

PACIFIC CITIZEN

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Emily Isakari wants the world to know about George Komure.

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Anime's uber popularity.



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Erika Fong the Pink Power Ranger



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JACL youth in action at youth summit.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Power of Words Resolution

The "Power of Words" handbook, which is being developed to implement the Power of Words resolution passed at the 2010 Chicago JACL convention, was sent electronically to all JACL chapter presidents recently. I would like all JACL members to take a close look at this handbook, especially the section titled: "Which Words Are Problematic? ... And Which Words Should We Promote?"

Who labeled these words as "problematic?" The words are euphemisms and we should not use them. There are words that can be used in place of the euphemisms, unlike what the handbook states.

History shows that there have been different types of concentration camps all over the world. Some were from the Spanish American War, Russian Gulag and Bosnia. The Nazi camps in Europe were not concentration camps but were death or extermination camps. In 1998 there was an agreement between the American Jewish Committee and the Japanese American National Museum regarding their exhibit at Ellis Island, New York.

We must use correct terminology to describe our history now. I am a citizen and was born in the United States. Yet, I was removed to an American concentration camp and denied my freedom.

Joyce Okazaki
Imprisoned at Manzanar, April 1942 to August 1944
Seal Beach, Calif.

Connecting JACLers Across the Country

Since the days when headquarters was in Utah and all the folks involved in suffering during World War II, many of them our personal friends, my wife Nellie and I have enjoyed and appreciated the friendships we've made during our activities in the Snake River chapter, IDC and national conventions.

We're getting ready for Joe to turn 93 and Nellie 89 next week. It's wonderful that your stories connect us with those of JACL still around.

Anyway, thank you all for continuing a splendid job helping the *Pacific Citizen* keep going.

Joe and Nellie Saito
Ontario, OR

Food Issue: Yummy

Great issue! Made me hungry just reading about the passion and reverence these cooks have for food. How about another special issue (or column) featuring some of our members and their interesting hobbies?

Keep up the wonderful work; I love the paper.

Anne Chilcott
Ventura County JACL member

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

Letters may be edited for length.



SEABROOK JACL: (L-r) Linda Ono, Sharon Yoshino, Floyd Mori and Lenore Wurtzel.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Making New Waves

By Gary Mayeda



Hollywood, California is a perfect place for the first annual convention for JACL. It is a city full of energy, creativity and new ideas in the heart of Los Angeles. And when you come to the convention, you are the star. You make decisions for the organization. You vote on resolutions and amendments to the policy of the JACL. You raise awareness of our mission to do good things for all.

The hotel is the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel & Spa and it is located next to the Kodak Theater along the famed Hollywood Boulevard. The area is filled with historical interests and there are reminders of Hollywood both past and present everywhere. Become a part of it as we visit places like Madame Tussauds during our welcome reception. Be sure to bring your camera. You will not want to miss it.

This year JACL is working with the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council, CJACL, to organize the quality workshops. We are bringing in top-notch community leaders to engage in a variety of issues facing our communities all across the nation. Their expertise and your input and participation will make this a success.

PSW has worked hard to bring the members an exciting venue but the heart of the convention is you, the participant. The delegates decide the direction and policy of the organization. The members engage with local and national elected leaders. And we bring them all together with the generous support of sponsors who share our interest and vision for a better community for all of us. Don't miss out.

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WEEKS

WWW.JACL.ORG/CONVENTION

NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lots of Activity for JACL

By Floyd Mori

Life continues to be extremely busy for the JACL staff with lots of issues and activities with which to be involved. The D.C. Digest was started to inform our members and others of the concerns and various happenings around the nation's capital and within JACL. Anyone who does not receive the Digest is welcome to request the weekly email by writing to policy@jacl.org with "sign up" in the subject line.

The film "442: Live With Honor, Die With Dignity", which chronicles the experiences of the brave Japanese American soldiers of the World War II era, is highly recommended viewing. I was invited by Donna Fujimoto Cole and the Houston JACL Chapter to introduce the film and do a Q&A at a showing in Houston last month. It was an honor to do so and to have the opportunity to meet with JACL members in the area.

The JACL was pleased at the announcement by Acting Solicitor General Neal Katyal of the misconduct of his predecessor Charles Fahy when he hid a report from the Office of Naval Intelligence which concluded that the Japanese Americans did not pose a military threat and that there was no evidence that they were disloyal. We have known for years that the incarceration of JAs was unjustified, but the further validation is welcome. This was reported in a JACL press release and various news articles.

Comcast has been one of the JACL's corporate sponsors for several years. Comcast has now merged with NBC/Universal and has committed itself to diversity. They have created an Asian American Advisory

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

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"I am really happy that I could do a project that helped teach others the story of the local Japanese American community," said Emily Isakari, 14, about her project to teach people about Nisei veteran George Komure, who has a school named in his honor. She used to pick oranges at a farm owned by Komure's son Dean but she never met the elder Komure.

What's in a Name? The George Komure Elementary School

High schooler Emily Isakari headed back to elementary school this year to educate students about George Y. Komure, the Japanese American who was honored with a school in his name.

**By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter**

Fourteen-year-old Emily Isakari has known the Komure family for over a decade, but it was not until recently that she set out to teach other youth about the head of that family who has an elementary school in his name.

The project Emily spearheaded began when officials at the George Y. Komure Elementary School asked the French Camp JACL chapter to organize a Japanese culture exhibit at its March 7 Spring Festival, she says.

Emily took on the project to honor Nisei veteran George Y. Komure. An added plus was that the project also satisfied her Girl Scouts requirements for a silver award.

"I will receive my silver award this fall," said Emily, a ninth grade Yonsei at Davis Senior High School. "But I received notice that my final project report has been approved by my troop leaders and so I am really happy!"

Growing up in Northern California, Emily's family was welcomed into the community by the Komure clan. She used to pick oranges at a farm owned by Komure's son, Dean. But Emily never met the elder Komure, who died in 1999 at the age of 80.

Komure passed away before he could see the Stockton, Calif.-based school bearing his name open in 2004. His wife, Katy, says he would have been pleased with Emily's project to honor his legacy.

"Oh, he'd be very happy. He'd be so shocked," said 88-year-old Katy Komure, who is a member of the French Camp JACL chapter. "[He was] a very quiet type of person. But he believed in the students and he loved the students, too."

As a youth representative of the French Camp JACL chapter, Emily received additional help for her exhibit from fellow members. Some 20 volunteers provided additional manpower for her project.

Members also donated \$100 for materials and supplies for

her booth at the school's festival.

"Emily had given us a budget of what she thought she'd need to put this project together," said French Camp JACLer David Furukawa, who added that Emily fundraised for the chapter to earn the funds. "I think it's very, very impressive. That's our future. I think she's going to be a tremendous leader. Hopefully she'll be the president of our chapter."

To ensure that students and faculty at Komure Elementary School do not forget Komure and his civic work in French Camp, Emily also created a framed poster of him for the administration office. She said it was important to leave a "lasting memory" of Komure for students at the school.



Komure, who died in 1999, was a long-time JACL member and member of what was formerly called the French Camp School District Board.

"Often the teachers are asked about George Komure, but they have little information on him other than that he was a local farmer and former school board member," Emily said. "Obviously, he was much more than that."

Even those that were long-time acquaintances of the Komure family learned something new from Emily's exhibit.

"A lot of people were wondering who is George Komure?" said Furukawa. "I knew George. I went to school with his son, Dean. But I didn't realize how committed he was to the school board. That was one of the reasons for the school being named after him."

Komure was born in 1919 in Stockton, Calif. to Tei and Isetsuru, who moved often to find employment. They finally settled in San Jose, Calif. to farm.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Komure was drafted into the U.S. Army. While he was overseas, his family was incarcerated in Tule Lake for about three years.

A year after returning from serving in World War II, Komure married Katy, a native of French Camp, Calif. He started farming crops like strawberries, onions, tomatoes and corn. Komure served as commissioner of the Manteca Parks and Recreation.

He was also a long-time JACL member and member of what was formerly called the French Camp School District Board. His wife Katy says they joined JACL before WWII when she remembers more Japanese American families living and working in the area.

"My husband was also a young JACL youth adviser," she explained with a laugh. "So he encouraged education as one of the must have type of things. I guess he did it too well. They all got educated and left the French Camp."

Katy has lived in the area most of her life and says she has seen the JA families slowly dwindle down over the years.

One of the other JA families living in the area was Emily's family.

"The Komure family was one of the first families we met when we moved to French Camp," said Dr. Marcia Isakari, Emily's mother. "They welcomed us into the local community and treated us like family."

Katy says she is happy that teenagers like Emily are active in the community and JACL.

"We are all past our age to do anything so our children have to do things," Katy says with a laugh. "She's an active teenager. We don't have too many teenagers."

With Emily sacrificing her spring break free time, it took some two months of gathering research and interviews to complete the project.

The project, Emily says, took up more time than she expected but it was a fun learning experience.

"I am really happy that I could do a project that helped teach others the story of the local Japanese American community," Emily continued, "Many people do not know anything about Nisei veterans like George Komure. I think it is important to tell others before these stories are lost." ■

Fans Say Anime Brings a Deeper Appreciation for Japan



PHOTO:OMAR LAUREANO

A cosplay attendee decked out in Heian-era garb poses for a portrait at the 2010 Anime Expo that was held at the Convention Center in Los Angeles, Calif.

Otaku, or die-hard anime enthusiasts, from various backgrounds say their love of anime has led them to have a deeper appreciation for Japanese culture.

**By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter**

Brittany J. Terrazas, 24, is unapologetically obsessed with all things anime and her stockpile of films in her California home is evidence of that.

Her collection is swelling with Ghibli films, *Fruits Basket*, *Marmalade Boy*, *Yu Yu Hakusho*, *Cardcaptor Sakura*, *Sailor Moon*, *Gundam Wing* and more.

Terrazas says her passion for anime and manga has piqued her interest in Japanese culture.

"My interest in anime has most definitely influenced a greater appreciation of the Japanese culture," says Terrazas, a Hispanic from West Covina, Calif. "You can say I'm a bit obsessed with it. In high school my friends used to say I should have been born Asian."

Anime fans like Terrazas are gearing up for the Anime Expo in Los Angeles, Calif., which is scheduled for July 1 to 4. Expo officials are expecting some 125,000 attendees this year, an increase of 16,000 from last year's event.

The expo, which is one of the massive anime conventions in California, began in 1992 in San Jose, attracting some 1,750 attendees. But event officials say the attendance is only one of the ways the Anime Expo has changed over the years.

"Like time and tide, things always keep moving forward, AX is no different," says Marc Perez, CEO and board chairman of the Society of the Promotion of Japanese Animation, or SPJA. "We have moved from Northern California to Southern California, grown from 1,000 attendees to 109,000 in 2010 and we offer more programming and unique events than ever before. If you name it we have probably changed it."

Working on the weekends as a cashier has kept Terrazas from attending the past few expos. But Terrazas can always get the inside scoop from her fellow anime friends like Cody Holt, who is making plans to attend the event.

"I am attending this year's expo, however I'm only going for two things this year. The first and most important reason is the debut of Hatsune Miku," says Holt, 23, of the virtual singer developed by Crypton Future Media. "I want to be there on this historic day when a hologram takes the stage. The second thing is just to enjoy all the custom made costumes by other anime lovers."

Cosplay, or costume play, is perhaps what most people outside of the anime community associate most with the fans of the Japanese anime and manga. At anime conventions like Fanime Con and Anime Los Angeles fans don their favorite costumes in homage to anime characters like *Sailor Moon* or *Simon from Gurren Lagann*.

Chinese American Bernard Tang, 36, has been a regular at the expo since 1998, only missing two annual events. "By now, I'm well past the 'must do everything and must find out about everything' phase," Tang said. "My niche is karaoke, so I'm at most of the karaoke events. I compete in the karaoke contest and roped three co-workers to compete along with me this year."

The growing attendance numbers at anime conventions like the Anime Expo, officials say, show the universal appeal of the Japanese anime and manga.

"Most Japanese stories just have a universal appeal. The stories are provocative and interesting," says Perez. "From *Giant Robo* to tales of little girls growing up, there is something for everyone. Just like AX the stories attempt to grant a new world to those who participate."

Others say anime is so popular because there are countless genres within anime.

"Asking why anime has a universal appeal is like asking why people like movies," Tang added, "Whenever anyone asks me why I'm an anime fan, I tell them that they're one too, they just didn't know it. Tell me what kind of movies you like and I can guarantee I can find an anime to your liking."

Japanese cartoonist Osamu Tezuka is called the "Godfather of Anime" and is often compared to Walt Disney. However some anime aficionados trace some of the earliest Japanese animation back to about 1917 before Tezuka's days when cartoonist Oten Shimokawa released *Imokawa Mukuzo Genkanban no Maki*.

Today anime and manga fans can be found around the world.

"I was 12 years old and used to read a popular UK-based video game magazine. One month they had an article about these cartoons from Japan that were being released in the UK," said Oliver Godber, a Caucasian based in the United Kingdom. "Of course that immediately made every 12-year-old kid want to watch them. I managed to persuade my parents to buy *Fist of the North Star*, and my brother, [who is] two years older, and I just loved it."

Anime buffs like Godber say their interest in anime and manga has led them to have a deeper appreciation for the Japanese culture. Godber says anime initially taught him words like demon, monster and alchemist in Japanese. Now he hopes to be fluent in Japanese.

"My university had a language school, and offered a course in Japanese, so I decided to have a go at learning the language," Godber says. "Without doubt, anime was a strong influence in making me take this course, and ultimately, my interest in learning Japanese and Japanese culture led me to meeting my wife."

Holt, who is also Caucasian, echoes Godber's sentiments saying his love of anime and manga has given him a deeper appreciation for Japan. Despite the stigma that is sometimes attached to die-hard anime fans, Holt says, the cartoons are appealing to those outside of the Japanese community.

"A lot of people, especially adults, think that anime is for little kids. They couldn't be more wrong," Holt explains. "I guarantee there is at least one anime out there for everyone's taste. Anime Expo alone is enough proof that it's meant for all ages."

Shojo anime, animation marketed towards girls, are Terrazas favorite. In addition to her collection of manga and anime, Terrazas has a growing wish list of purchases. She says some view anime fans, who are into cosplay, in a negative light because "they don't understand it."

But Terrazas says she has never felt uncomfortable as a non-Japanese American anime fan and she likely never will.

"I am who I am and like what I like," Terrazas says. "I don't care what anyone else thinks about it, in fact I flaunt it." ■

Solicitor General Says WWII-era Predecessor Hid Information on JA Incarceration

Charles Fahy acted dishonorably in defending the convictions of Gordon Hirabayashi and Fred Korematsu for violating an internment order.

By *P.C. Staff and Associated Press*

Nearly 70 years after the Supreme Court upheld the forced evacuation and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, the government's top high court lawyer says one of his predecessors concealed critical information that could have tipped the cases.

In a distinctly 21st century way of acknowledging a serious mistake from long ago, acting Solicitor General Neal Katyal posted a remarkable entry on the Justice Department's blog saying the solicitor general at the time, Charles Fahy, acted dishonorably in defending the convictions of Gordon Hirabayashi and Fred Korematsu for violating an order to report to an internment camp.

Fahy did not inform the justices of a key report from the Office of Naval Intelligence that "found that only a small percentage of Japanese Americans posed a potential security threat, and that the most dangerous were already known or in custody," Katyal wrote in the blog.

On May 21 at the Justice Department, Katyal told an audience that Fahy's conduct represented one of the "dark times" in the office of solicitor general. Katyal was

speaking at the department's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month commemorative program.

The solicitor general is often referred to as the 10th justice, a recognition of the office's frequent interactions with the court and the special trust the justices place in the government lawyers' arguments.

Fahy, who died in 1979, also neglected to tell the court that information that JAs "were using radio transmitters to communicate with enemy submarines off the West Coast had been discredited by the FBI" and the Federal Communications Commission, Katyal wrote.

"And to make matters worse, he relied on gross generalizations about Japanese Americans, such as that they were disloyal and motivated by 'racial solidarity.'"

Congress apologized for the treatment of JAs and the government paid reparations to those who were incarcerated and their heirs.

Katyal's action is "a nice gesture, but long overdue," said Peter Irons, a political scientist and civil rights lawyer who spearheaded the drive on behalf of Hirabayashi and Korematsu.

The information presented by Katyal is not new, though it is not widely remembered. The federal district judge who overturned Korematsu's conviction relied on internal government documents that showed that Justice Department lawyers at the time worried about concealing the information from the Supreme Court.

Irons dug up those documents while researching a book on the internment cases.



The Justice Department said the solicitor general at the time acted dishonorably in defending the convictions of Gordon Hirabayashi, Min Yasui and Fred Korematsu for violating evacuation orders.

He remembers being struck by the strong language in a lawyer's memo calling the damaging assertions about the JAs "lies."

Yet when Fahy stood before the justices, Irons said, he told them "he stood by 'every sentence, every line and every word'" in an intelligence report that already had been debunked.

Katyal's post may be the first time a Justice Department official has spoken so candidly about the mistakes of a predecessor.

He said he was writing to stress the "duty of absolute candor in our representations to the court."

Asian Pacific American groups including the JACL applaud Katyal's admission.

"This admission of misrepresentation by the government should quiet the naysayers who have used this false information to proclaim the justification of the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. ■



DREAM Act Could Make College a Reality

By *Pacific Citizen Staff*

For hundreds of thousands of undocumented young people across the country, a dream is one step closer to coming true.

The Dream (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Dream) was reintroduced in both houses on May 11 after President Obama called for immigration reform.

The act calls for conditional permanent residency to certain illegal and deportable immigrant students who graduate from U.S. high schools, who are of good moral character, arrived in the U.S. legally or illegally as minors and have been in the country continuously for at least five years prior to the bill's enactment.

Undocumented students have limited options for college because they cannot receive financial aid or work legally, proponents say. Most supporters of the DREAM Act say without the legislation,

higher education for undocumented students is difficult, if not unattainable.

Because of their undocumented status, students cannot get a driver's license or a Social Security card.

Opponents of the act say it is a massive giveaway to finance illegal immigrants' college education. Others argue that the children of immigrants should not be punished.

Most young undocumented students say they did not realize their citizenship status until after high school.

Only a few states have passed legislation to offer in-state tuition for undocumented students. Those states include California, Texas, New York, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, among others.

An estimated 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school each year, according to the National Immigration Law Center. In college these students are unable to legally work or obtain financial aid. ■

Lawmakers Seek Apology for Chinese Exclusion Act

By *Pacific Citizen Staff*

A bipartisan bill has been introduced in both houses of Congress calling for an official statement of regret for the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.

Lawmakers including Rep. Judy Chu and Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Daniel Akaka introduced the bill May 26 that would require Congress to say it "deeply regrets" the Exclusion Act and discrimination against Chinese Americans.

The act banned Chinese immigration and naturalization, the first time that Congress denied citizenship rights to a group of immigrants.

"It is long overdue that Congress officially acknowledges these ugly laws, and expresses the sincere regret that Chinese Americans deserve," said Chu, the bill's lead co-sponsor in the House of Representatives.

In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which imposed a 10-year moratorium on Chinese immigration and the naturalization of Chinese settlers. The law was later expanded several times to apply to all persons of Chinese descent, each time imposing increasingly severe restrictions on immigration and naturalization.



Proponents say even though the Chinese Exclusion Laws were repealed in 1943 as a war measure after China became a World War II ally of the United States, Congress has never formally acknowledged that the laws singling out and ostracizing Chinese Americans were incompatible with America's founding principles.

In Bellingham, Wash., Mayor Dan Pike issued a formal apology to the Chinese American community May 26, as part of the Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project.

"I hope this resolution will serve to inform those who may not be aware of this regrettable chapter in our history and bring closure to the families of immigrants who lived through this difficult time," said Feinstein. ■

NJAHS, Presidio Trust to Develop MIS Historic Learning Center

Historic Building 640 housed the first Military Intelligence Service Language School during WWII.

An agreement has been signed between the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) and The Presidio Trust (Trust) to rehabilitate Building 640 in the Presidio of San Francisco for reuse as the Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center (MISHLC).

Building 640, a former warehouse located along Crissy Field, is the site of the first Military Intelligence Service Language School organized in November 1941 on the eve of World War II to train 58 Japanese American and two Caucasian U.S. Army personnel as soldier linguists to serve in the Pacific Theater.

"This is an American story," said NJAHS board member and MIS veteran Marvin Uratsu, whose late brother Gene was a member of the first class. "It is told by those who served their country in a time that the U.S. Constitution was really tested. As



MIS Veteran Marvin Uratsu (at the podium) called Historic Building 640 an "American story."

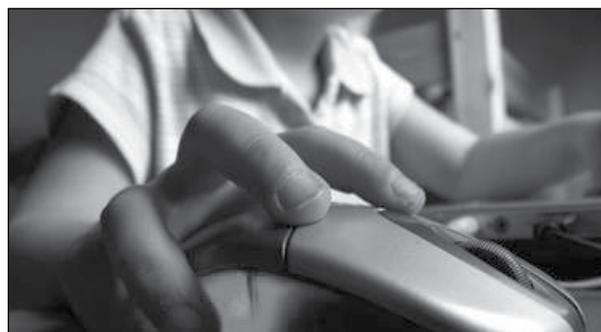
Japanese Americans we chose these paths in the hope that our America could become 'a more perfect union'."

A special ceremony was held on Memorial Day at the Building 640 site to celebrate the historic agreement.

Set in the foreground of the Golden Gate Bridge, the 10,000 square foot MISHLC will feature exhibits and ongoing public programs devoted to sharing the MIS story and exploring the lessons learned from the experience. As the permanent memory of the contributions of the more than 6,000 MIS graduates trained at the Presidio, Camp Savage, and Fort Snelling, MIS Language School sites, there will be a Wall of Honor displaying their names. The MISHLC is expected to open in 2012.

"This is indeed a momentous step forward in our joint effort to give the MIS story its proper place of importance in U.S. history, share important lessons learned and celebrate the achievements of these truly great Americans," said Judge Ken Kawaichi (Ret), NJAHS board president.

The Learning Center project, which NJAHS and MIS Norcal (an organization established by MIS veterans) initiated in 1991, is now a joint project of NJAHS, the Trust and the National Park Service/Golden Gate National Recreation Area. ■



Study: Minority Youth Have Big Media Appetite

By David Aguilar
Associated Press

CHICAGO—Minority youth spend more than half their day consuming media content, a rate that's 4.5 hours greater than their white counterparts, according to a Northwestern University report released June 9.

Television remains king among all youth, but among minorities who spend 13 hours per day consuming media of various types, electronic gadgets such as cell phones and iPods increasingly are the way such content gets delivered, the report found.

"Children, Media and Race: Media Use Among White, Black, Hispanic and Asian American Children" was touted by researchers as the first national study to focus exclusively on children's media use by race and ethnicity.

Minority youth media consumption rates outpace their white counterparts by two hours when it comes to TV and video viewership.

"In the past decade, the gap between minority and white youth's daily media use has doubled for blacks and quadrupled for Hispanics," said Northwestern Professor Ellen Wartella.

Wartella acknowledged that technology is a structural part of modern society but said the numbers suggest that young people are settling for a sedentary lifestyle and risk further exacerbating ongoing problems such as child obesity.

The study found that Asian Pacific American youth spend more time in recreational computer use: Nearly 3 hours a day compared to 1:49 for Hispanics, nearly 1.24 for blacks and 1:17 for whites. ■

Federal Court Nominee Withdraws Nomination

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Goodwin Liu, a legal scholar, has withdrawn his nomination to an appeals court judgeship after Senate Republicans blocked a vote on his confirmation.

Liu, 40, said in a May 25 letter to President Barack Obama that he and his family need "to make plans for the future" now that there is little prospect of a Senate vote on his nomination.

Democrats failed to come up with the 60 votes they needed to end a Republican filibuster that included several senators who previously had pledged not to filibuster judicial nominees except under extraordinary circumstances.

Asian Pacific Americans blasted the filibuster.

"More than 40 percent of our nation's Asian American population lives in the area in which the 9th Circuit has jurisdiction over, yet no Asian Americans serve on the 9th Circuit bench," said Rep. Judy Chu, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, in a May 19 statement. "Our



The 9th Circuit, Goodwin Liu says, has a "desperate need for judges."

country, our justice system and the districts served by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals were denied an outstanding judge because of political games played by the Senate."

Obama nominated Liu, a law professor at the University of California, Berkeley, to the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last year.

If he had been confirmed, legal experts agree that Liu would have

potentially been the first Asian Pacific American Supreme Court nominee.

In the letter to Obama, Liu said the 9th Circuit, including California, has a "desperate need for judges."

Liu said, "it is now clear that continuing my nomination will not address that need any time soon."

The federal judiciary says there are 86 vacancies in the federal courts, and that Obama has nominated 47 people, including Liu, to fill them. ■

Bill to Reunite Filipino Veteran Families Revived

By Associated Press



HONOLULU—U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii has reintroduced a bill that would allow the children of Filipinos who fought with the U.S. during World War II to join their U.S. citizen parents in the United States.

Akaka said U.S. Sens. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and Robert Menendez of New Jersey are co-sponsoring the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act of

2011.

The children would be exempt from quotas that have delayed their receipt of U.S. immigrant visas. Some children face waits of 20 years or more because so many Filipinos hope to emigrate and the limits are set by nationality.

In 1990, Congress provided the vets with a waiver from certain naturalization requirements. Many became U.S. citizens and residents, but allowances weren't made for their children. ■

WHY I'M A JACLER

A Family Legacy in JACL

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



YATABE FAMILY: (L-r) Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe, grandmother Mary, brother Mark, mother Nancy, father Dudley, and young Tom.

TOM YATABE,
42
Highland, Il.
Chicago JACler
Yonsei

For Tom Yatabe, being a JACler is about the past and the future. The Chicago JACler has deep roots in the organization — his grandfather Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe, who is known as the “grandfather of JACL” was the JACL’s national president from 1934-36. But the Yonsei also has a vision for the future of the civil rights organization.

“We need to take a more proactive role in promoting ourselves,” said Tom, 42. “It’s important to inform people that we exist and we’re out there.”

With a degree in music and a background in commercial jingle production, he says he could help produce public service announcements for the JACL to help raise its profile.

“We need to brand JACL as something people would want to join ... something that makes people feel good about joining,” he said.

Recently, Tom and other Chicago JACL members launched their chapter’s version of JACL Young Professionals, a program targeted for young Japanese Americans and Asian Pacific Americans, which met for the first time May 19.

“It’s strictly social,” said Tom about the

Young Professionals. “I think it’s about creating that feeling of being united, feeling like a team.”

He imagines that’s what it must have been like during the early days of the JACL when his grandfather, a Nisei dentist in Fresno, Calif. in the 1920s, helped lay the foundation for the American Loyalty League, the predecessor of the JACL.

“T.T.” Yatabe was a charismatic and intelligent man who led an extraordinary life and met many history-makers, including Eleanor Roosevelt, said Tom. Born in 1897, he was a lot older than his Nisei peers.



TOM YATABE

T.T. saw firsthand the discrimination many JAs faced at the time, including the Alien Land Laws, which prohibited JAs and APAs from owning land, and he saw a need, said Dudley Yatabe, Tom’s father.

“Growing up in that kind of environment he saw a need for some type of organization to help the Japanese people,” said Dudley, 80, a longtime Chicago JACler.

In the early 1920s in their home in Fresno, T.T. held regular meetings to establish the Fresno chapter of the American Loyalty League — what would later become the JACL.

made waves by leaving their country of birth to find wealth and adventure in a new land. Our Nisei continued those waves to carve out a place here and fight to belong. Our Sansei and consecutive generations are continuing the waves of all previous generations to build communities and care for all.

We need to continue the generational waves of energy to create and renovate a JACL that sustains itself, and yes we can at this convention. This is JACL 2.0 so go out there and make some new waves. ■

Gary Mayeda is the 42nd National JACL Convention chairperson.

MAYEDA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

JACL has its challenges and the national board meets to solve them for all of us. Convention is a time for the leaders at all levels to come together to share ideas, debate and be innovative about being a part of the solution.

Our theme “JACL 2.0 – Making New Waves” is more than just simply a “wave”. The 2.0 is a call to reinvent the organization and while in Chicago last year we were “Embracing Change”, this year we hoped to realize that change and set new goals of how we are going to thrive. Our Issei

Join the movement. BECOME A JACLER

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

Email Info. to:
pc@pacificcitizen.org

What T.T. helped establish, Dudley and Tom have continued.

Dudley was an active volunteer with the JACL Credit Union when they had a presence in Chicago and Tom is a member of the Chicago JACL chapter board.

“I rediscovered it,” said Tom, who is of Japanese, German and Irish descent, about the JACL.

As he gets older, he has been trying to rediscover his roots.

“It was a way to reconnect,” said Tom. “I wanted to see if I could connect with the community.”

He’s hoping to pass on the JACL legacy

to his children, twins Thomas Thor and Ava Grace, both three and a half.

“On face value, an agency that truly advocates civil rights is a positive and necessary entity. To me, that is enough to warrant support,” said Tom. ■

NOMINATE A JACLER

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

pc@pacificcitizen.org.



42nd JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

“JACL 2.0 - Making New Waves”

Los Angeles July 7-10, 2011

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, or by calling (213) 626-4471.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

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Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

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Vegetarian Meals Yes _____ No _____ Special Needs _____

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Check: Please make check or money order payable to “JACL Pacific Southwest District”

Credit Card: ___AmEx ___Visa ___MasterCard ___Discover

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Name on Card _____ Security Code _____

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Packages include Welcome Reception, Awards Luncheon, Nikkei Conference, and Culmination Banquet. *(Y)= Youth/Student

	By 5/31	After 5/31	
Convention Package	\$250	\$300	_____
Convention Package (Y)	\$200	\$250	_____
Nikkei Conference Only	\$50	\$75	_____
Nikkei Conference Only (Y)	\$25	\$50	_____
Individual Events			
Culmination Banquet	\$155	\$200	_____
Culmination Banquet (Y)	\$130	\$150	_____
Awards Luncheon	\$70	\$85	_____
Awards Luncheon (Y)	\$60	\$75	_____
JACL CU Golf Tournament	\$110	\$125	_____

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Please book hotel rooms at the Renaissance Hotel, (323) 856-1200 or online: www.jacl.org/convention

Please mail completed form and payment to:

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- Select **one** track for the 2011 Nikkei Conference:
- ___ Art and Culture
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- ___ U.S. - Japan Relations



for the RECORD

BY JOHN TATEISHI

The Son of the Rising Sun

The enduring image is one of smoke bursting forth from an explosion of power and torque and burning fuel and rubber as a rocket on wheels explodes from a standing start to the finish line a quarter mile down the track at close to 200 mph in fewer than eight seconds.

You can see the intensity in the driver's eyes through his goggles below his white helmet with the red *hinomaru* stripes and, on the side of the vehicle, through the smoke, the words "Sons of the Rising Sun."

That was in 1971 and the driver was Jimmy Ige of Culver City, among a very few Japanese Americans ever involved in competitive drag racing, and among even fewer to gain widespread recognition in this unique sport. Drag racing, like NASCAR, is uniquely American, but unlike NA SCAR, does not draw millions to its viewing audiences.

Drag racing in America is one of those rare endeavors where men, and a few women, risk their lives out of a pure love of going fast.

But it's more than just the speed: it's about tinkering with engines and car designs to get that one millisecond edge that will send the vehicle powering through G-forces to shave fractions of seconds that are recorded three figures to the right of decimal points.

Jimmy, a Sansei, was one of those guys. Cars were his life, as it seems to be for all those who enter the world of drag racing. Growing up, he was one of those kids who seemed to have an innate sense about cars and an incredible (to me, at least) knowledge about compression, torque, ratios, piston clearances, and all those things we used to call "car talk."

By the time we entered high school, Jimmy could take apart an engine and rebuild it into something better and more powerful. He was a skilled mechanic as well as a sharp designer, all of which served him well as he entered serious competitive racing. Together with his closest friend, Michael Sassa, he began to build a racing dragster that eventually would morph into a machine that could compete at the highest levels of racing in its class.

I knew Jimmy in elementary school after we had all returned from camp. He had been in Gila, I in Manzanar. We were

close friends and shared a lot in common: our fathers were gardeners and we hung out together at the playground. At school, we excelled in sports together, and we once figured out we could sell *onigiri* with *umeboshi* at lunch to the white kids for a dime each and made a killing until the school principal told us to stop our enterprise.

We remained close friends through high school but had already begun our separate journeys. He continued a deep interest in cars and built them for speed while I was drawn to other worlds.

In 1971, around the time he was traveling around the country in pursuit of quarter-mile speed records, my wife and I returned from living in Europe and had begun to carve out a path to the JACL and the redress campaign.

Jimmy and I have remained friends through all the years. Two old friends who first met in 1945 and have remained a part of each others' lives in one way or another.

His has been a life around cars. Not only speed, but also the elegance of it all. He once dismantled and completely rebuilt and restored a St. Claire (I think it was a 1925) and won first prize at the Concorde d'Elegance in Carmel, the prestigious international show piece of classic cars.

When I think about that, I'm amazed with his accomplishments, both the racing and restoring. When we were kids, he used to dream of going fast and of building beautiful cars, and he's done both. He once told me that if he died today, he would die a happy guy because he achieved every dream he ever had. He has a great family (his son, incidentally, is the only Asian Pacific American ever to be a crew chief at Indianapolis) and did his thing with cars.

Those who have been involved in the drag racing world for years know and appreciate who Jimmy Ige is, but if you were to ask any group of Japanese Americans, chances are that none would know that name.

I hope somewhere in the annals of JA history, someone has been smart enough to recognize the enormous achievement of this ordinary guy who is hardly ordinary. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.

'Those who have been involved in the drag racing world for years know and appreciate who Jimmy Ige ...'

If JACL is Old and Boring, Then Talk About Us Differently



By Phillip Ozaki

This may be the most important article you read to keep JACL going. I am one of your newest and youngest JACL staff and I write to you based on my first year of working on our membership program. Please read this. It'll help you help JACL.

Sometimes in JACL, we go through a conversation that goes something like this:

Joe JACLer: "Do you want to become a JACL member?"

Nancy Nottamember: "Um ... what do I get out of it?"

Joe JACLer: "Um ... you get access to the JACL Credit Union and JACL Health Care ..."

WRONG. Thanks Joe, you get one point for trying and two points for asking, but what you did wrong is talk about member benefits and NOT JACL's programs and impact. We need to talk about ourselves as a civil rights organization, not as bankers and insurance salesman.

What if Joe JACLer says this: "The JACL/OCA Leadership Summit trains 30 Asian American leaders on national policy making in D.C. Nancy, does this make you want to be a member?"

Joe's getting closer, but Nancy still won't understand what we do or why it's important. Joe needs to 1) tell a story that Nancy will remember and 2) let her know that she has the opportunity to make a difference with membership or a donation.

Let's try something different. I talk about the leadership summit in terms of my friend Matt Farrells from Minneapolis. At the summit, Matt learned how D.C. politics work. He went home and used his JACL training to lobby his U.S. Senators to sponsor the Congressional Gold Medal Bill. He did it successfully, and as we know, the bill passed. This wouldn't have been possible without Matt.

But what members need to know is that this wouldn't be possible without their membership. See the connection?! We couldn't train Matt and pass the bill without people like Nancy. Joe should say to Nancy: "Matt is an example of a leader empowered by our programs. The bill is an example of our advocacy wins. Your membership is a chance to support these causes."

What about the Educational Curriculum guides where we just did two teacher trainings about Japanese American and Asian American history in Denver and the

Twin Cities? I have to be honest, this sounds really boring. Let's turn how we talk about this on its head.

Mr. Nonjapanese is a teacher at Denver High. He attends JACL's teacher training workshop and is fascinated. Because of this, Wendy and her 25 classmates learn about the incarceration. They gain a deeper understanding of discrimination. See the connection?! JACL makes an impact on teachers, students and the public by getting our story told in schools. Members and potentials (like Nancy) need to know that their dues support this and make a difference.

Becoming a member or donating to JACL is not (exactly) about getting, it's about giving. This is an opportunity to give to a cause and make a difference. Yes, there are health care members and credit union members, but the fact is everyone who gives to JACL gets something out of it, more than they know. You get a nation that is more educated about the WWII incarceration.

So, is \$60 a year for membership asking a lot? Let's put it this way. Is \$60 worth Wendy's education about what happened to my grandparents during WWII? Is it worth Mr. Nonjapanese teaching a class of 5th graders? Is \$60 worth empowering Matt to lead his community in the Twin Cities? Is it worth honoring WWII vets like my grandpa with the Congressional Gold Medal?

When you talk about membership dues and donations by who is impacted, it doesn't sound like a lot. Does it?

Moving forward, I'm borrowing a phrase from JFK for you to use when you talk about JACL and ask someone to join: "It's not about what JACL does for you, it's about what your membership does for the community."

I need your help in telling more community stories. Please email me stories, leads, chapter newsletters, and more stuff at pozaki@jacl.org or mail to 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115. Older, younger, Asian, non-Asian, Japanese, non-Japanese, conservative, liberal, or whoever ... I want to hear from you. Your stories matter and will help us get more people like Nancy Nottamember to become Nancy Yessamember. I end by thanking Nancy and Joe for making a difference with their membership, as well as all of our members (Yes, you!). ■

Phillip Ozaki is the JACL membership coordinator.

Erika Fong 'Morphin' into a Pink Power Ranger

The iconic Power Ranger series that originally began some two decades ago as 'Mighty Morphin Power Rangers,' premiered its newest series 'Power Rangers Samurai'.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Pink was not always Erika Fong's favorite color, but after she joined up with the "Power Rangers Samurai" crew she has a newfound appreciation for the girly hue.

Fong, who is of Korean and Chinese descent, landed the role of the Pink Ranger on the Nickelodeon show, which premiered Feb. 7. Now the actress is smitten with her new home in New Zealand, where the series is being filmed, and the color pink.

"I will be honest pink wasn't always my favorite color, but it is definitely growing on me," Fong said from New Zealand where she is busy filming with the other four Power Rangers. "I find myself gravitating to pink items when I shop just because I wear it everyday on set."

Born and raised in Minnesota, Fong moved to Los Angeles, Calif. in 2004 at the age of 17. Fluent in Korean and Cantonese, Fong had a huge culture shock when she arrived at California's Venice High School with a heavy Minnesotan accent.

But she was determined to pursue her Hollywood dreams. The actress was busy balancing auditions, her full-time college schedule and caring for her two younger sisters. Her big break came when she landed the role of Mia, the Pink Ranger who relies on her turtle animal Zord.

She is now one of five Power Rangers who team up to fight evil villains on "Power Rangers Samurai," which is produced by Saban Brands. The *Pacific Citizen* caught up with Fong to find out how she's dealing with her new success and Pink Ranger super powers.

How did you land the role of Mia, the "big sister" to the Power Rangers?

Erika Fong: I auditioned for the role of Mia a few months before I got it. It was a long process and took many call backs to get it. I remember the day of our final call back. They had me stay behind after everyone had left to also read for the role of Emily, the Yellow Ranger. I was the only Asian American going for the role of Mia against many other beautiful ethnicities, and I was proud to represent being the only Asian American there to go for her role. Just days later, when I found out that I got the role, my mother cried and I screamed, 'I'm moving to New Zealand!' It's honestly been one of the best experiences of my life.

How is New Zealand? I understand you'll wrap up filming there this month.

Fong: I have officially fallen in love with New Zealand and feel so blessed and grateful to be working in such a beautiful country. The people here are incredibly humble and down to earth.

How much of the Pink Ranger's stunt work do you perform?

Fong: When I first moved to New Zealand, we went straight into stunt training on the second day of our arrival. We were trained by the best Japanese stunt men and women, who have been with Power Rangers all the way back since Mighty Morphin. I remember not being able to move just after the first week, but they whipped us into shape. I was raised learning Tae Kwon Do by my stepfather, who is an eighth degree black belt. It definitely has helped me in many ways.

Were you always a "Power Rangers" fan?

Fong: I was a huge fan of Power Rangers before taking the role. I remember getting off the bus from grade school and



PHOTO: SABAN BRANDS

Pink Ranger Mia has the ability to control the wind with her airway control, said the actress about her character.

I just couldn't miss the "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers." Kimberly, the Pink Ranger, was my favorite of course! But I specifically remember watching Mighty Morphin, while eating a snack, and doing homework. It was the highlight of my evenings at that age. It's quite surreal now and I would have never imagined at that age that it was possible for me to be the Pink "Power Ranger Samurai" someday.

Have you always dreamed of a career in showbiz?

Fong: I always knew I wanted to be involved in film or anything arts related where I could express myself. I've had a love for film all my life and knew I had a special appreciation for film at a really young age.

I was the kid that wasn't allowed to rent the new releases, but we always had family movie nights with some type of interesting film nobody had ever heard of. A night out at the movies with the family would be at an old vintage theater watching a classic Alfred Hitchcock flick. I ended up going to school for fashion and art at FIDM in Los Angeles while aspiring to be an actress as well.

The "Power Rangers Samurai" cast seems to get along really well. Can you share with me any funny behind-the-scenes moments?

Fong: One of the other cast members Brittany Pirtle, the Yellow Ranger, and I were both in this intense scene where she gets hit and is badly hurt. I was running to her and I found myself so immersed in the scene that I thought it was so real. When I was supposed to scream her character's name, Emily, I screamed 'Brittany!!!' and kept running to her and didn't even realize it. Yeah, that was quite funny.

What are some of the Pink Ranger's abilities/gadgets that you wish you could have?

Fong: Pink Ranger Mia has the ability to control the wind with her airway control. I think it would be pretty amazing to control the weather for any occasion you needed: perfect surf, a sunny day at the beach or a windy day to sail! One thing that Mia and I do share is our motherly characteristics. I have two younger sisters. And one thing that we do not share is that she is a terrible cook and I can

actually cook up a feast.

When you're not fighting villains on "Power Rangers Samurai," how do you spend your time?

Fong: I'm such a sucker for sports. I love anything sports-related where I can be a huge tomboy at times. Football season, basketball season, baseball season and hockey — I love it all. I've recently just gotten really into rugby, living in New Zealand. I always enjoy being active, surfing, camping, hiking — pretty much anything outside related.

Music is another love of mine. I've been playing the piano since I was 5 years old and love to work on new pieces when I get the time. I love to travel and hope to explore as much of the world as I can in my lifetime. On my down time I enjoy sketching, painting, and sewing. I would love to create a line of my own someday. Of course [I also enjoy] having a night on the couch watching a really good film just by myself or with loved ones. I find myself to be such a family person. Taking time to spend with my family is so important to me.

Did you struggle much in your journey to become an actress?

Fong: I was 17 years old and moved to L.A. in the middle of my senior year of high school from Plymouth, Minn. to pursue my dreams. It was definitely a journey driving all the way. It wasn't an easy move, but I needed to reach my dreams. Boy did I have a huge culture shock ahead of me.

I can only laugh about it now, but wow was that crazy. I struggled with auditions, while going to college full time, working and taking care of my sisters. It wasn't easy getting so many "no's" before a "yes," but the thing is I never gave up. I refused to give up no matter who got in my way and told me I couldn't do it. I believed. And soon enough things started to turn. I believe staying true to myself along the way has guided me. I remember promising myself eight years ago ... to always remember where I was from, to always carry my values with me no matter where I went in life, and to always treat people the way I would want to be treated. I think it's important to surround yourself with good people, friends and family. That's what has kept me grounded in this industry. ■

NY/SC Takes Part in Environmental Justice Youth Summit in New Orleans



Christine Munteanu, JACL Ford Program Fellow, plants marsh grass at Bayou Sauvage.

Part of the summit includes planting marsh grass in Louisiana's marshland.

Members of the National JACL Youth Student Council (NY/SC) put on their gloves and boots to help plant grass in Louisiana's marshland, just one of the activities during an Environmental Justice Youth Summit in New Orleans.

The two-day summit held May 28-29 provided an opportunity to better understand the environmental injustices faced by the local New Orleans community post Hurricane Katrina and more recently the BP Oil Spill. In particular, New Orleans East is predominately comprised of a large Vietnamese fishing community, many of whom were without work after the oil spill.

"It was great having the youth council literally getting down and dirty in the mud and water to plant marsh grass," said Devin Yoshikawa, National JACL youth representative. "I had a great time learning from local community members about the region and the effects that continue to linger from Hurricane Katrina and the BP Oil Spill."

In addition to working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to plant marsh grass, the participants attended a screening of "A Village Called Versailles", which shed light on the struggles faced by the "invisible" Vietnamese and New Orleans East community after Hurricane Katrina. The participants also took part in an environmental justice landmark tour that

included seeing the large toxic landfills that would have threatened the New Orleans East community's water supply if it had not been for the Vietnamese community fiercely protesting the landfills.

Darcy Taniguchi, a PhD candidate under the University of San Diego's oceanography program, presented on the biological effects of the BP oil spill. Following her presentation, the youth took part in a "clean up your own oil spill" activity in which they were given a budget and tools to clean up an oil spill in a pie pan.

"Through this summit we learned about the illegal landfill near the Vietnamese American community," said Rachel Seeman, Pacific Northwest District youth representative. "The city's lack of compliance to remove the dump shows just how evident socioeconomic and racial disparities still are in our society. I believe that the JACL can serve as a catalyst for this issue to be voiced and publicized throughout the nation. It is now our role to assist and partner with APA communities in need."

The Environmental Justice Youth Summit was sponsored by State Farm Insurance and Southwest Airlines. The summit was a collaborative effort of the JACL National Washington, D.C. staff and local New Orleans groups Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation and the Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association-New Orleans. ■

Apply Now for the John Moy, Southwest Airlines Congressional Internship Program

The JACL is calling for applicants for the John Moy and Southwest Airlines Congressional Internship Program.

Two interns will be selected to start this summer or fall for a two-month internship, according to the JACL Washington, D.C. office.

A stipend will be provided.

Congressional offices, yet to be determined, will determine the interns' tasks.

The internship program is made possible through the generous donation of John Moy, a longtime JACL member and supporter, and roundtrip tickets provided by Southwest Airlines, JACL's official airline.

The intent of the new program is to allow interns to learn and engage in policy, governmental affairs, and Asian Pacific American issues. ■

TO APPLY

Submit your application and resume to the JACL Washington, D.C. office:
JACL 2011 Internship
1850 M St. NW, Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20036
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
policy@jacl.org or
202/223-1240

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

New Hawaii Plates to Honor Fallen Service Members

HONOLULU—A new Hawaii license plate design is being created for family members of fallen soldiers.

Gov. Neil Abercrombie has signed into law a measure creating the new license plates, which will show a gold star surrounded by a purple circle and the words "gold star family" to the left of the plate number.

The plate will be available by Oct. 1 to children, parents, grandparents, spouses and siblings of fallen soldiers.

D.C. Police Continue Beefed-up Chinatown Patrols

WASHINGTON—The D.C. police department is entering its third year of a program aimed at providing a more aggressive presence in Chinatown, easily one of the city's busiest.

Police say the extra manpower has contributed to a drop in crime, at least in the immediate vicinity and in certain categories, and helped disrupt a gang. A side benefit has been closer collaboration between the community and the police, with merchants and condo owners swapping cell phone numbers with officers on patrol.

The program was implemented in 2009 in response to concerns from merchants, residents and visitors about nuisances and crimes including assaults and thefts. Now, 12 officers are assigned at night to Chinatown, their duties overlapping with part-time officers and Metro officers.

S.F. Sheriff Wants to Use New Immigration Policy

SAN FRANCISCO—If the San Francisco sheriff's plan becomes a reality, undocumented immigrants arrested for petty crimes won't be held in jail longer than necessary, even if U.S. immigration agents may want them detained for possible deportation.

Instead deputies will treat those eligible for release just like U.S. citizens: They will be cited to appear in court.

Under Sheriff Mike Hennessey's new policy undocumented immigrants who commit misdemeanors, such as disorderly conduct, trespassing or shoplifting, will not be held while the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) checks their status through a fingerprinting monitoring program.

Angela Chan, an attorney with the Asian Law Caucus, said 68 percent of the people deported under the Secure Communities program in California did not commit serious crimes.

Asian American Groups Lead Amicus Brief Against Utah's Copycat Immigration Law

SALT LAKE CITY—Members of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice have requested a Utah district court judge to issue an injunction that prevents Utah's new immigration enforcement bill, HB 497, from taking effect.

Nicknamed the "Show Me Your Papers" law, HB 497 was signed into law by Gov. Gary Herbert on March 15. The law compels all people within Utah — residents, visitors and tourists alike — to carry identification papers at all times to prove their U.S. citizenship or immigration status. Without papers, a person risks extensive investigation and protracted detention until his or her status is verified.

The *amicus* brief argues that the recently enacted HB 497 will disproportionately harm communities of color and encourage racial profiling.

Participating civil rights organizations include the JACL and the Asian American Justice Center.

Help Save Riverside's Historic Chinatown

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—The city's historic Chinatown has been selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a finalist in the 2011 This Place Matters Community Challenge, competing with sites from across the country for three cash awards. Winners will be determined by a public online vote through the month of June. Winners will be announced July 1.

Supporters are calling on APAs to vote for Riverside's Chinatown here: www.preservationnation.org/take-action/this-place-matters/community-challenge. If Riverside's Chinatown is awarded the prize, funds will support efforts to preserve the archeological remains for future academic study and create a Chinatown Memorial Park. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

WWII Nisei Vet Receives Distinguished Service Cross



The Army has awarded **Technical Sgt Shinyei "Rocky" Matayoshi**, the nation's second highest military honor for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross.

Matayoshi received the award at an induction ceremony at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes. The award is for valorous actions taken on April 7, 1945, in Italy when he led his platoon to assault and destroy three machine gun nests as they took Mt. Belvedere.

During WWII, the 87-year-old veteran joined the 442nd Regimental Combat team, one of the most decorated units in U.S. military history.

His initial Distinguished Service Cross citation was lost in a fire in 1973 at the Army's National Records facility.

'Lucky Ears' Author Wins Literary Award

Dr. Jean A. Lukesh, a Honolulu JACL member, has received the Independent Publisher Bronze Medal Award for penning the book, "Lucky Ears: The True Story of Ben Kuroki Nisei WWII Hero".

The competition included the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and seven European countries. There were 69 categories and 3,059 books in the competition.

"Lucky Ears" is a young reader's biography of Kuroki, a Nebraska-born JA who during WWII flew a total of 58 missions against both Germany and Japan.

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii to Honor Dr. Genshitsu Sen

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) will honor **Dr. Genshitsu Sen**, 15th generation grand tea master from Japan's Urasenke Tea School, during its annual Celebration of Leadership and Achievement Dinner July 23.

For the past 15 years, the leadership and achievement dinner has honored Hawaii's most influential leaders in the community.

Playwright Wins Loving Prize

Internationally acclaimed playwright **Velina Hasu Houston** has received the Mixed Roots Film and Literary Festival's Loving Prize, which honors leaders in the multiracial community.

Hasu Houston has written more than 30 plays including "Tea at Manhattan Theatre Club" and "American Dreams at Negro Ensemble Company".

The Loving Prizes are awarded each year to artists who have shown a dedication to celebrating and illuminating the mixed race experience.

MOCA Announces New Board Members

The Museum of Chinese in America in New York has announced the addition of three new members to its board of trustees: **Jason Sun**, **Theodore T. Wang** and **Frank H. Wu**, who will join the other 16 members of the board.

Sun, an artist and curator, has worked on exhibits including "The Actor's Image: the Japan-Virginia Society's C. Coleman McGehee Collection of Ukiyo-e Prints," which drew a large audience.

Wang is currently the director of U.S. One Delta Trading and co-chief operating officer of Global Equities One Delta Trading.

Wu, chancellor and dean of the University of California Hastings College of Law, has been a faculty member at Howard University and has also served as dean of the Wayne State University Law School in his hometown of Detroit. ■

Little Tokyo Gym Lease Gets OK



Supporters hope to bring Japanese Americans back to Little Tokyo with this project.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Little Tokyo's long dreamed about sports and activity center won the Los Angeles City Council approval May 17 for a long-term ground lease, giving backers the green light to start fundraising for the facility that many hope will bring Japanese Americans back to Little Tokyo.

The 38,000-square-foot center, named the Budokan (roughly translates as "martial arts hall") will be built on city-owned land on Los Angeles Street between Second and Third Streets. The center will feature a four-court gymnasium, community space and a rooftop garden with a jogging track.

The Budokan will receive a 25-year lease with an option to renew for another 25 years.

Project backers will be launching a \$22 million capital campaign to help pay for the cost of the facility, a 150-space parking structure and pre-development

costs. The Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) is sponsoring the project.

Community leaders have been fighting for a Little Tokyo gym for over two decades.

"The Budokan project has traveled a long road and after approximately 18 years, it now has a permanent home," said Bill Watanabe, LTSC executive director, in a statement.

Project supporters say a designated space for sports and recreation will attract the next generation of JAs to Little Tokyo.

After World War II, JAs began scattering throughout the region rather than living within the ethnic boundaries of Little Tokyo. The disconnect between the 125-year-old historic district and its people has been widening over the years.

In San Francisco's Japantown, the gym at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California had become a vibrant community center. Little Tokyo leaders want the same for their historic district.

JA sports leagues have continued to grow with over 10,000 participants just in the basketball leagues alone. ■

Fundraising Efforts Launched for Nisei to Attend Congressional Gold Medal Ceremonies in D.C.

A coalition of groups, including JACL, are hoping funds will be raised so the Nisei can be fittingly honored.

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

HONOLULU—A fundraising campaign has been launched to help ensure that Japanese American World War II veterans will be able to travel to Washington, D.C. later this year to attend a ceremony honoring their heroics with a Congressional Gold Medal.

Christine Sato-Yamazaki, the chairwoman of a coalition of 25 Japanese American veteran and civic organizations called the National Veterans Network, said the group wants to minimize expenses for the veterans and ensure they enjoy a "first class celebration" in the nation's capital.

"All of us in some way are beneficiaries of this important story and we owe a debt of gratitude to the men of the 100th, 442nd and MIS for their sacrifices and valiant service to this country," said Sato-Yamazaki, granddaughter of a 442nd veteran. "Because of the actions they took, we enjoy a life of equal opportunities, freedom and privileges that some from their generation did not have."

The group plans to hold a gala dinner and a memorial service around the time the medal is awarded.

So far, 370 veterans from 30 states have registered to go, Sato-Yamazaki said. The number includes 101 veterans from Hawaii.

The youngest of the veterans are in their mid-80s.

Many are now in their 90s.

The veterans volunteered to go to war even though they were branded "enemy aliens" and rendered ineligible for the draft. Some, particularly those from the mainland, enlisted while their families were detained in internment camps.

The 442nd Regiment, which absorbed the 100th Infantry Battalion, saw some of the most brutal fighting in the war. By the end of the conflict, it had become the most highly decorated military unit in U.S. history for its size and length of service.

Congress last year voted to award the medal collectively to those who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service during the war. President Barack Obama signed the legislation shortly afterward.

The Congressional Gold Medal is one of the highest civilian awards and is awarded to an individual or unit who performs an outstanding act or service that contributes to the security, prosperity and national interest of the United States. The medal is due to be presented this year at a ceremony hosted by House Speaker John Boehner. The House has yet to set a date for the event.

The National Veterans Network plans to organize a memorial service at the World War II memorial in Washington both for those who died in the line of duty and those who have died since the war. ■

Information on donating can be found at the group's website, www.nationalveteransnetwork.com.



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ESCORTED TOURS & CRUISES SCHEDULED FOR 2011

July 8-13	Yamato Boston & New York by Rail Tour – 6 days/5 nights visiting highlights in Boston as well as visiting Concord & Lexington and New York City sites.	Philippe Theriault
August 4-13	Yamato Canadian Rockies, with a difference – 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 <small>NEW DATES</small>	South Dakota, The Black Hills & Badlands with Collette Vacations – 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	Yamato Octoberfest Tour – 11 days/9 nights visiting Berlin, Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Munich.	Philippe Theriault
Sep. 26-Oct. 5	Yamato Eastern Canada Fall Foliage Tour – 10 days/9 nights visiting Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton.	Philippe Theriault
Oct. 1-13	Route 66 with Balloon Fiesta with Trafalgar Tours – 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	Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan – 15 days/13 nights visiting Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Hiroshima/Miyajima, Kyoto, Tokyo.	Peggy Mikuni
Oct. 31-Nov. 14	Yamato South Pacific Wonders with Collette Vacations – 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	The Heart of Texas with Collette Vacations – 9 days/8 nights visiting Austin, San Antonio, Bandera (dude ranch) and Fort Worth.	Sharon Seto
December 3-12	Yamato Christmas Markets of Europe Tour – 10 days/8 nights visiting Prague, Rothenburg, Dinkelsbuehl to Ulm, Neuschwanstein, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Salzburg, Vienna.	Philippe Theriault

* * *

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High School Seniors Receive JACL Berkeley Scholarships



Pictured (l-r) are: Lance Yanagihara (Union Bank), Dianne Fukami, Carolyn Adams, Alyssa Adams, Jaison Kimura, Noelle Fa-Kaji, Bryan Matsumoto Cormack and Alix Ching.

Pioneer Awards are presented to Carolyn Adams and Roy Matsumoto at the chapter's Awards Luncheon.

More than \$5,000 in scholarships were presented to four high school seniors at the Berkeley JACL chapter's annual Awards Luncheon. This year's winners are: Noelle Fa-Kaji, Alyssa Adams, Alix Ching, and Jaison Kimura.

Fa-Kaji, a senior at Berkeley High School who will attend Scripps College in the fall, was awarded the Bea Kono Memorial scholarship, the chapter's top award. She plans to study environmental sciences. Alyssa Adams, of Northgate High School who will enter UC Santa Barbara this fall, was also a scholarship recipient. In addition to her academic achievements, Alyssa volunteers her time at the Sojourn Multifaith Chaplaincy as well as the Special Olympics Bowling.

Ching, of Miramonte High School who will attend Boston University in the fall, is a PSAT National Scholar and a Gold Medalist in the National Latin Exam. Honored for her academic successes, Alix also volunteers her time with the Animal Rescue Foundation, St. Anthony's Foundation and the Key Club. Jaison, of Campilindo High School who will attend Claremont McKenna College and study economics, is a National Merit

Commended student. He also participated as a Peer Tutor and staff writer on his high school's newspaper.

Carolyn Adams and Roy Matsumoto were presented with Pioneer Awards, an award that honors individuals for their contributions to the JACL and to the community, at the Berkeley JACL luncheon. Carolyn was recognized for her outreach efforts to inform junior high students about the improper incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. Roy, also known as "Ranger Roy", 98, was recognized for his heroics in the Military Intelligence Service. His grandson, Bryan Matsumoto Cormack, accepted the award on his behalf.

Dianne Fukami, president of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC), provided an update on their fundraising efforts for victims of the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The Berkeley chapter has thus far contributed \$3,800 to these relief efforts.

Contributors to the scholarship program were recognized including: Union Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, Dan Date (former Pioneer Award recipient), Dr. Roger Ota and the Bea Kono Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The scholarship committee members include: Mark Fujikawa, KG Ouye, Neal Ouye, Al Satake, Tak Shirasawa, Sharron Sue, Alexandra Tagawa and Ron Tanaka (chair). ■

Ventura County JACL Leads Cleanup Effort at Japanese Cemetery

Every year, Ventura County JACL members help clean, pull weeds and maintain the integrity of the Oxnard Japanese Cemetery, a historic site where turn-of-the-century Japanese American pioneers were laid to rest.

It's been a tradition for over 65 years. Ken Nakano, the chair of the cleanup committee, donated drawings and Jeff Mayeda, of Jeff Flowers, sprayed weed killer.

The cemetery located on the corner of Pleasant Valley and Etting roads was once a segregated lot for JAs to be buried. The chapter is also planning to include more walking stones and fences along the backside of the cemetery. ■



Ventura County JACL board members Yas Umeda helps with the cemetery cleanup.

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FROM THE MIDWEST

JACL Campus Outreach

By Bill Yoshino



“Race seems to be everything, even when we try to reject this notion,” said one of the students attending JACL’s multiracial identity workshop held at the University of Minnesota on April 9. Those remarks and

the vigorous discussions by students attending JACL campus workshops this year were common.

With the strong encouragement of JACL National Director Floyd Mori, the staff has devoted extensive energy and resources to reach out and bring the message about the JACL to young people in the hopes that it will provide inspiration for them to care about our community and even to become involved with the JACL. AT&T has sponsored our highly successful Project Community programs in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Chicago where high school students attend a series of structured sessions on a variety of topics that provide them with a greater sense of their personal identity as well as the identity and history of our community. In Chicago, a version of this program is also available to 7 to 9-year-olds during the summer.

In addition to our Project Community programs, the JACL has been visiting colleges and universities as part of our Campus Outreach program for nearly five years. Our first forays were to universities near Chicago such as Northwestern and the University of Illinois. Since then, we have conducted workshops in virtually every corner of the United States including the University of Florida, UC Riverside, Seattle University and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

In 2011, with financial support provided by the UPS Foundation, JACL’s Ford Program Fellow, Christine

Munteanu and I presented workshops at Old Dominion University, at the East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference (ECAASU) at the University of Massachusetts, at the Midwest Asian American Student Union Conference in Minnesota and at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. Nearly 200 participants attended these workshops, which focused on either multiracial identity or anti-Asian sentiment and hate crimes.

Christine’s workshop, titled “Identity is not a Math Equation: Mixed, Multiracial and Multiethnic Identity”, addresses a growing trend in America, especially for our community. The workshop covers the history of mixed-race including terminology such as the “one drop” rule, the concept of “passing” and anti-miscegenation laws. Students ponder questions about who is Asian American and factors that affect identity. In observing this workshop, I’m always struck by what must be a feeling of great comfort for those of mixed-race or mixed-ethnicity who participate, because for many it’s their first opportunity to take part in this type of discussion.

Our hate crime workshop differentiates between hate crimes and hate incidents, and explores the history and causes of anti-Asian sentiment dating to the immigration of the Chinese in the mid-1850s. We devote a segment of the session to myths and stereotypes and we present scenarios where the participants make determinations about how they would react and respond to hate crimes.

I have no doubt about the value of our Campus Outreach program. From this program, we’ve identified individuals who later attended our JACL Collegiate Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference and who have served internships or fellowships with the JACL. We remain in contact by sending them updates about the work being done by JACL, and many serve as our campus liaisons, alerting us to hate incidents that occur at their schools. And most important, it leaves many with revelations about their history and themselves and about the importance of being involved. ■

Bill Yoshino is the JACL Midwest regional director.

Seabrook JACL Continues Rich Heritage



Seabrook JACL recently held its annual Keirokai (senior appreciation) event to honor local Japanese Americans who are 65 or older. The Keirokai has been a chapter tradition for over 60 years.

Each year, a group photo is taken of the attendees. The chapter has photos of this event going back to the late 1940s.

The oldest male at this year’s event was Hank

Furushima, and the oldest female was Mitsuko Omura. The Keirokai is held at the Seabrook Buddhist Temple, which was founded in 1945.

Seabrook is a small town in a farming district of southern New Jersey. Near the end of World War II, about 2,500 people of Japanese descent moved to Seabrook to work as crop pickers and workers in food processing plants. ■

American Holiday Travel

2011 TOUR SCHEDULE

CAPE COD & THE NEW ENGLAND ISLANDS (NEW TOUR)	JUL 10-16
Hyannis, Plymouth Rock, Cape Cod Railroad, Hyannisport, Boston, Ferry to Martha’s Vineyard, Newport-Rhode Island, New England Lobster Dinner.	
SOUTH AFRICA HOLIDAY TOUR	AUG 3-15
Cape Town, Wine Country, Kruger National Park, Table Mountain, Johannesburg, Livingston, Victoria Falls-Zambia.	
MT RUSHMORE-YELLOWSTONE HOLIDAY TOUR (NEW TOUR)	AUG 16-25
Rapid City, Badlands National Park, Mt Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Cody Buffalo Bill Museum, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Jackson, Salt Lake City.	
16TH PANAMERICAN NIKKEI ASSOCIATION (PANA) CONVENTION	AUG 31-SEP 4
Cancun, Mexico. Meet Nikkeis from North and South America.	
REFLECTIONS OF ITALY HOLIDAY TOUR	SEP 5-14
Rome, Assisi, Perugia, Florence, Venice, Lugano-Switzerland, Lake Como, Milan,	
SAN ANTONIO GET-AWAY TOUR	SEP 12-16
San Antonio, the historic Alamo Fort, Fredericksburg, Bandera, Cruise on the famous Riverwalk Canal.	
NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR (NEW TOUR)	OCT 7-14
Boston, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Day Trips on 3 Historic Trains, Boston City Tour, Casco Bay Cruise in Maine, Visit Sugar House & Mystic Seaport, Enjoy Lobster & Seafood Dinner, Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino.	
HOKKAIDO HOLIDAY TOUR (REVISED TOUR)	OCT 9-20
Lake Akan, Shiretoko, Abashiri, Sounkyo, Wakkanai, Sapporo, Otaru, Lake Toya, Hakodate	
OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR	NOV 7-16
Naha, Ishigaki Island, Taketomi Island, Yufu Island, Onnason.	
SANTE FE HOLIDAY GET-AWAY TOUR	DEC 4-8
Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Taos.	

2012 TOUR SCHEDULE PREVIEW

HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVALS TOUR	FEBRUARY 5-12
INDIA HOLIDAY TOUR	FEBRUARY 20-MARCH 5
JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM TOUR	APRIL 2-12
NEW YORK CITY GET-AWAY TOUR	APRIL 18-23
SOUTH AMERICA JAPANESE HERITAGE TOUR	MAY
SCANDINAVIA-RUSSIA HOLIDAY CRUISE	MAY 20-JUN 2
CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS HOLIDAY TOUR	JUNE 10-16
GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR	JUN 24-JUL 3
CANADIAN ROCKIES HOLIDAY TOUR	JULY 28-AUG 4
ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE-TOUR	AUGUST
MT. RUSHMORE-YELLOWSTONE HOLIDAY TOUR	AUG 21-30
ENCHANTING DANUBE RIVER CRUISE	SEPTEMBER 18-26
CHINA HOLIDAY TOUR	SEPTEMBER
JAPAN AUTUMN HOLIDAY TOUR	OCTOBER
MUSIC CITIES HOLIDAY TOUR	NOVEMBER 4-11
SPECTACULAR ANTARCTICA HOLIDAY CRUISE	DECEMBER

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GO·SEE·DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*



Isamu Noguchi: California Legacy
LAGUNA BEACH, CALIF.
June 12-Oct. 2
Laguna Art Museum
307 Cliff Dr.

The exhibit is comprised of four parts that examine the impact Isamu Noguchi,

an internationally celebrated artist and designer, had in California. His work included the South Coast Plaza sculpture garden and the garden at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo.

Info: www.lagunaartmuseum.org

EAST

National JACL Gala Awards Dinner
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sept. 29
J.W. Marriott
1331 Pennsylvania Ave., Northwest
Mark your calendar for the gala awards dinner, which in the past has celebrated champions of the community and the JACL.
Info: www.jacl.org

NCWNP

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Community Picnic
APTOS, CALIF.
June 25

Aptos Village Park
100 Aptos Creek Rd.
\$7/teens & adults; \$4/seniors & children 6-12; free for children under 5

GO!

Everyone is welcome to the chapter's picnic, which includes, races, senior bingo, lunch and the awarding of the Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship. The featured entertainment will be Watsonville Taiko.
Info: wsc.jacl@gmail.com or www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.org

Berkeley JACL's Baseball and Bento with the Oakland A's
OAKLAND, CALIF.
July 31, 1:05 p.m.

Oakland Coliseum
7000 Coliseum Way
\$22/person
Watch the A's take on the Minnesota Twins with Berkeley JACLers. Seats are close to home plate on the third base side of the field. Ticket price includes a bento lunch and water. Purchase tickets by sending checks for the total amount to Mark Fujikawa at 1402 Navellier Street, El Cerrito, CA. 94530.

Tickets will be mailed to the address printed on the check a week prior to the game.

Info: 510/232-0724

Tule Lake Committee Symposium on Terminology
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
Oct. 22

SEE!

Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California
1840 Sutter Street
Plan to attend a community-wide symposium to discuss the government euphemisms used to describe the involuntary and racial nature of the exclusion and imprisonment of the West Coast JA community during WWII. Confirmed speakers include: Karen Ishizuka, Tetsuden Kashima, Mako Nakagawa, Roger Daniels, Neil Gotanda, Don Hata and Rita Takahashi.
Info: www.tulelake.org

Silicon Valley JACL's Birthday Celebration & Lawn Bowling
SANTA CLARA, CALIF.
June 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Santa Clara's Central Park
909 Kiely Blvd.

Lawn bowling: \$10/person, \$25/family
Celebrate the chapter's second birthday with food, lawn bowling and games. The picnic will be held at the Arbor Center B in the park's southwest corner. The celebration is free to those who bring a dish that serves 10 people. To join in the lawn bowling, wear flat-soled shoes.
Register: Alice Horio at
alicehorlo@clerk.com

PNW

Spokane JACL's Undokai Picnic
SPOKANE, WASH.
July 17, 12-4 p.m.
Mirabeau Point Park

This is a family friendly event for JACL members and non-members. Bring your own food to eat, but free watermelon and snow cones will be provided. The event will also feature children and adult races for small prizes and raffle with prizes. Scholarships to graduating high school seniors or college students will also be awarded.
Info: www.spokanejacl.org

IDC

Salt Lake City JACL Rummage Sale
SALT LAKE CITY
June 18, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
National JACL Credit Union
3776 Highland Dr.

Rummage through treasures for a good cause. The chapter's rummage sale includes antiques, sports equipment and artwork. Proceeds go towards the chapter's scholarship fund.
Donation drop off location: National JACL Credit Union, 3776 Highland Drive (label items "SLC JACL Rummage Sale").
Info: www.jacl-utah.org

PSW

Go For Broke's 10th Annual Evening of Aloha
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.
Nov. 5

Beverly Hilton Hotel
9876 Wilshire Blvd.
This year, the gala dinner will celebrate the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the veterans of the 100th Infantry, 442nd Regiment, and Military Intelligence Service.
Info: www.goforbroke.org

DO!

Struggling Cities Exhibit
LOS ANGELES
June 11-July 31
Japanese American Cultural and Community Center

George J. Doizaki Gallery
244 S. San Pedro St.
Struggling Cities will be a part of Little Tokyo Design Week, a five-day festival celebrating the power and energy of cutting edge design and technology now emerging from Japan and its intersection with current trends materializing in Los Angeles.
Info: www.jacc.org or 213/628-2725 ext. 133

Riverside JACL's Annual Picnic
REDLANDS, CALIF.
June 26
Sylvan Park

Riverside JACLers, their family and friends, are planning a fun-filled day at the park. Raffle prizes are needed. To donate, contact Meiko Inaba at 951/682-8116.
Info: www.riversidejacl.org ■

Six Students Awarded Sequoia Chapter Scholarships



The Sequoia JACL recently honored six students. Pictured (l to r, top) are: Darryn Wong, Tze On Chow, Justin Hang, and Yuan Wen Teng; (l to r, bottom): Dhoreena Nguyen and Kelsey Sawamura.

The Sequoia JACL chapter recently honored six high school and college students at its annual

Scholarship Reception Program.

The graduating high school senior honorees were Kelsey Sawamura and Darryn Keiichi Wong. Kelsey, from Mountain View High School, will attend UC Santa Cruz in the fall, while Darryn, from Carlmont High School, will attend UCLA.

The Foothill College recipients were Tze On (Peter) Chow, who will transfer to UCLA in the fall, and Yuan Wen (Steven) Teng who will continue at Foothill College for one more year before transferring. The De Anza College recipients were Dhoreena Nguyen and Justin Hang. Both students will transfer to UC San Diego in the fall.

Dr. David Yoshida and his sister Patricia Yotsuya presented the Harry & Elsie Yoshida Memorial Award to Darryn Keiichi Wong for his outstanding school and community involvement. ■

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Former California Treasurer Matt Fong Dies

By *Pacific Citizen* and Associated Press

Former California state treasurer Matt Fong, a Republican who lost a challenge to Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer, died June 1 after a four-year battle with cancer. He was 57.

His wife, Paula Fong, told *The Associated Press* that her husband died at their home in Pasadena with family and their son by his side. Matt Fong was the son of March Fong Eu, who served 20 years as secretary of state and was the first Asian Pacific American elected to statewide office in California.

Matt Fong, an attorney and a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve, was elected state treasurer in 1994 and served one term. In 1998, he unsuccessfully challenged Boxer for her Senate seat. Boxer issued a statement commending Fong for a distinguished career of public service.

"In our Senate race years ago, Matt was a strong competitor and we debated passionately, but we always had respect for one another," Boxer said.

Gov. Jerry Brown, who served with Eu during his previous stint in the governor's office, expressed his condolences to the family. State senators adjourned during the June 1 session in Fong's memory and honored him for blazing the trail for other Asian American politicians.

After losing the U.S. Senate race, Fong went on to run his own consulting firm and served as counsel to the law firm Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton in Los Angeles, where he specialized in transactional law and governmental relations.

Paula Fong said her husband will be buried in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he attended the Air Force Academy. In addition to his wife and mother, Matt Fong is survived by his father, Chester Fong, his sister, Suyin Stein, daughter, Jade Fong, and son, Matthew Fong II. ■



Etsu Masaoka with her husband Mike.

Etsu Mineta Masaoka was a Stalwart JACL Champion

By *Pacific Citizen* Staff

Etsu Mineta Masaoka, a civil rights champion and dedicated JACL member who alongside her husband Mike Masaoka worked tirelessly to advance Japanese American causes through crucial times, passed away June 2. She was 95.

"Etsu, the wife of JACL icon Mike Masaoka and sister of Norman Mineta, is a JACL icon in her own right," said David Kawamoto, JACL national president.

Masaoka met her husband, a famed JACL leader, at the organization's 1941 national convention in Monterey, Calif. For decades, the husband and wife team helped create what author Bill Hosokawa called the JACL's "Golden Era" in his 1982 book "JACL: In Quest of Justice."

"For years, [Mike] Masaoka worked out of a tiny rented apartment in Washington with his typewriter on the dresser and Etsu was his secretary, his girl Friday, confidante and consultant as well as wife," wrote Hosokawa.

Even without her husband by her side — he passed away in 1991 — Masaoka was still a constant presence at national JACL events.

"It's very important," Masaoka told the *Pacific Citizen* last year about her longtime involvement in

the JACL. "It goes to show what can be done. [JACL] is an inspiration to young people to do the best they can."

During World War II, over 110,000 Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes to live in barbed wire camps run by the U.S. government. Masaoka's family, which included the future Sec. of Transportation Norman Mineta, were incarcerated at Heart Mountain, Wyoming.

In 1943, Masaoka boarded a train for Salt Lake City to marry Mike Masaoka, JACL's national secretary and field executive.

For their wedding ceremony, Masaoka, who wore a powder blue suit, was given away by then *Pacific Citizen* editor Larry Tajiri. The couple lived in a rented room until Mike Masaoka was inducted into the Army.

After the war, Mike Masaoka successfully lobbied for Issei naturalization rights and the repeal of Alien Land Laws, which prohibited Asian Americans from owning land.

"Etsu deserves an equal share of the credit for anything I may have been able to accomplish," Mike Masaoka later said.

"She and her husband, Mike, dedicated their lives to the JACL," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "We are very grateful for the life she has lived and the great example she has been to all of us." ■

Silicon Valley JACL Hosts Kimono Event



Partnering with Yu-Ai Kai, the Silicon Valley JACL hosted a kimono educational program and fashion show May 21 at the Akiyama Wellness Center in San Jose's Japantown.

At the event, John Marshall, a *katazome* dyer, helped educate attendees about the history of the kimono. George Kiriya, NBC Bay Area News reporter and Silicon Valley JACL member, emceed the event.

Rep. Mike Honda, also stopped by the event to chat with attendees and shop at the vintage kimono area.

The fashion show featured members of Yu-Ai Kai, a non-profit senior center, and the Silicon Valley JACL members dressed in their own kimono, *yukata*, *haori* or other traditional Japanese-wear from the Nichi Bei Bussan, a San Jose-based store owned by Arlene Damron. ■

Richard Yoshikawa: Pioneer in San Joaquin County Politics

Richard Shizuo Yoshikawa, a photographer, JACL leader and the first Asian Pacific American to serve on California's San Joaquin County and the San Joaquin Delta Community College Board of Supervisors, died May 29. He was 91.

In 1964, he joined the San Joaquin Delta Community College Board. Ten years later, then-Gov. Ronald Reagan appointed Yoshikawa, the son of Issei parents, to a post on the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors. Yoshikawa was subsequently elected to multiple terms.

"He began his political life in 1964 and opened the door for other Asians to follow," said his daughter Aeko Yoshikawa, who is Stockton JACL's membership chair. "He also kept an eye out for the Japanese American community."

As a supervisor, Yoshikawa helped to pass a 1981 resolution that called on a presidential commission to consider awarding financial compensation to Japanese Americans who were incarcerated by the government during World War II after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

During the war, Yoshikawa and his family were incarcerated at Rohwer in Arkansas. At Rohwer, the avid photographer who studied photography at



Richard Yoshikawa at his San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors swearing-in ceremony.

Stockton Junior College, brought his camera with him to camp. His candid photos have been kept in a special collection at University of the Pacific and are part of the university's online archive.

Yoshikawa was also a longtime JACL leader. He served as Stockton JACL president in 1959 and in his last years of active participation, he helped the chapter raise funds as the *Pacific Citizen* Holiday Issue chair by soliciting local ads.

His memorial service was held June 16 at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Stockton. ■

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MORI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Council of which I was asked to be a member. Meetings were recently held at their headquarters in Philadelphia.

After the meetings with Comcast, my wife and I attended the Eastern District Council meeting in New Jersey at which Toshi Abe, EDC governor, presided. The meeting was held at Medford Leas, which is a community for senior residents. Since it is now the home of Hiro and Grayce Uyehara, who were long time JACL leaders who worked on the passage of Redress, I was able to visit them along with their son Paul Uyehara and grandson Kaz Uyehara, who were at the EDC meeting. A photo of Grayce was placed on Facebook (with Paul's permission).

John Fuyuueme, a long time resident of Seabrook, New Jersey, who now lives in Philadelphia, was at the EDC meeting representing the Seabrook Chapter because their co-presidents, Sharon Yoshida and Lenore Wurtzel, were busy preparing for the chapter's annual Keirokai. The event which honors people 65 and older was being held later that day. Since we had no plans for the evening, John made arrangements for us to attend. The Seabrook Chapter has been holding this event for over 60 years and has photos of attendees at the Keirokai going back to the 1940s.

The Memorial Day weekend was spent with the JACL National Youth/Student Council in New Orleans in conjunction with the new JACL chapter being formed there. This Youth Summit was sponsored by State Farm and Southwest Airlines. The young people

were instructed by Darcy Taniguchi on environmental affairs and hosted for dinner by Father Vien Nguyen (who will be receiving an award at the JACL convention). The youth also participated in a service project of planting marsh grass in deep mud and getting extremely dirty. They had fun with a "once in a lifetime opportunity". Special thanks to Matthew Farrells, Devin Yoshikawa, Leslie Toy, and Jean Shiraki along with all the participants.

Thanks again to all those who have donated to the victims of the Japan disasters through the JACL/Direct Relief International effort. Many individuals and chapters have made a big impact in supporting this program.

The national JACL staff is busy working on your behalf. Phillip Ozaki works hard on membership and Clyde Izumi on finances. The regional directors have major assignments besides helping with and being involved with the affairs of their chapters and districts. Bill Yoshino, of the Midwest District, has the responsibility for working on hate crimes and other civil rights issues. Karen Yoshitomi, Pacific Northwest District, is our staff person over the national conventions. Patty Wada, Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District, is over the scholarship program. This is in addition to their many other responsibilities. They and the other staff members are dedicated professionals of whom you can be proud.

In addition to their regular duties, all members of the staff are diligently working on the convention. Hope to see you at the convention in Hollywood. Thanks for your support of the JACL. ■

'They had fun with a "once in a lifetime opportunity".'

Houston JACL Co-hosts Screening of '442'

The chapter also announces its 2011-2012 executive board.



Houston JACLer Glen Gondo and Floyd Mori.

The Houston JACL recently co-hosted a screening of the documentary film, "442: Live With Honor, Die With Dignity", at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. On hand to introduce the film and conduct a Q&A afterwards was JACL National Director Floyd Mori who appears in the film.

The Houston JACL presented the film in conjunction with the Museum of Fine Arts Film Department, Asian Pacific American Heritage Association (APAHA) and the Consulate General of Japan at Houston.

The film tells the stories of the heroic 442nd Regimental Combat Team who fought during World War II even while many of their family members remained behind barbed wire fences of the incarceration camps. Despite their hardships, the 442nd became the most highly decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of the U.S. military.

"The film was particularly

poignant to me as experiences which I had never heard before were related by our good family friend, Nelson Akagi, as well as from Lawson Sakai and others," said Mori. "The pain of war is hard to overcome and yet they also endured the shame of ridicule and bigotry. Much of the achievements of Japanese Americans over the years are owed to the bravery and courage of these World War II veterans."

The Houston JACL also announced the officers for their 2011-2012 board. They include: Gary Nakamura, president; and officers Susan Annoura, Dr. Abbie Grubb, Howard Lindsay and Daniel Watanabe.

The board of directors include: Koh Annoura, Darlene Hirasaki, George J. Hirasaki, Colleen Morimoto, Charlie Medlin, Joyce Medlin, Sut Oishi, Patricia Rumble and Linda Toyota. ■

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