagaki Chapter of the Biennium Award. It was the second year the chapter received the award. The Hashimotos credit the success of their chapter to their "supportive membership."

Outside of the JACL community, the Hashimotos have also been honored for their volunteerism. The city of Watsonville has named the couple as its grand marshals for the city's upcoming annual Independence Day parade.

#### On their most important work in the community.

**Marcia:** Working with our community with other organizations and community members.

**Mas:** Probably in the area of our incarceration, civil rights issues. That's never ending. Also trying to education people, young people in particular, about the injustice that was done, the assault on the Constitution of the United States. That's probably the most important thing.

#### On being invited by the city of Watsonville to be the grand marshals in the Independence Day parade.

**Marcia:** It is really truly and honor. Watsonville is Mas' hometown. To be honored in this way is really special, especially for Mas. And this is my hometown, too. I've been here for 41 years, so of course it's my hometown too now. But for Mas because he was born here, it really is just an honor.

#### On why it's important to stay involved in the community.

**Marcia:** Especially with JACL it's a civil rights, education and cultural organization. Those three issues are extremely important. We're still experiencing prejudice and civil rights violations. So it's very important that you have organizations — or people who



(Above) Mas and Marcia Hashimoto received the George Inagaki Chapter of the Biennium Award at last year's JACL national convention in Chicago. It was the second time the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL had received the award.

belong to organizations — that support fighting vigilantly for those rights.

**Mas:** There's work to be done.

And it makes people want to be a part of an organization that is doing things for the community.

#### On why it's important to educate students about the Japanese American experience during WWII.

**Mas:** When I first started teaching there were two paragraphs in the history books about the JA experience during WWII. One is that we had some Nisei soldiers who fought. Two is that we were interned. It took the JACL's Greg Marutani ... 10 years to get the social studies curriculum revised. Then they took it to the state Department of Education and got the whole curriculum changed. Then professor [Gary] Nash of UCLA wrote the textbook and we got four pages.

#### On the key to bringing in new members to JACL.

**Marcia:** Being an active chapter. If you're active and you're working for the community and you're having events, which involve your community. I think that puts you out there in the community's eyes.

*'You have to serve a purpose and fulfill a need.'*

**Mas:** You have to serve a purpose and fulfill a need. Our newsletter ... it's a community effort. We spearhead that. People write articles and such. We try to keep alive Japanese culture: bonsai, ikebana, taiko, cultural school, film festival, cultural fairs, hanamatsuri and obon.

#### On a little-known fact.

**Marcia:** We're getting up there in age, but we still love to snow ski.

**Mas:** We both love to travel and ski. Snow skiing is our love. We had a high school ski club and we took hundreds of kids skiing to different places: Switzerland, Utah, and Idaho. My favorite probably would be Aspen, Colo. They have four beautiful mountains. ■

Interested in suggesting a member to be spotlighted? Please contact us at 213/620-1767 or e-mail [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org).

## Join the movement. BECOME A JACLER

Join JACL  I want to give a JACL gift membership  I want to renew my JACL membership  
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Mail to:  
250 E. 1st St. #301  
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

(The P.C. will forward this request to National JACL)

Email Info. to:  
[pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)

## Collegiate D.C. Leadership Conference Set for June 9-12



Students take part in last year's leadership conference.

The 3rd Annual JACL Collegiate Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference, which is sponsored by the UPS Foundation, is slated for June 9-12. This intensive three-day leadership development program introduces Asian Pacific American student leaders to the national policy-making arena.

Eligibility is limited to APA students who are fulltime freshman, sophomores and juniors attending an accredited college or university.

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

This year's conference will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Washington, D.C. ■

## JACL Convention to Host 'Nikkei Conference' to Discuss State of Japanese America

**The conference, open to the general public, will take place during JACL's national convention July 7-10 in Los Angeles**

Want to help determine the future of the Japanese American community? Then come and take part in a series of discussions to address the concerns JAs face today and what community members can do to preserve the legacy of JAs.

National JACL, along with the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJACL), will host the Nikkei Conference, a one-day event to be held July 9. The Nikkei Conference will be a part of the 42nd JACL National Convention from July 7 to 10 at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel and Spa in Hollywood, California.

The focus of the conference will be to bring together students, members, community leaders and the general public from across the nation to engage in dialogue, envision, and plan for the future of an active and cohesive JA community. In parallel to the theme: "The State of Japanese America: 2011," a series of discussion panels that seek to address key issues will be conducted.

Panelists from various sectors throughout the country will come together to spearhead these discussions, in conversations that will focus on topics such as: "Community Preservation and Development," "Serving Nikkei Seniors" and "Civic Engagement and Leadership Development," among other workshop tracks.

Registration for the 42nd JACL National Convention is available online, at <http://www.jacl.org/convention/la-reg->



istration.html. Registration for the Nikkei Conference only, can also be done online. Early bird registration is encouraged, as rates will increase after May 31.

The 42nd JACL National Convention will feature a number of events for attendees that include a Welcome Reception at Madame Tussauds Wax Museum in Hollywood, the Awards Luncheon and Culmination Banquet.

National JACL will also be recognizing several Asian Pacific Americans for their invaluable contributions to the community, including: Lt. Dan Choi, Lisa Hasegawa, Father Vien Nguyen, Traci Kato-Kiriyama, Alan Nishio and Paul Osaki. The JACL encourages chapter and community members to come and hear these leaders speak at the national conference. ■

For more information about the upcoming national convention, visit: [www.jacl.org/convention](http://www.jacl.org/convention).

# 42nd JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

## "JACL 2.0 - Making New Waves"

### Los Angeles July 7-10, 2011

**After** 41 Biennial National Conventions, the national JACL community will convene annually for the first time in Los Angeles, California, home of the Pacific Southwest District. The PSW District is proud to host the 42nd JACL National Convention in the City of Angels.

In conjunction with Convention, JACL and the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJACL) will co-host the 2011 Nikkei Conference to bring the National JACL and the Japanese American community together to dialogue, envision, and plan for the future of an active and cohesive Japanese American community.

This year's Convention theme: "JACL 2.0 - Making New Waves" is representative of the concept of effecting change throughout the community. Waves symbolize the energy from a central point spreading outwards- the way we hope that we can mobilize the community to engage in an active approach to plan the future of our community and reenergize the spirit of our people.

**Convention Hotel**  
Renaissance Hollywood Hotel & Spa Phone: (323) 856-1200  
Contact the hotel directly and mention "JACL National Convention" or book online: [www.jacl.org/convention](http://www.jacl.org/convention).

**Book early!**



**We'll see you  
in Los  
Angeles!**

### REGISTRATION FORM

A separate form must be completed for each individual registration. Additional registration forms are available online, or by email at [2011convention@jaclpsw.org](mailto:2011convention@jaclpsw.org), or by calling (213) 626-4471.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

JACL Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian Meals Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

#### Payment Method

**Checks:** Please make checks payable to "JACL Pacific Southwest District" and mail to: JACL National Convention, 250 E. 1st Street, Suite 303, Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Credit Card:**  AmEx  Visa  MasterCard  Discover

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

#### Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be received by May 31, 2011 for a 100% refund. Cancellations received between June 1, 2011 and July 1, 2011 will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be issued for cancellations after July 1, 2011.

#### Registration Packages

|  | By 5/31 | After 5/31 |       |
|--|---------|------------|-------|
| Convention Package (incl Conference)                 | \$250   | \$300      | _____ |
| Convention Package (incl Conference) (Youth/Student) | \$200   | \$250      | _____ |
| Nikkei Conference Only                               | \$50    | \$75       | _____ |
| Nikkei Conference Only (Youth/Student)               | \$25    | \$50       | _____ |

#### Individual Events

|   |       |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Culmination Banquet                           | \$155 | \$200 | _____ |
| Culmination Banquet (Youth/Student)           | \$130 | \$150 | _____ |
| Awards Luncheon                               | \$70  | \$85  | _____ |
| Awards Luncheon (Youth/Student)               | \$60  | \$75  | _____ |
| Golf Tournament (Hosted by JACL Credit Union) | \$110 | \$125 | _____ |

**GRAND TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

On July 9, 2011 JACL will host the 2011 Nikkei Conference in conjunction with Convention. Please select which **Conference Track** you are most interested in (**please select one**):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art and Culture                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Investment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Engagement and Leadership Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation and Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving Nikkei Seniors              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Preservation and Development      | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S.-Japan Relations                |

Please mail completed form and payment (if applicable) to:

JACL National Convention 250 E 1st Street, Suite 303 Los Angeles, CA 90012



# for the RECORD

BY JOHN TATEISHI

## Curriculum Initiative

I participated a few years ago in a summer institute at Akron University in Ohio to talk about the internment to a classroom filled with social studies teachers who were participating in the week-long program in preparation for teaching units on the internment to their high school classes.

When I asked them why they would give up an entire week of their summer to attend the institute, they informed me that the internment was included as part of the state's social studies framework and was the most interesting among the various topics they could choose from to teach lessons about the Constitution.

I was, frankly, blown away by their response. The internment in the Ohio State education curriculum framework?

It took over 20 years in hard fought battles to get the internment on the standards in California, here where the majority of JAs reside. And in what seemed to me like some kind of time warp, here was Ohio with the internment as part of its curriculum framework.

This was the result of the redress campaign, obviously. If we hadn't concentrated so intensely on educating the public to lay the groundwork for the legislative campaign, it's unlikely people across the country would be as well informed as they are about the internment. And now it's a story being taught to younger generations through the schools.

Wherever I've talked to social studies teachers in other parts of the country who teach units on the internment, without exception they tell me they chose this topic because it was the most interesting and the most important of all the choices on the list of topics they could choose from in the social studies framework in their particular state.

During my seven years as the JACL's director, I had a "big picture" vision of some of the things I wanted to accomplish, and one of the most important of them was a JACL-led campaign to get every state in the country to include the history of the internment as part of their social studies standards.

The best way to accomplish this, it seemed to me as I considered this initiative, is for the JACL to undertake this as a campaign, targeting states based on their significance in terms of their influence on textbook content, and further develop what can essentially be cookie cutter strategies for each state.

The strategies can be easily worked out; in fact, Bill Yoshino and I had discussed this at length in terms of strategies, and one thing we noticed is that the growth of the Asian

population in all areas of this country has created a need among teachers for materials about the APA population, which means that teachers are trying to incorporate lessons about diversity in their classrooms. And you cannot talk about the history of the APA population without talking about the internment: it's a natural.

It's the growth of APA numbers that makes it possible to get something like the internment story into social studies frameworks. Now is the time to start doing something about it.

Think about the far-reaching impact this type of initiative can have. If, say, 75 percent of social studies teachers in all states chose to teach the internment, a huge majority of students graduating from public high schools will have been exposed to the internment story. Whether they view that piece of history with open minds is, of course, up to the teacher and the state's curriculum. The Texas framework includes the internment, but as you know, the state's Board of Education has its own version of right wing dribble when it comes to the internment. But that's the chance we take, and it's well worth it for what we can accomplish.

There are 23 states that do *not* include the internment: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Targeted states (ie, priority) should be Pennsylvania, Illinois, Florida, Colorado, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Iowa. The first three because they're among the largest in terms of population and textbook publishers examine closely what is included in their frameworks. Oregon is the only West Coast state that doesn't include the internment, and Wisconsin until recently has been considered one of the more liberal states in the Midwest.

Also states we should target: Idaho, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nevada — all states with JACL chapters.

If redress was important for rectifying an injustice, and if educating the public about the internment was the long and hard-fought road that got us there, it's important that we continue that effort to ensure that future generations know and understand both the internment and redress. ■

*John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.*



# the right PLACE

BY JAMES KUMPEL

## Strength of the Japanese Spirit

When I was growing up, I was always self-aware. As one of just two Asian Americans in my elementary school class in the 1970s, I was reminded by my classmates of how different I was. While I was every bit as American as they were, I felt shame at the physical features that made me stand out.

As an American of Japanese, German, English and Irish heritage, I was known as an Asian kid but would try to emphasize the other three ethnicities. I never took karate classes, but I did play baseball and basketball, and occasionally excelled. I never spoke Japanese at home, although I could ask my mom to prepare *tamago* for breakfast or write "*arigato*" to my relatives in Hawaii for birthday gifts. I did very well in school and largely achieved my goal of blending in, without being the nail that stood out.

In 1982 my mom began to share information about the incarceration of Japanese Americans for no other reason than looking like the enemy during World War II. I began to learn about my grandfather, who was always a source of inspiration and strength for my mom. His reticence in dwelling on a four-year removal from his home and family was a fairly typical Nikkei response to an untenable situation.

After 14 years of trying to minimize my Japanese heritage, I grew both distressed about an overreaching government and proud of the strength of my grandfather's character in enduring the internment without displaying anger, resentment or self-pity. "*Shikata ga nai*" reflected a philosophical acceptance of the tragedy, without allowing the injustice to subsume him. I could not fully appreciate the emphasis on moving on, as my teenage focus was on redress and indignation. However, I clearly had turned a corner in gaining pride and inspiration from my JA forebears.

When I studied Japanese language and culture at Cornell in the late 1980s, it was with a motivation to actually dive into the very economic engine that was scaring many Americans. In the wake of the Cold War with the USSR, it became fashionable for the media to view Japan as the looming threat to American hegemony in the world economy.

The surging Japanese stock market in 1989 — which has never since been matched — drove politicians, media elites and business people to call for sanctions, trade quotas, tariffs and limitations on asset purchase by Japanese buyers in order to prevent that coun-

try from overwhelming our domestic producers.

During my time working and living in Japan in the early 1990s, I saw no such threat from Japanese companies in pursuing unfair practices. Rather, I merely saw efficient and hardworking people tending to their duties in a responsible and organized manner.

I found the Japanese people to be very accommodating and friendly, often to the point of selflessness. Moreover, despite tight quarters, late work hours, and crowded subways, the Japanese people tended to be content with their lot in life and uninterested in being viewed as a superpower or a rival to the US.

When the Kobe earthquake happened in 1995, I was struck by the dignity and honor with which the residents of the Kansai region handled the wreckage, as well as the rescue and recovery efforts. Looting was non-existent and volunteerism from all corners of Japan typified the response.

With the March earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis in Fukushima, the Japanese people endured a triple disaster that would overwhelm the sensibilities of most nations. Again, the world witnessed a response that spoke volumes about the strength of the Japanese spirit. Unlike scenes from Haiti and New Orleans, the victims of this disaster moved to emergency evacuation centers and waited patiently in lines to get water, food and fuel.

It was disappointing and confounding to find some commentators argue against financial assistance for Japan since it is a rich country. The victims of a natural disaster have lost family, businesses, homes and possessions and should not be deemed less worthy of help just because their fellow citizens have more material wealth.

They remain without shelter, electricity and materials just as surely as the Haiti earthquake and Indonesian tsunami victims. While the Japanese people may be reluctant to clamor for charity from others, we should honor their humanity, community and character with donations to ensure they receive the assistance they deserve.

Please contribute to the recovery efforts by linking to the Direct Relief International contribution site through [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org). ■

*James Kumpel is a JACL New York chapter board member and former JACL scholarship winner.*

# Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi Dreams Big

**Kristi Yamaguchi, an Olympic gold medalist and 'Dancing with the Stars' mirrorball trophy winner, penned a new children's book to promote early literacy and encourage children to follow their dreams.**

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi was not always the best at every extracurricular activity she tried while growing up. There were lessons in baton twirling, basketball, gymnastics and ballet.

Yamaguchi, 39, says she was "not very good" at any sport until she found her passion: ice-skating. To encourage children to follow their dreams as well, Yamaguchi has penned the children's book "Dream Big, Little Pig."

Like Yamaguchi's life story, the book's main character Poppy struggles to find her passion until she gets on the ice. The book is just one of the projects that's keeping Yamaguchi busy since she hung up her ice skates.

Since winning the "Dancing with the Stars" mirrorball trophy in 2008, Yamaguchi has not slowed down. In addition to authoring the children's book, the Japanese American also released a workout DVD called "Power Workout."

The *Pacific Citizen* chatted with Yamaguchi about how she balances her busy schedule as a mom, workout guru and children's book author.

**Congratulations on your children's book "Dream Little Pig." I understand it debuted at No. 2 on the *New York Times* bestsellers list.**

**Kristi Yamaguchi:** So far 'Dream Big, Little Pig' has done beyond my dreams! It's been fun to see it hit the *New York Times* bestsellers list.

**Is this book autobiographical?**

**Yamaguchi:** There are some similarities I guess. You can't help but pull from personal experience [laughs].

**Was there ever a time that you wanted to give up on ice skating?**

**Yamaguchi:** Definitely, especially those teenager years can get hard, right? But I always loved it. I knew since I was 6 or 7 that that was the path I wanted. There were times, a couple of years before the Olympics actually, where I seriously contemplated, 'Should I go on?' I was just like, 'No I'm a skater. Even beyond the Olympics it's something I want to continue to do.' So I just kept at it.

**Did your children Keara, 7, and Emma, 5, help with the book?**

**Yamaguchi:** The older one actually came up with the name Poppy. The little one ... her name is in the book, Emma. She is Poppy's best friend [laughs].

**How important is promoting early literacy to you?**

**Yamaguchi:** Actually a portion of the proceeds from this book is going to my Always Dream Foundation for our early literacy initiative. It's all about early literacy and encouraging kids to pick up a book and to fall in love with reading.

**Your charity unveiled on Jan. 16 a playground in Fremont, Calif. where children with "all abilities" can play together. How did that idea come about?**

**Yamaguchi:** We did a summer camp in Hawaii with kids with and without disabilities. The camp was such an emotional and

fun success that I was just inspired to do something a little more permanent.

**In addition to the book and your charity, you also have a workout DVD "Power Workout." You're certainly keeping busy.**

**Yamaguchi:** [Laughs] Yeah. When it rains it pours. I just found after having two kids — and they're still young — that it was hard to find time to stay active. I know I'll never be as active as I was as an elite athlete [laughs]. But I know I always felt better and had better energy when I had some type of physical activity in my life.

**While filming the DVD did you get to take breaks to redo your makeup?**

**Yamaguchi:** [Laughs] It was actually way more intense and a lot harder than I thought it was going to be. Because I was expecting, 'Oh, cut any time. Take rest. Relax.' But it's pretty high pace through the whole shoot. The breaks were very minimal like literally, 'OK. Reset your position. OK. Let's go again!' It was tough. It was a lot of fun. But I'm grateful for my trainer Erin O'Brien who was in the video with me because she really kept the pace going.

**Do your kids ever do the video with you?**

**Yamaguchi:** Usually I'll do it in the mornings once I drop them off at school. Sometimes on the weekends I'll have it on and be exercising. They kind of mimic some of the exercises, 'See mom, I'm doing my exercises too.' It's pretty funny.

**Do you have a strict diet regimen?**

**Yamaguchi:** I don't really have a strict diet regimen. Even, believe it or not, before the Olympics I really didn't. I'm always just trying to do everything in moderation. That doesn't mean I don't indulge in chips every now and then, or cookies every now and then. I think you don't have to eat the whole bag, but you can have some [laughs].

**You didn't have a strict diet during the Olympics?**



PHOTO: BLAKE LITTLE

In "Dream Big, Little Pig", the main character Poppy finds her calling in ice skating.

**Yamaguchi:** Not really. Actually I laugh because I was training up in Canada at the time and one of my favorite restaurants had 'Wing Wednesdays' every Wednesday [laughs]. Almost every Wednesday my dinner was chicken wings. It's probably good my parents didn't really know about it.

**Did you know when you won the Olympic gold medal in ladies singles' skating in 1992 that you'd be a role model in the Asian American community?**

**Yamaguchi:** Absolutely not. I had my role model. Tiffany Chin was a huge idol of mine. I was always hoping to be like her and go on. I think it probably wasn't until after the Olympics and seeing the outpouring of support from the AA community where I realized like, 'Wow! This is something I never thought about before.' But just truly wanted to embrace it.

**Your family experienced being interned during World War II. Do you share those experiences with your children or are they too young?**

**Yamaguchi:** They know a little bit. I do have a book — a children's book about someone's experiences in camp and some of the loss and sacrifice. I read it to them and they like the story. But I don't think they really grasp our history yet.

**I understand that your kids don't have the same spark for ice skating as you or your husband, Bret Hedican. Were you hoping they'd have a career on the ice?**

**Yamaguchi:** I was always kind of hoping that they'd find their own thing and be able to blaze their own trail and everything. But a part of me is like, 'Well, I hope they like it and find it's a good challenge and something fun.' I think my older one didn't want to start skating. But now she's actually into

it and really trying and having fun with it. And the younger one just wants to kind of go out there and play.

**Do you still slip on your skates and get on the ice?**

**Yamaguchi:** I do every now and then. I haven't performed in over a year. But we just have the kids get out there for fun and play around for a little bit.

**Did your training as an ice skater come in handy for 'Dancing with the Stars'?**

**Yamaguchi:** Yeah, it was quite an undertaking. About a month and a half before I found out I was actually doing it I started doing pilates again, which was a great way to kind of get my core back and just prepare for what was ahead.

**Are you keeping up with the show now?**

**Yamaguchi:** I am. I haven't seen every episode. I've missed quite a few. But I do keep up with what's going on and who's still on.

**Who are your favorites?**

**Yamaguchi:** I always have to say Mark Ballas, my partner. I think Hines Ward is probably the frontrunner at this point. He's the most consistent.

**You seem to be incredibly busy touring the U.S. to promote your recent projects. Will you slow down anytime soon?**

**Yamaguchi:** I'm still doing a few scattered book signings here and there. I'm obviously excited about the DVD workout, and trying to encourage people to stay active out there. Other than that, the summer hopefully will slow down a little bit [laughs]. ■

**On the web:**  
[www.kristiyamaguchi.com](http://www.kristiyamaguchi.com)

## APA Groups Applaud Confirmation of Judge Edward M. Chen

The JACL calls his appointment “extremely promising,” noting that Chen is now the 14th active Asian American Article III judge in the nation.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

After what seemed like a never-ending wait, Judge Edward M. Chen was confirmed to be a judge on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California just in time, leaders say, to help celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The historic vote took place May 10 with the Senate confirming the longtime judge in a vote of 56 to 42. Judge Chen becomes the 14th active Asian Pacific American Article III judge in the country and the first Chinese American Article III judge.

“The confirmation of Judge Chen to serve as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of California is extremely promising for the AAPI community,” said Floyd Mori,

JACL national director. “His background and commitment to public service makes him highly



qualified to serve his country.”

Judge Chen was first nominated to serve in the Northern District of California by President Barack Obama in 2009 and his confirmation faced the longest delay of any other Article III judicial nominee. Judge Chen will now serve in a district that boasts one of the largest AAPI populations. In the city of San Francisco alone, there is a 35 percent APA population.

In a statement from the Senate floor, Sen. Daniel Inouye said: “Judge Chen, like so many others, values diversity in the federal judiciary. Judges from different backgrounds bring varied life experiences to the court, and this

diversity of background and experience helps foster balanced and accurate decision-making according to the rule of law.”

Judge Chen has served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the Northern District of California since 2001, where he was the first APA federal judge in the court’s 150-year history. Prior to serving as a judge, he spent 20 years as a litigator including being part of the legal team that helped overturn Fred Korematsu’s conviction in a coram nobis case.

Chen has been honored with a number of awards during his career including “Judge of the Year” from the Barristers Club of San Francisco in 2007 and the California Law Review’s “Alumnus of the Year” in 2002.

“This is a day of true celebration as we congratulate Judge Chen on his long-awaited confirmation vote,” said Paul O. Hirose, president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. “He has been an exemplary federal magistrate judge, and we know that he will be an equally excellent federal district court judge. Judge Chen has been an active member of the Asian Pacific American community for a long time and a hero to many of us, and we are so proud of him today.” ■

## Portland JACL Criticizes Commissioner for Insensitive Remarks Regarding Internment

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Former internee Henry Sakamoto, a member of Portland JACL, regularly speaks about his experiences during World War II and the violation of his constitutional rights as a United States citizen.

On April 28 Henry Sakamoto found himself in a familiar spot, testifying at the Portland City Council’s Joint Terrorism Task Force about his concerns that certain communities would once again be targeted simply because of their race.

The citizens need to be ensured that their “Constitutional and civil rights are not violated,” he said during his testimony.

Shortly afterwards, Commissioner Dan Saltzman stated: “While the FBI has a checkered history, it doesn’t do us any good to be sitting here and talking about things that happened 60 years ago or 50 years ago.”

The comment drew hisses from several of those in attendance, many of whom had joined Henry Sakamoto to express concerns



about the violation of civil rights.

In response, Henry Sakamoto’s son Scott sent a letter to Saltzman, demanding an apology to the community for his insensitive remarks.

He writes: “The Japanese American community is not alone in invoking the powerful words ‘never again.’ Yet the only way we ensure that we never again allow government to abuse its powers is to talk openly about our past so that we may truly learn. History rarely repeats itself in exactly the same way as the past. In the 1940s, it was the Japanese Americans targeted by the FBI. Today it is well documented that the FBI targets those

of the Muslim faith or Middle Eastern background. My father’s testimony on behalf of our community was intended to remind all of us of how, under the guise of fear, we violate the fundamental rights of those in our country.”

Shortly after receiving Scott Sakamoto’s letter, Henry Sakamoto received a personal letter of apology from Saltzman.

In it Saltzman states: “Although it was never my intent to dismiss your testimony regarding past abuses of the FBI and the U.S. government in regard to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, I see how my remarks impacted and offended you and I sincerely apologize.”

So far an apology to the larger Japanese American community has not been made, according to Scott Sakamoto. ■

To view Commissioner Saltzman’s comments: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBE\\_j0Hjn-U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBE_j0Hjn-U).

## National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

### Utah’s Immigration Law Joins Arizona’s

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah officials say its new immigration law differs from Arizona’s, but the statute is similarly stuck before a federal judge who will hear arguments in two months about its constitutionality.

Some 14 hours after the Utah law went into effect, U.S. District Judge Clark Waddoups issued his ruling May 10 in Salt Lake City. House Bill 497 would have allowed police to check the citizenship status of anyone they arrest.

The American Civil Liberties Union and National Immigration Law Center sued to stop the bill, saying it could lead to racial profiling.

Cecillia Wang, ACLU managing attorney, said the law is potentially worse than the Arizona law because anyone stopped by police could be required to prove their citizenship status.

The next hearing on the proposed law is set for July 14.

Waddoups could then decide whether to allow the law to go into effect or overturn it.

### Second Sikh Man Dies After Attack in Northern Calif.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — An elderly Sikh man has died more than a month after a shooting that police in Northern California are investigating as a possible hate crime.

Gurmej Atwal, who was 78, had been on a ventilator and unable to talk since the March 4 shooting in the Sacramento suburb of Elk Grove. His son, Kamaljit Atwal, confirmed that he died April 15.

The elder Atwal and his friend, Surinder Singh, were gunned down during an afternoon walk. Singh died at the scene.

Police say they have no suspects and few clues. But they have said the men might have been targeted because they wore turbans, which often are confused with the head coverings of Muslims.

### UH Scientists Get \$25M to Study Obesity Prevention

HONOLULU — The federal government is awarding researchers \$25 million to study how to prevent obesity among native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Scientists from University of Hawaii’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources are expected to lead the research.

U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye and UH Manoa Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw were scheduled to speak April 20 about the grant at Lanakila Park Head Start Center in Honolulu.

### Asian Pacific American Heritage Day to be Observed

LANSING, Mich. — Gov. Rick Snyder was among the speakers during this year’s Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration at the Michigan Capitol.

The contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to Michigan’s development was celebrated during the May 18 event.

The chairwoman of President Barack Obama’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders provided the keynote address.

Between 2000 and 2010, Asian residents in Michigan increased from 175,311 to 236,490.

The May 18 event is co-sponsored by the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and state Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood, a Taylor Democrat.

### Former Japanese Culture Center Destroyed in Fire

A community meeting hall used by the Japanese Cultural Society was destroyed after a fire raged through a 1920s-era schoolhouse in Arroyo Grande, Calif.

The facility was used as a community center for cultural classes and weddings. Boy Scout Troop 413 also used the hall for its meetings.

“I’ve had a number of Japanese families come by to see the devastation,” said Chris Hagerty, Boy Scout Troop 413 scoutmaster, to the *Santa Maria Times*. “For some of them, this is where grandma and grandpa got married.”

Five Cities Judo dojo was also displaced from the fire and lost over \$10,000 in equipment.

Judo students and Boy Scouts are collecting donations to help rebuild and replace lost equipment.

The cause of the fire is unknown. ■

## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

### APAICS Celebrates 17 Years of APA Community Empowerment

The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies hosted its 17th Annual Gala Awards Dinner, celebrating 17 years of leadership in the Asian Pacific American community.

"Tonight's event was inspiring for me," said Gloria Chan, APAICS president and CEO. "Now, we must roll up our sleeves and build off this energy and excitement. I'm looking forward to working with talented leaders in our community to strengthen our political pipeline throughout the country."

The gala, which was held May 3, recognized three exceptional leaders in the APA community. U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, Deepa Iyer of South Asian Americans Leading Together and Comcast were recognized at the event.

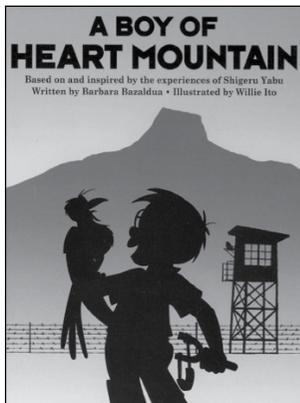
### JA Incarceration Book Awarded Young Adult Literature Honor

The Asian Pacific American Librarians Association recognized author Barbara Bazaldua and illustrator Willie Ito with its Young Adult Literature Honor for their book "A Boy of Heart Mountain."

The story "A Boy of Heart Mountain," is a historic novel for young adults about how 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II, following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The book is based on the memories of 10-year-old Shig Yabu who was removed from his San Francisco home with his family and interned in Heart Mountain.

Yabu now lives in Camarillo, Calif. and is a board member of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.



### Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee Honors 442nd Vet

Members of the Nisei Veterans Committee and Foundation are invited to attend an award ceremony recognizing 442nd RCT veteran Shigeru Momoda with the Legion of Honour (Chevalier), France's highest and most prestigious award.

Momododa will also receive the Croix de Guerre for his heroic deeds in France during World War II.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. James M. Collins and Corrine Pereira, deputy consul general of France, presented the award at a ceremony on May 6 at the NVC Hall.

### JA Educator Receives Teachers of Excellence Award

An eighth grade math and physical science teacher from California will receive the Teachers of Excellence award.

Educators at the El Dorado Elementary School in California nominated Elane Aiko Yoneda-McCarty for the award. The Teachers of Excellence award was given at the Stockton Teachers Association Key Awards on May 18 at the Stockton Hilton.

Retiring teachers and graduating seniors who have been awarded the Rathaus scholarship were also honored.

### NAPABA Applauds the Appointment of First APA Federal Judge in Minnesota

Judge Tony N. Leung was appointed federal magistrate judge for the United States District Court of Minnesota, becoming the first Asian Pacific American to hold such a position.

"We are proud to see another first in Asian Pacific American history with the appointment of Judge Leung," said Paul O. Hirose, president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. "This is a great achievement and Judge Leung is exceptionally well-suited for this prestigious position."

Leung was sworn in as magistrate judge on April 29. He previously served as a district court judge for the Fourth Judicial District of Minnesota beginning in 1994. ■

# Beating Death of Vietnamese Elderly Man Leaves Family Stunned

JACL leaders are looking into whether the St. Louis man was targeted because of his race.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

ST. LOUIS—The beating death of Hoang Nguyen, 72, in an alley as he walked home with his wife has left his family and the police searching for answers. National JACL is asking local police to look into whether race was a factor in the man's death.

Hoang Nguyen died April 16 after being attacked by a group of four people believed to be in their 20s as he and his wife Yen were walking home after doing their grocery shopping at a Vietnamese market.

Yen, 59, was also punched in the face and suffered a fractured eye socket. She told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* that she and her husband did not know the attackers.

"He said 'No, no, no,'" Yen said, showing how one of the men grabbed her husband's jacket near his neck and pushed him up against a wall. Hoang was punched in the head and fell to the ground. The same man then hit Yen in her right eye. As her husband tried to get up to assist her, a second man kicked Hoang and he fell again, hitting his head. His brain swelled, and he died later that day at a hospital.

Police say the motive for the attack is unclear and the attackers said nothing to their victims. They were not robbed. He had \$68 in his pocket; she was wearing a necklace. Police hope a surveillance video leads them to the killers.

One of the attackers, Elex Levell Murphy, has characterized the attack as being part of a "Knock Out" game that involves unprovoked attacks on innocent bystanders.

National JACL, in responding to the incident, has

asked local police to look into the possibility that the victims may have been targeted because of their race.

In a letter to Daniel Isom, the St. Louis police chief, JACL Midwest Director Bill Yoshino writes: "Often-times, Asian Americans are seen as vulnerable because they are perceived in a stereotypic manner to be unaggressive and non-threatening." He has asked police to investigate whether the murder was a hate crime.

But the police have so far characterized the murder as a random crime.

"It's a random, out-of-the-blue, brutal assault," said St. Louis police Capt. Michael Sack. "It's uncalled for. It's just senseless. It boggles the mind."

*'It's a random,  
out-of-the-blue,  
brutal assault.'*

— St. Louis police  
Capt. Michael Sack

In responding to Yoshino, Isom writes "we are confident this was a random act of violence on an older couple walking alone in an alley where they were vulnerable." He also points out that similar incidents of this nature have taken place in other parts of the city and outlying areas.

The attack on the Nguyens happened behind Palic Car Shoppe. Owner Mirsad Palic found the couple in the alley and their son, who had been called by his mother, screaming for help. Palic said the attack itself

didn't surprise him because the business he has run for nine years has been the target of burglars in the past.

Hoang and his wife came to the U.S. three years ago to be with their daughter and son, both living in St. Louis.

"He was really happy to come over," said Hoang's daughter, Lan, 35. Her father was taking English classes, hoping to become a U.S. citizen. He had taught elementary school in Vietnam.

"He loved living here. The freedom. The human rights," Lan said.

Lan cannot understand why strangers would kill her father and brutally beat her mother.

"What if it happened to their mom or dad?" she asked. "What are they feeling?" ■



### Ariz. Chapter Hosts 50th Annual Scholarship and Gold Saguaro Tribute Awards Luncheon

The Arizona chapter held its 50th Annual Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship Awards Graduates' Luncheon and Gold Saguaro Tribute May. Over two hundred guests and past scholarship recipients attended the event at the Glendale Civic Center.

Four high school students were presented with \$1,000 Sara Hutchings Clardy scholarships: Kevin Fuse, Francesca Germinario, Alex Harbottle and Bryan Namba. Three chapter members were presented with Gold Saguaro Tribute Awards for their service to the JACL and the community at large: Craig Fujii, Peggy Matsuishi and Dr. Richard Matsuishi.

Pictured are (l-r, top row): Harbottle, Namba, Germinario and Fuse; (bottom row, l to r): Dr. Matsuishi, Peggy Matsuishi and Fujii. ■

### Native Hawaiian Self- Government Bill Passed

By Associated Press

HONOLULU—Legislation that starts the process for Native Hawaiians to form their own government is heading to Gov. Neil Abercrombie for his approval.

The Hawaii House and Senate voted May 3 to approve the bill, which recognizes Native Hawaiians as the indigenous people of the state.

The measure is meant to support a related proposal pending in Congress that would protect Native Hawaiian programs and allow them to create a self-governing entity.

Native Hawaiians are the last remaining indigenous group in the United States who haven't been allowed to establish their own government, a right already extended to many Alaska Natives and Native American tribes. ■

## Community Groups Receive Calif. Civil Liberties Public Education

The California State Library recently announced the names of 21 projects that were awarded grants through the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP), a program administered by the State Librarian.

This year, 16 of the 21 grants were awarded to projects that focus on the first priority for grant funding this year – gathering oral histories of Japanese Americans who were forcibly relocated to internment camps during World War II. In addition to documenting more than 100 oral histories, this year's projects include several books and documentary film projects, as well as website materials and pre-planning for the restoration of a Japanese school.

A complete listing of the 2010-2011 grant recipients and their projects will soon be available on the CCLPEP webpage at [CivilLiberties.library.ca.gov](http://CivilLiberties.library.ca.gov).

In all, CCLPEP received 44 grant applications that totaled slightly over \$1 million for the FY 2010-2011 grant round. The amount available for distribution was \$450,000.

CCLPEP is the result of the 1998 Califor-

nia Civil Liberties Public Education Act, an initiative sponsored by Assembly Member Mike Honda. The purpose of the Act is to provide funding for public education activities and educational materials surrounding the internment of JAs and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry. The intention is to illuminate and create understanding of the causes and circumstances of the internment and similar events.

Including this year's grant awards, over 370 CCLPEP grants have been awarded since the program's inception in 1998, resulting in educational projects in a variety of formats, many with curriculum guides.

"Each year the CCLPEP projects add to the growing body of work that fulfills the original purpose of the Act," said State Librarian Stacey Aldrich. "The 2010-2011 projects will continue to capture and preserve the untold stories of the Japanese American experience during World War II." ■

For more information about the program, visit the CCLPEP webpage, [CivilLiberties.library.ca.gov](http://CivilLiberties.library.ca.gov), or contact Linda Springer at 916/651-6509 or [lspringer@library.ca.gov](mailto:lspringer@library.ca.gov).

*'The 2010-2011 projects will continue to capture and preserve the untold stories of the Japanese American experience during World War II.'*

State Librarian Aldrich

## Minidoka Pilgrimage Set for June 30 to July 3



Community members attend a recent Minidoka pilgrimage.

### An Honor Roll recognizing the heroics of the 442nd soldiers who volunteered from Minidoka will be dedicated.

Close to 70 years ago during World War II, almost 13,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from their homes in Washington, Oregon and Alaska and sent to the desolate Minidoka Internment Camp near Twin Falls, Idaho.

To commemorate the 69th anniversary of this historic event, former internees, their families and friends will attend the Minidoka Pilgrimage, June 30 to July 3. The JA CL Seattle Chapter, the Nisei Veterans Committee, and the Friends of Minidoka are hosting the event.

Part of this year's pilgrimage will include:

- The dedication of the Honor Roll. While only seven percent of all the incarcerated JA males were at Minidoka, it provided 25 percent of the volunteers that comprised the most highly decorated regiment in the history of the U.S. armed forces, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. As a way of honoring those volunteers, an Honor Roll was constructed in the Victory Garden just inside the entrance to Minidoka.

- A 1.6 mile walking trail will be completed and way signs will be installed to guide guests at the historical site.

- Optional tours to Hagerman fossil beds are scheduled for Friday with morning and afternoon visits to view a small collection of Minidoka artifacts that are being temporarily stored there until the Visitor's Center is completed.

- A barrack replica will be in place on the Block 22 site as well as the mess hall that

attendees will be able to tour.

- A barbecue on Saturday will be hosted by Roy Prescott, a local rancher, and the town's people of Eden, Idaho. Eden is the end of the rail line where the internees from Camp Harmony were off loaded and put on buses for the final leg of their journey to Minidoka.

Today, most of the 33,000 acres that once made up Minidoka has been taken over by farms. But in 2001, 73 acres near the entrance was designated a National Historical Monument. In 2006, President Bush signed H.R. 1492 guaranteeing \$38,000,000 to restore the Minidoka relocation center along with nine other former incarceration camps. And in 2008, Bush signed into law The Wild Sky Wilderness Act, which changed the status from U.S. National Monument to National Historic Site and added the *Nidoto Nai Yoni* (Let It Not Happen Again) Memorial on Bainbridge Island, Washington to the monument.

There will also be a two-day symposium on Civil Liberties in Wartime at the College of Southern Idaho prior to the pilgrimage. The theme is "Patriotism, Honor and Sacrifice." Speakers include Dr. Bob Sims (Minidoka history), Dr. David Adler (constitutional issues), Dr. Martin Cutler (Native Americans during the war), Larry Matsuda (poet), Dr. Linda Tamura (MIS), Dr. Brenda Lee Moore (JA women in the military during WWII), and Prof. Eric Muller (draft resisters).

Registration is due by June 3. ■

To register and for information: <http://minidokapilgrimage.org> or [minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com).

## WWII Veteran Says Citizenship is a Privilege

Grant Ichikawa, a 92-year-old World War II Military Intelligence Service veteran, was the keynote speaker at a May 6 Fairfax County Government Center naturalization ceremony.

At the event, Ichikawa told the newly naturalized U.S. citizens that citizenship brings with it privileges, honor and responsibilities.

He described his voluntary enlistment



for the Military Intelligence Service during WWII when his family and over 110,000 other Japanese Americans were forced into internment camps as "the highest point in my life."

The Fairfax County Asian American History Project organized the program, which marked Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. ■



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## COMMENTARY

## Masaoka Fellow Recalls 'Wonderful Opportunity' in Sen. Inouye's Office

By Misha Tsukerman

During the last seven months, JACL has given me the wonderful opportunity to work in the office of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye through the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship. He is the most senior senator in the United States, a Medal of Honor recipient and chair of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee.

As a member of the staff in his personal office, I've been able to gain a much stronger understanding of how Congress works. It is my goal one day to be an advocate for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. I've been lobbying before, but I can now be much more effective having spent time on Capitol Hill, seeing how different advocates and lobbyists have presented themselves and their priorities.

During the term of my fellowship, which lasted from September 2010 through March 2011, I was able to work on and learn about issues such as immigration, transportation, education, and banking. My various tasks included answering constituent mail, helping to staff the senator and his legislative assistants at meetings, and attending various briefings and hearings on behalf of the senator and his staff.

It was very interesting to see the different ways that members of Congress were able to address the needs and concerns of their constituents when legislation isn't the answer. Oftentimes this simply meant the senator's office had to contact a federal agency and put the issue on their radar in a way that is much more difficult for other

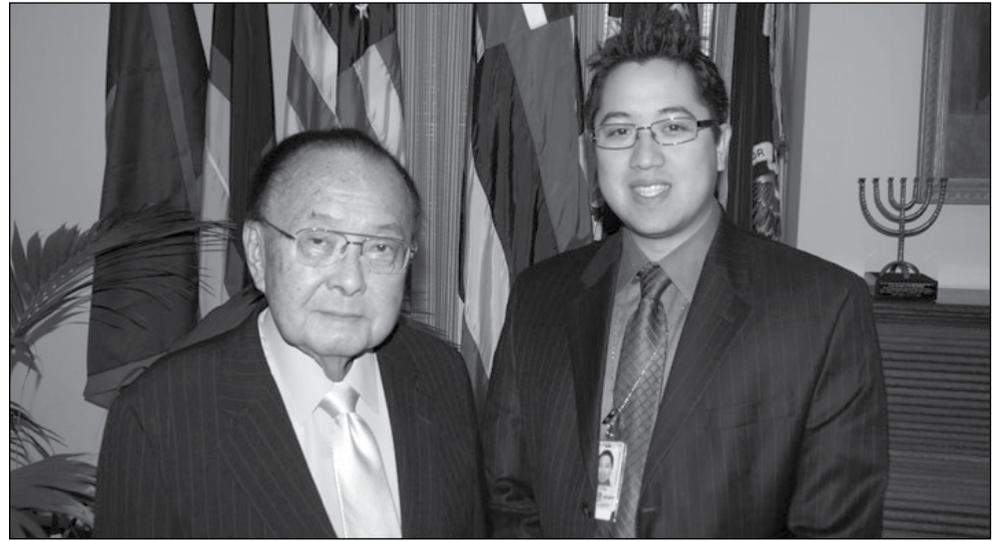
people to do.

Perhaps the most memorable event of my fellowship occurred during the debate on the DREAM Act, a bill near and dear to my heart and one I've worked on for a number of years. The DREAM Act is a bill that would give certain undocumented youth an opportunity to obtain legal status through enrollment in higher education or the military.

Though the bill failed to pass the Senate by only a few votes, Sen. Inouye gave an excellent floor speech relating the status of undocumented youth to being denied the chance to serve in the military. He spoke about his experience in the Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated in the history of the United States. It's not often that you get to watch your boss deliver an impassioned speech on such a personal subject, and it filled me with pride.

The senator's staff, comprised mostly of people from Hawaii, were very kind and showed me a lot of aloha. There was never a shortage of delicious food and snacks. After having so much Kona coffee, I don't know how I'll ever go back to the regular stuff. I'd also wager that the senator's office has the best potlucks on Capitol Hill since there's always kalua pig among other tasty Hawaiian treats.

Working in the senator's office was a great experience that will enable me to move forward in my career and be a more effective advocate for the community. I would like to say thank you — or perhaps mahalo — to JACL and Sen. Inouye for the wonderful opportunity. ■



Masaoka fellow Misha Tsukerman recently served in the office of Sen. Daniel Inouye.

## JACL Chapters Lead Japan Relief Effort

Over a month after the devastating earthquake and tsunami in northern Japan, JACL chapters and community groups are continuing to lead fundraisers to help with relief efforts.

The magnitude-9.0 earthquake and ensuing tsunami struck Japan's northeast region, destroying factories and triggering a nuclear power-plant crisis, which has led to power shortages. It has left about 25,000 dead or missing, and 11,500 people are still taking shelter in evacuation centers.

JACL chapters from across the country are continuing to do their part in the relief efforts.

### Diablo Valley JACL Bowl-A-Thon

The chapter is hosting a May 22 Bowl-A-Thon at Diablo Lanes in Concord, CA. The \$40/person registration covers bowling, buffet lunch at China Wall Restaurant and donations to Japan tsunami relief and the purchase of school supplies for classrooms at a local elementary school.

For more info: [www.dvjacl.org](http://www.dvjacl.org)

### Chicago JACL

The Midwest chapter hosted a March 16 Chicago Commission on Human Relations Asian American Advisory Committee meeting to promote the need for Japan relief

efforts, worked with the Chicago Commission on Human Relations to place donation inserts in the pay envelopes of 39,000 employees and organized an April 15 fundraising dinner at Sunda Restaurant, where \$40,000 was raised for Direct Relief International. In addition, Chicago JACL board member Pat Yuzawa Rubin successfully urged an anonymous foundation to donate \$50,000 to Direct Relief International.

For more info: [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org)

### Sonoma County JACL Matsuri

Over 1,000 people came out to support the Japanese arts street festival, which raised \$10,450 to Direct Relief International through the Sonoma County chapter. Attendees also wrote wishes on a seven-foot paper, which will be folded into a paper crane and sent to Japan. The chapter and the Enmanji Buddhist Temple also hosted an April 23 Italian dinner benefit at the temple for relief and recovery efforts.

For more info: [www.sonomacojacl.org](http://www.sonomacojacl.org)

### Reno JACL Dinner Fundraiser

Through fundraising events like the chapter's teriyaki dinner, the Reno JACL donated \$4,000 to the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCNC) Fund. ■



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March 11 was a disastrous day and there are no words to express our sorrow at all the destruction that Japan has encountered. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Japan. Yamato Travel Bureau is endorsing and contributing to the U.S.-Japan Council Earthquake Relief Fund because 100% of all donations go to the people of Japan. If you wish to join us, here is the link to their website: <http://usjapanCouncil.org/fund>

### ESCORTED TOURS & CRUISES SCHEDULED FOR 2011

Our Spring Tour to Japan was cancelled, but we do have other destinations as shown below. Our agents will be very happy to help in any travel requests. Yamato Travel Bureau handles travel to any part of the world. We await your calls or e-mails. Thank you very much for your loyalty and continued support!

|   |  |                    |
|---|--|--------------------|
| June 20-30                                  | <b>Yamato Summer Tour to Japan</b> – 11 days/9 nights visiting Tokyo, Takayama, Nagoya, Hiroshima/Miyajima and Kyoto.  | Peggy Mikuni       |
| July 8-13                                   | <b>Yamato Boston &amp; New York by Rail Tour</b> – 6 days/5 nights visiting highlights in Boston as well as visiting Concord & Lexington and New York City sites.  | Philippe Theriault |
| August 4-13                                 | <b>Yamato Canadian Rockies, with a difference</b> – 10 days/9 nights visiting Calgary, Banff, Jasper, Rail to Prince George & Prince Rupert, ferry through the Inside Passage to Port Hardy, Campbell River and Victoria.                                      | Philippe Theriault |
| September 13-19<br><small>NEW DATES</small> | <b>South Dakota, The Black Hills &amp; Badlands with Collette Vacations</b> – 7 days/6 nights, featuring a one hotel stay in Rapid City for the 6 nights, visiting Keystone, Rapid City, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Custer, Deadwood, Pine Ridge and Badlands. | Sharon Seto        |
| September 13-23                             | <b>Yamato Oktoberfest Tour</b> – 11 days/9 nights visiting Berlin, Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Munich.   | Philippe Theriault |
| Sep. 26-Oct. 5                              | <b>Yamato Eastern Canada Fall Foliage Tour</b> – 10 days/9 nights visiting Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton.  | Philippe Theriault |
| Oct. 1-13                                   | <b>Route 66 with Balloon Fiesta with Trafalgar Tours</b> – 13 days/12 nights visiting Chicago, St. Louis, Branson, Oklahoma City, Amarillo, Albuquerque (Balloon Fiesta), Flagstaff, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Hollywood, Los Angeles.                          | Sharon Seto        |
| October 17-31                               | <b>Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan</b> – 15 days/13 nights visiting Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Hiroshima/Miyajima, Kyoto, Tokyo.   | Peggy Mikuni       |
| Oct. 31-Nov. 14                             | <b>Yamato South Pacific Wonders with Collette Vacations</b> – 15 days/12 nights visiting Cairns (Great Barrier Reef) & Sydney, Australia; Christchurch, Mt. Cook Nat'l Park, Queenstown, & Milford Sound, New Zealand.   | Collette Escort    |
| Nov. 13-21                                  | <b>The Heart of Texas with Collette Vacations</b> – 9 days/8 nights visiting Austin, San Antonio, Bandera (dude ranch) and Fort Worth.   | Sharon Seto        |
| December 3-12                               | <b>Yamato Christmas Markets of Europe Tour</b> – 10 days/8 nights visiting Prague, Rothenburg, Dinkelsbuehl to Ulm, Neuschwanstein, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Salzburg, Vienna.  | Philippe Theriault |

\* \* \*

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# GO·SEE·DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS\*



## 42nd JACL National Convention LOS ANGELES, CA.

July 7-10  
Renaissance Hollywood Hotel  
1755 North Highland Ave.  
Hollywood, CA. 90028

JACLers are set to take over Hollywood for the first annual convention, which is just steps away from landmarks like the

Grauman's Chinese Theatre and the Walk of Fame. This year's convention will feature the 2011 Nikkei Conference, co-hosted with the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council.

**Info:**  
[www.jacl.org/convention/la/home.html](http://www.jacl.org/convention/la/home.html)

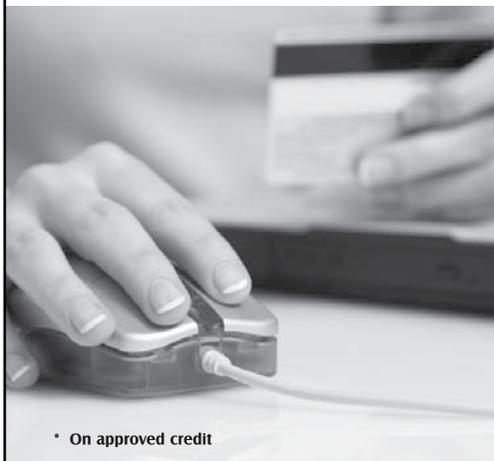
## EAST

New England JACL Presents Chef's Table  
NEWTON, MA  
May 25, 7 p.m.  
Daikanyama in Bloomingdale's  
199 Boylston St.

**Cost: \$50/person**  
The New England JACL, in partnership with New Asian Cuisine, presents "Chef's Table," a new series of Asian food and restaurant events. Meet chef Daisuki Shimizu. Seating is limited, so make your reservation early. The reservation deadline is Friday, May 20.

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**Info:** Margie Yamamoto at  
[yamamoto@nejacl.org](mailto:yamamoto@nejacl.org) or 781/259-9444

## Japanese American Veterans Association's Memorial Day Service ARLINGTON, VA

May 29, 9:30 a.m.

### Arlington National Cemetery

Join the Japanese American Veterans Association this Memorial Day at the Arlington National Cemetery pavilion near the Columbarium where volunteers will be distributing flowers at 69 Japanese American gravesites.

**Info:** [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)

**GO!**

## Asian American Mental Health Forum TOWN OF CHELMSFORD, MA

May 26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Chelmsford Radisson

### 10 Independence Dr.

This presentation is free for community health workers, service providers and healthcare professionals. The forum will include presentations on mental health data and statistics, mental health and addiction, strategies for working with Asian Americans with mental disorders, and more.

**Info:** Amy Stanley at 978/788-7278

## NCWNP

## Lewis Suzuki Art Exhibit OAKLAND, CA

June 4-5 and June 11-12

### East Bay Open Studios

### 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Lewis Suzuki, a well-known watercolor artist, will show his work with the East Bay Open Studios. Suzuki is known for his use of watercolor in a wide range of subject matters, from seascapes to country barns, and from traditional Japanese koi to abstract flowers.

**Info:** 510/849-1427 or  
[iwaos@earthlink.net](mailto:iwaos@earthlink.net)

**SEE!**

## Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association's Japan Relief Concert OAKLAND, CA

May 29, 6 p.m.

### Yoshi's Oakland

### 510 Embarcadero West

### Jack London Square

**Cost: \$40**

The award-winning jazz band Hiroshima will perform at this fundraiser to help with earthquake relief efforts in Japan. There will also be an opportunity to purchase autographed CDs and meet the band.

**Info:** Liane Scott at 510/482-5896 or  
[lianescott@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lianescott@sbcglobal.net)

## Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL's Annual Community Picnic APTOS, CA

June 25, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

### Aptos Village Park

### 100 Aptos Creek Rd.

**Cost: \$7/adults and teens, \$4/senior citizens, \$4/children**

Join the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter for its community picnic. There will be bingo, races, food, raffle prizes and more.

**Info:** [wsc.jacl@gmail.com](mailto:wsc.jacl@gmail.com) or  
[www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org](http://www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org)

## Diablo Valley JACL Bowl-A-Thon CONCORD, CA

May 22, 9:30 a.m.

### Diablo Lanes

### 1500 Monument Blvd

**DO!**

**Cost: \$40/per person**

This year organizers will be dividing the profits from the bowl-a-thon between Japan tsunami relief and providing school supplies for classrooms at a local elementary school. The chapter is also accepting school supply donations at the event.

**RSVP:** Tomoko Roudebush at 925/817-8177 or [tomokoroudebush@yahoo.com](mailto:tomokoroudebush@yahoo.com)

## PSW

## Japan Earthquake Relief Piano Concert LOS ANGELES, CA

June 12, 3-4:30 p.m.

### Koyasan Buddhist Temple

### 342 E. First Street

The charity piano recital, presented by Koyasan Buddhist Temple, will feature classical piano repertoire, an original composition and classical improvisation. Twelve-year-old Valerie Narumi will perform at the event. Admission to the recital is free, but donations will be sent to a Japan relief center via Koyasan's headquarters in Japan.

**Info:** 213/624-1267

## Theater Premiere of 'All That Remains' LOS ANGELES, CA

June 4, 2 p.m.

### Japanese American National Museum

### 369 E. First St.

The play "All That Remains," was inspired by true stories of Japanese American soldiers who fought some of the bloodiest battles of World War II.

**Info:** 213/625-0414

## Film Screenings of 'Dreams Finally Realized'

### LOS ANGELES, CA

May 26, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

### University of California, Los Angeles'

### Kaufman 101

### 70 Powell Library

The "Dreams Finally Realized" screenings will feature videos capturing how Nisei felt when abruptly stripped of their college dreams due to Executive Order 9066. The film will also include the students' return to the campuses to receive honorary degrees.

**RSVP:** [CANiseiProject@jccnc.org](mailto:CANiseiProject@jccnc.org) or  
415/567-5505

## JACCC's 'Raising the Curtain' Annual Dinner & Fundraiser

### LOS ANGELES, CA

June 18, 5:30 p.m.

### Japanese American Cultural and

### Community Center

### 244 S. San Pedro St.

Join organizers for a night of entertainment by performers like Hiroshima, Kinnara Taiko and Arpana Dance Company, among others.

**Info:** Jessie Kikuchi at  
[jkikuchi@jacc.org](mailto:jkikuchi@jacc.org) or 213/628-2725

## Riverside JACL's Scholarship Dinner RIVERSIDE, CA

May 15, 5 p.m.

### First Christian Church

### 4055 Jurupa Ave.

The Riverside JACL Scholarship committee is honoring its seven scholarship recipients for 2011, which includes Danielle Christine Smith, Kristen Lee Anne Hwang, Ayah K. Belazi, Samantha Lewis, Nicholas Takano, Nicholas Jackson Murray and Kyle Brandon Sugimura. The committee is also honoring Dr. Robert Endo.

**Info:** Michiko Yoshimura at 951/784-7057  
or [my141@sbcglobal.net](mailto:my141@sbcglobal.net) ■

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**Aoki, Danny Yasuo, 60**, Hilo, HI; April 30; he was a Vietnam veteran; survived by his wife, Sharon Theresa Aoki; sons, Shadan M.K. Aoki and Danny Yasuo (Nikol) Aoki; mother, Yaeko "Esther" Aoki; brother, Alan Aoki; sisters, Esther Aoki and Kay Aoki; hanai sister, Nancy (Tom) Yoshimura-Oukes; parents-in-law, Entiro "Terry" & Rita Atiz; sisters-in-law, Gloria Take-moto, Clarita Atiz, Donna Atiz and Dr. Michelle (Louie) Atiz-Tejada; brother-in-law, David (Claire) Atiz; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews; 2 gc.

**Fukuda, Richard Toshiaki, 77**, Honolulu, HI; April 26; he was an U.S. Air Force veteran and retired attorney; survived by wife, Terri T.; stepsister Doris Tsai.

**Harada, Shoichi, 88**, Honolulu, HI; April 23; he was U.S. Army veteran with the 100th Battalion; survived by sons Walter S. Harada, Max W.Y. and Kirk K. Shinkawa; daughters Carol A. Yoshida, Ellen R. Chong, Renae K. Lamb, Barbara K. Pang-Chew, Alicia M. Kawasaki and Sharlene S. Yamaguchi; sister Doris M. Porter; 14 gc; 15 ggc; and 5 gggc grandchildren.

**Higa, Katsumi, 87**, Honolulu, HI; May 1, he was a U.S. Army veteran; he is survived by sons, Gordon K. Higa, Carl K. Higa; daughter, Joy K. (Masao) Naito; brother, Jusei (Janet) Higa; sister, Fumiko (Matsuji) Shimabukuro; nieces and nephews; 2 gc.

**Inokuchi, Tetsuo Ted, 91**,



Los Angeles, CA; April 11; survived by his children, Stephen Setsuo Inokuchi and Ayako (Dale) Okuno; sister, Sadako Matsutani; many other relatives; 4 gc.

**Itaya, Florence Misao, 95**, Sacramento, CA; April 7; she was a member of the Stockton Buddhist Temple, Buddhist Women's Association, French Camp JAFL, Hiroshima Doshi Kai and Tomonokai; predeceased by husband, Harry Toshio; survived by Raymond (Marie), Yoshio Ted (Mary), Mollie (Ted) Oto, Gladys (Sam) Adachi, Joan (Henry) Nishikawa; daughter-in-law Gayle; 15 gc; 21 ggc; 2 gggc.

**Kato, Hiroshi, 89**, Honolulu, HI; April 14; he was a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; he served seven terms in the state House and eight years as a Circuit

Court judge; survived by wife, Janet; sons, Keith and John; daughter Joanne; 4 gc.

**Kanada, Robert Shizuo, 77**, Lake Oswego, OR; April 29; he started his own accounting practice after serving in the U.S. Navy; he is survived by his wife of 53 years, Shirley; son, Kirby (Heidi); son, Craig (Brooke); and 5 gc.

**Kaneshige, Juno "Wally," 87**, Honolulu, HI; April 17; he was a 442nd RCT veteran and retired Hickam Air Force Base clerk; he is survived by wife Amy; daughter Sherri; brothers Shizuo and Hayami; sister Tome Arashiro; 1 gc; 2 ggc.

**Ming, Walter Kevin, 58**, April 29; survived by wife, Doris; children, Kristina; father, Dawn Ming; brother, Gary (Nancy); nephew of Walter, Marilyn Chou, Cora Chin and Lonnie (Dr. Charles) Chow; many nieces and nephews.

**Miura, Marcy Sachiko, 86**, April 28; survived by daughters, Marilyn Tagliaferri and Noreen Miura; sons, Randal (Donna) and Russell (Lori); brother, Isamu Saito; sister, Yoshiko Ninomiya; 7 gc; 4 ggc.

**Mune Yoshihara, Hisako, 85**, Vacaville, CA; May 3; preceded in death by her husband, Samuro; survived by her children, Thaya Mune Craig (James), Paula Mune (Sky Hoyt), Nancy Mune White-side, Carl Mune (Alina) and Lisa Mune; many nieces and nephews; 6 gc; 6 ggc.

**Nagamine, James Sadao, 71**, Pearl City, HI; March 29; he was a retired postal carrier with the United States Postal Service; survived by wife, Betty Ann; sons, Brent Nagamine, Neal Nagamine, Brian Nagamine; brothers, Richard (Florence) Nagamine, Stanley (Linda) Nagamine; sisters, Ethel Oshiro, Joyce (Toshi) Shimabukuro; 3 gc; 1 ggc.

**Nishi, Takahide "Tak," 79**, Monterey Park, CA; April 9, survived by wife, Kisako; children, Glenn (Yumi), Vincent (Paula) and Edward; siblings, Michiko Oku, Yuriko (Satoru) Takesaka, Toshiko Sakaguchi, Masamichi and Takafumi (Ayako); many nieces and nephews; 3 gc.

**Oka, James Hideo, 78**, Gonzales, CA; April 11; survived by brothers, Mas and Hisa Seo; children, Jimmy and Jiro (Geri); many other relatives; 8 gc.

**Shikai, Keiko, 60**, Cypress, CA; April 25; she is survived by husband, Ricky Hiroshi; daughter, Miki (Jon) Fujii; son, Stewart; sisters, Kyoko Shimada and Tomoko Sugawara; brothers, Takashi and

Syozo Hirano; 1 gc.

**Tamayo, Leonor Sambrano, 91**, Waipahu, HI; April 9; survived by sons, William (Judith) Tamayo, Romulo Tamayo, Alexander (Angeles) Tamayo; daughters, Leticia Tamayo, Milagros (Manuel) Lumiton, Rhoda (Mario) Albano; brothers, Joven (Josie) Sambrano, Adolfo Sambrano, Paquito (Natividad) Sambrano; sisters, Corazon (Romy) Topacio, Petra Gomez, Salvacion Duyao; 18 gc; 18 ggc; 2 gggc.

**Tochioka, Martha Tamaye, 89**,



Westminster, CA; April 12; she was a Hawaii-born Nisei; predeceased by husband, Shigeo; survived by sons, Ronald (Naoko) and Glenn (Jean); sister, Tsuyako Zenimura; 3 gc.

**Tsukamaki, Alice, 87**, Brea, CA; April 16; her family was interned during World War II in Minidoka; she was an active member of the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple; predeceased by husband, Frank; survived by children, Janet (Jack) Shimatsu, Ron (Gay), Don and Bruce (Janice); 4 gc.

**Wakabayashi Nishio, Seiko, 91**, Palo Alto, CA; April 4; Seiko met her husband, Henry Wakabayashi, while she was serving as a volunteer USO hostess at St. John's Church during World War II; she was the JAFL Eastern District governor; Seiko is preceded in death by her parents; sister Sachie Nishi; daughter Lynn Wakabayashi; survived by husband Henry; sister, Hanako Inada; daughter Karen Imatani; 1 gc.

**Yamashita, Isami Sam, 92**, San Gabriel, CA; April 30; born in Honolulu, HI; he is survived by children, Dennis-Duke R. (Cheryl C.), Denisse Y. Allaire; sister, Doris Ayako (Mas) Miyasaki, many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc.

## 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.

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## BURLERSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the Los Angeles area), (2) other relationships in L.A. vital to timely production of a quality paper would be lost, (3) the current staff's ability to raise funds was not fully factored into the budget calculations and (4) the strong preference not just of the Nisei generation but of many other *P.C.* readers for retaining the paper edition (as against online only) had been underrated.

Also underrated may have been the essential for any good newspaper: editorial independence and integrity.

So, the national council (JACL as a whole, as represented by those at the convention) turned back the national board's proposal. Instead, JACL funds are being saved by careful economizing and by having the PSW district staff move into the *P.C.*'s office space.

As a consumer of *P.C.* news and lore for over half a century (including decades when I was serving abroad) and now as a member of

its editorial board, I confess to being a *P.C.* loyalist. Especially since I have seen and interacted with the staff that produces this great little paper.

We are treated to benefits such as the special issues, such changes as improved graphics and now online availability of back issues and archives when we want to check into our organization's history. The staff

took the initiative to solicit grants that allowed digitizing of the *P.C.* archives.

Small in numbers, but hugely dedicated and highly professional, the *P.C.* staff needs and deserves the

fullest support by each and every JACL member.

Each one of us can help directly by donating to this year's Spring Campaign and future fundraisers that give the staff the means to maintain quality and keep improving this voice of the JACL and all its members. ■

*Hugh Burlerson is the Pacific Northwest District representative on the Pacific Citizen editorial board.*

*'... the P.C. staff needs and deserves the fullest support by each and every JACL member.'*

## MORI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

more information about what the national JACL is doing. The JACL D.C. office issues a weekly email called the "D.C. Digest" to inform members and other interested persons about legislation and concerns of importance to the JACL as well as about the work and activities of the JACL staff. Notices have previously been put out about the Digest, and anyone is welcome to sign up to receive the Digest by sending an e-mail (with "sign up" in the subject line) to [policy@jacl.org](mailto:policy@jacl.org). JACL press releases are issued regularly and are placed on the JACL website. Action alerts are also sent out.

There was a slight increase in membership numbers in the first quarter of 2011, which is good news since our membership rates have been seriously declining for years. Phillip Ozaki, membership coordinator, and David Lin, vice president of membership, are to be commended for their efforts in working with chapter leaders on membership issues. Of course, we express gratitude to the chapters for their work, as personal contact is the most effective way to sign up new members and encourage members to renew. Continued work is especially needed among the college age JACLers

who comprise the largest group of new members but who lapse at a very high rate. Chapters can play a vital role in helping these youth/student members learn about the JACL and become committed to the organization by being active in chapters. This group will comprise our future leaders.

*'I am grateful to everyone involved with the JACL and have enjoyed working with many of you.'*

A few non-functioning chapters have been dissolved with members being absorbed into other chapters. We hope those people are warmly welcomed by their new chapters. After the disaster of Hurricane Katrina, the JACL was instrumental in obtaining help for Asian Americans who were impacted there. A lot of these were Vietnamese in the fishing industry, and they became the first community to recover after Katrina. A diverse new JACL chapter is being organized, which is the API Gulf Coast chapter located in New Orleans and surrounding areas. Two of their members are Father Vien Nguyen, who will receive an award at the JACL

convention, and Ayame Nagatani, a former president of the D.C. JACL chapter who was on the staff of Rep. Mike Honda and currently works for the mayor of New Orleans. We are happy to welcome this new chapter.

The Cherry Blossom Festival in D.C. held special significance this year with Jean Shiraki of the JACL D.C. office as the Cherry Blossom Princess for Hawaii. Conferences, galas, and White House briefings have been held with the JACL in attendance. In late April, I was able to meet with potential funders in Las Vegas and to attend the Nihon Matsuri (Japan Festival) in Salt Lake City. This was a chance to meet with old friends as well as to see the JACL in action by showcasing and preserving our heritage among the larger community with the three Utah JACL chapters participating. Although the festival is relatively new in Utah, there are similar events held throughout the country in which JACL chapters play an integral part.

Thanks for the continuing support of the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund with the JACL and Direct Relief International to help victims of the devastation in Japan. I am grateful to everyone involved with the JACL and have enjoyed working with many of you. Hope you can make it to the national JACL convention in July. ■



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