

SEPT. 2-15, 2011



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



Chris Tashima  
plays Sei Fujii who  
was prohibited  
from practicing law  
because he was  
an 'alien ineligible  
for citizenship.'

## LIL TOKYO REPORTER

The film tells the story of  
Issei newsman Sei Fujii.

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PHOTO: TOYO MIYATAKE



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10 years after the  
Sept. 11th attacks.



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APA youth and  
social smoking.



**PAGE 9**

Blue Scholars and  
blue collar music.





# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## JACL Must Unite All APAs



I very much appreciated the articles by columnist James Kumpel ("The JACL Should Pursue Change We Can ALL Believe In") and Bill Yoshino ("A Program That Inspires") that appeared in the *Pacific Citizen's* July 1-14, 2011, issue.

Kumpel's column reflects my sentiments: "...glomming onto other groups' signature issues ... represents a sad attempt to be 'relevant' on issues that go beyond the scope of the JACL's mission. Becoming a virtual mouthpiece of the Democratic Party on health care, the environment, the budget, and other non-civil rights issues is certainly unbecoming of a non-partisan organization dedicated to representing the greater good for all AAs."

During the last three decades one or more members of my immediate family have been members of the JACL for one reason or another. One reason is that I would like my posterity to understand and appreciate their ethnicity and heritage as well as associate with other Japanese Americans and Asians. To that end I found Yoshino's article interesting and informative. I support JACL's involvement in programs such as JACL's Project Community as well as the views in Kumpel's article.

All 10 of my grandchildren are Hapa. Our local JACL chapters (Salt Lake, Wasatch and Mt. Olympus) have done a good job of providing many of these experiences and in meeting the needs of our community. As a family we have enjoyed participating in these activities but have hesitated to embrace activity of the national JACL.

The reason we have not utilized the couple or family membership options is because national JACL and the *Pacific Citizen* have not

represented our views of interest. If JACL will follow Kumpel's advice and focus "on the elements that unite AAs, the JACL will be recognized as trusted advisers and partners" and I will be more able to support it in every way.

Cheryl Mano  
Draper, Utah

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## Special Food Issue: Yummy!



Whoever submitted the strawberry angel food cake recipe in the special Food Issue (*P.C.*, June 3-16, 2011), thanks. It turned out really good. The first recipe I tried had me punch holes with a straw in the angel food cake and add Jell-O through that. Needless to say, it didn't turn out well. I'm also going to make the crab and

cucumber salad roll for our potluck dinner this Sunday. Enjoyed the issue.

Gordon Yoshikawa  
Cincinnati JACL

\*\*\*

## Compliments to the P.C. Team

I must tell you that I enjoy reading the *Pacific Citizen* so much more! The format is easier to read and appealing and the articles are a definite improvement and so interesting. Please pass my compliments to the deserving team!

Grace Masuda  
Greater L.A. Singles JACL

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

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## COMMENTARY

## JA WWII Experience is about 'American Concentration Camps'



By Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California

We were recently made aware that the American Jewish Committee (AJC) had requested that the JACL disapprove a proposal to utilize the term "American concentration camp" to describe the World War II incarceration of over 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry. In a June 30 e-mail to the JACL, the AJC contends that the use of the term "concentration camp" to describe the WWII Japanese American experience "suggests equivalence with the fate of European Jewry that is both untrue

and will not go down well with much of the Jewish community."

We respectfully disagree.

The JA community has never attempted to equate their WWII experience in America with the horrors perpetrated by the Nazis against European Jews, gypsies, Poles, and other groups deemed undesirable. There is no comparison between the violent death of less than ten JAs in America's prison camps and the slaughter of six million Jews and four million other victims in

prisons run by the Nazis

However, there is one area where both the American and Nazi governments used similar methods to cover up what they were doing: they used euphemisms to describe their "programs" against their minority victims. The Nazis used terms like "emigration," "evacuation," "relocation," "resettlement," and "final solution" to cover up the wholesale murder of millions. Similarly, the American government used terms like "non-alien," "evacuation," "assembly center," and "relocation center" as misleading terms to

describe what they really were, respectively: *American citizen*, *forced removal*, *temporary prison*, and *concentration camp*.

The term "internment camp" has also been misused by the government as well as members of our own community. "Internment camp" has a very specific meaning: internment camps are used to imprison enemy aliens of countries that are at war with the "host" country. During WWII, thousands of aliens of Japanese, German and Italian ancestry were imprisoned by the Justice Department in several camps known as "internment" or "justice camps." Prior to and during their forced removal, the American government tried to marginalize JA citizens by repeatedly referring to them as "non-alien" in many of their public pronouncements, including the infamous "Instructions to All Persons of Japanese Ancestry" notices that ordered JAs to report to departure points prior to their

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### JACL MEMBERS Change of Address

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To avoid interruptions in delivery, please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)



# On 10th Anniversary of Sept. 11 JA, Muslim American Friendship Grows

**JACL was the first national organization to publicly support Arab and Muslim Americans after the terrorist attacks. From there an indelible bond has been created.**

**By Christine McFadden**  
Correspondent

John Tateishi was in his car in California when he first heard news of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the radio. Knowing the adverse reaction this could have against Arab and Muslim American communities, Tateishi, who was JACL national director at the time, took immediate action. He turned his car around.

“As soon as the FBI announced that this had all the markings of a Middle Eastern terrorist attack and began to identify the first list of the terrorists, I knew there would be a reaction against the Arab and Muslim communities,” said Tateishi.

He issued a press release to every major news outlet in the country urging the nation not to scapegoat Arab and Muslim communities “because of their racial similarities to the terrorists,” and contacted government authorities to remind them of the victimization of Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor.

In the midst of the emotions of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, JACL was the first national organization in the country to make a public statement and the first to publicly offer support. From that initial support began a relationship between the two communities that has been growing ever since.

A decade later, this relationship remains strong.

According to members from both communities, this bond has brought with it positive results in protecting civil rights and educating the public to ensure that Arab and Muslim Americans avoid the same mass incarceration that JAs endured during World War II.

“It made a significant difference,” said Zahra Billoo, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) San Francisco Bay Area chapter, about the JACL’s immediate support after Sept. 11. “It carried through the message that our country needed to learn from our past experiences.”

Ten years after the terrorist attacks brought these communities together, JACL chapters and American Muslims across the country continue to work in partnership on programs that seek to empower and educate community members as well as learn from each other’s shared histories, Billoo said.

## Expanding the Relationship Through Bridging Communities

Among the programs currently in place is Bridging Communities, one of the initiatives by the JACL, Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR) and CAIR to unite the two communities.

The program brings together 40 high school students from JA and Muslim American communities and fosters cross-cultural interaction through discussion, field trips and pilgrimages, such as to an Islamic mosque and to the Manzanar concentration camp.

“In each local community, the Bridging Communities program has not only opened up a dialogue between the JA and American Muslim community organizations, but it is a dialogue that, thanks to the program, is now sustained year round,” said Alex Margolin, PSW JACL’s program associate of the education and interpretation programs.

Since its inception, the program has grown in size, doubling in Los Angeles and even establishing a second program in Los Angeles this past year specifically for returning students. The program additionally expanded into Seattle and San Francisco.

“Once many of the participants go through the program,



Muslim American youth visit Manzanar as part of the JACL’s Bridging Communities program.

they don’t want to leave,” said Margolin.

Another possible future expansion, Margolin said, is the inclusion of other minority groups into the program.

In addition to Bridging Communities, CAIR San Francisco has worked with Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP), participates in annual “Day of Remembrance” events to mark the signing of Executive Order 9066, and has even honored JAs at CAIR’s annual banquets.

JACL additionally offers “What It Means To Be An American” workshops for teachers that incorporate both the JA post-WWII experience and the post-Sept. 11th Arab and Muslim American experience.

The JACL curriculum guide was recently revised to include “a section on the history of the Arab and Muslim American experience in the United States with a special focus on the manner in which the events of Sept. 11 affected that community, just as the attack at Pearl Harbor affected our community,” said Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest regional director. The next workshop is scheduled for Oct. 18 at the Illinois Holocaust Museum.

Other initiatives, such as panels and discussions, have also been frequent in the Asian Pacific American community.

As the tenth anniversary of terrorist attacks approaches, the Los Angeles-based Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) is hosting the Sept. 8 event “10 Years Later: 9/11 and its Impact on the Asian American Community.”

“We expect our ‘10 Year Later’ program to be insightful and thought-provoking,” said Mark Yoshida, staff attorney for APALC’s immigration and citizenship project. “It will be a chance for us to see how far we’ve come (or not come) since 9/11.”

## Ten Years Later, Ten Years Stronger

The relationship established between the JACL and Arab and Muslim American communities is something both special and strong, said Tateishi. While civil rights organizations often build coalitions with other networks and groups with mutual concerns, he says the circumstances of this relationship put it into a separate category.

“But there was something very different about the situation with the Arab and Muslim communities: they were in a very

similar situation as JAs were following Pearl Harbor, and because we knew of the dangers of isolation, as a community we were determined that they would not stand alone,” he said. “It was our moral obligation to stand with them because we had gone through a very similar situation 60 years earlier.”

He notes the increased involvement between the two communities as well as the increased membership within the JACL of Arab and Muslim Americans.

“There’s a closeness between our communities today that continues as a result of post-Sept. 11,” he continued. “Before the tragic events of Sept. 11, we literally had no connection or relationship with the Arab or Muslim groups, but it’s now an ongoing relationship, and it’s made us both stronger and more sensitive to who and what we are as citizens of this nation.”

Billoo, of CAIR, agrees.

“The allied relationship is continually important as we move forward together towards the 10th anniversary of 9/11,” she said. “This tragedy and the subsequent civil rights erosions impacted all of us. Individually our communities are small, but together our collective voices can move us towards positive change.”

In the days and months following Sept. 11, Tateishi received reports on a daily basis that JACL chapters “played an important role in helping assuage some of the anger and frustration people were feeling.” He was told of specific instances of JACL members standing at mosques “calling for calm and reason” that “did much to help prevent outbreaks of violence.”

As the 10-year anniversary of Sept. 11 approaches, both communities remember the tragic deaths that occurred as well as the birth of a cross-cultural relationship that it is hoped will continue to grow in the future.

“I think there is always room for growth, but the relationship between the communities has progressed immensely,” said Billoo. “The JA community’s move to support American Muslims immediately following 9/11 created an unshakeable goodwill, upon which we have had the opportunity to build for nearly a decade.” ■

## On the Web:

[www.jaclpsw.org/Bridging\\_Communities\\_Program.html](http://www.jaclpsw.org/Bridging_Communities_Program.html)  
[www.jacl.org/edu/education.htm](http://www.jacl.org/edu/education.htm)

# Asian Pacific American Youth and Social Smoking



PHOTO: CHRISTINE FUKUSHIMA

Social smoking among Asian Pacific American youth is on the rise.

**Though smoking rates in the United States have declined 50 percent from 1965 to 2009, a new phenomenon of “social smoking” has been increasingly recognized as a problem in the APA youth community.**

**By Christine Fukushima**  
Contributor

R.J. Flores has never been a pack-a-day kind of girl.

In fact, for the past year and a half she has smoked fewer cigarettes than the proverbial pack-a-day. The 20-year-old would not even be counted as a “moderate/heavy smoker” — the type of smoker that most cessation (quitting) programs target — in tobacco statistics adhering to the criteria used to define the term.

“None of my friends smoked in high school. My grandfather actually died from lung cancer when I was really young so it was kind of a scary thing,” said Flores, explaining why she had never even considered smoking until college.

But after being introduced to “spliffs” (a joint containing marijuana and tobacco) in college, Flores tried her first cigarette and has been smoking tobacco ever since — though only two or three times a day.

With her “light” smoking habits, Flores is just one example of the growing trend of Asian Pacific Americans, particularly youth and young adults, who are considered social smokers.

According to the American Lung Association, APAs have the lowest smoking rates among adults of all racial/ethnic groups.

In 2008, 9.9 percent of APAs smoked compared to 22 percent of non-Hispanic whites, 21.3 percent of non-Hispanic blacks and 15.8 percent of Hispanics.

However, multiple studies, including one conducted in 2009 by Dr. Elisa Tong of the University of California, Davis Cancer Center and her colleagues, caution that statistics like these regarding the APA smoking rates may not tell the entire story of the dangers that smoking still poses to APA youth in particular.

“People don’t understand light and intermittent smoking very well and all the current national guidelines for smoking are based on heavy smoking,” said Dr. Tong.

Flores and other APA light and intermittent smokers represent a different profile of smokers according to Rod Lew,

executive director of Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL), which is one of the Center for Disease Control’s national networks for APA tobacco control.

“[This is a] very important issue to look at knowing that many of our communities may actually have a higher percentage of light and intermittent smokers than originally thought,” said Lew.

“Traditional cessation methods have been developed with the assumption that smokers are heavy smokers. We need to look at a different profile of smoker and how to best reach them,” he added.

Dr. Tong, who heads APPEAL’s data and research subcommittee, agrees.

She also points out that prior research has shown that people who smoke five cigarettes a day or less don’t have the same qualities of addiction that moderate/heavy smokers demonstrate, which makes it difficult for medical providers to prescribe treatments.

Though the trend of light and intermittent smoking is becoming increasingly recognized as a health problem, “besides telling people it’s not good for you we don’t really have good ways [for] providers ... to deal with this,” said Dr. Tong. “You don’t give them nicotine patches necessarily. There needs to be other ways to address this.

She explained that light or intermittent smoking can still lead to serious health problems.

Though cancer, which is dose-dependent, does not figure heavily into the dangers of light or intermittent smoking, “cardiovascular and pulmonary disease is what we most worry about,” she says.

R.J. Flores knows what she’s referring to. Though the physically active and constantly busy college student only smokes her two to three cigarettes a day, she says she has still felt the detrimental effects on her general health.

“[It’s] really sad to say because I’ve noticed it and I still continue to do it but it’s more difficult to run. I don’t know necessarily if my immune system has gone down because of it or anything but ... I wheeze a lot more,” she said.

In the study, Dr. Tong defined moderate/heavy smoking as 10 or more cigarettes per day, light smoking as zero to nine cigarettes per day and intermittent smoking as non-daily smoking.

After interviewing 479 APA smokers in California, Tong

and her colleagues found that most were more likely to be light and intermittent smokers compared with Caucasians. These APA smokers were also more likely than moderate/heavy smokers to be women and highly educated.

The reason why APAs are more likely to be light and intermittent smokers most likely has to do with a combination of biological and behavioral factors, says Dr. Tong, who first became interested in the topic after doing a college study abroad program in Asia where smoking rates are generally much higher than in the United States.

Though only part of the picture, prior research has shown that “slower nicotine metabolism and cotinine clearance may help explain why APAs are disproportionately lighter smokers”; in particular, Chinese American smokers have been shown to have a lower intake of nicotine per cigarette than Caucasians. This biological factor has implications for the ease of smoking addictedness among APAs.

Tighter restrictions on cigarette consumption, such as the ban on smoking near restaurants in California, also factors into the new phenomenon of light and intermittent smoking, says Dr. Tong.

But “social smoking,” or smoking cigarettes in social settings such as a party or with a group of friends remains a popular reason why light and intermittent smoking is increasingly popular among APA youth.

K.P. Limon, 21, smokes even less frequently than her friend R.J. because she only smokes at parties with friends, typically APAs who are also light or intermittent smokers. While there, the amount of cigarettes she smokes is directly relative to the amount of alcoholic drinks she has, she says.

“It’s a fun activity and it’s kind of weird if you hang out with your friends and they’re all smoking and you’re not ... but no one really pressures anyone to smoke. I guess it’s like a subtle subconscious peer pressure,” said K.P.

She’s noticed that many of her APA friends who don’t smoke regularly want to smoke with her at parties or in other social settings.

And even though R.J. would not say she is addicted to cigarettes, she does admit that her “high-stress” life makes it difficult for her to get through a day without one. Plus, she values the social opportunities that smoking has given her.

“I kind of wish that I had never started smoking for health reasons but [in] every other aspect, smoking has, socially and stress-relieving wise, it’s [had], I wouldn’t necessarily say a positive impact, but not a bad one.” ■



# Keeping JA History Newsworthy in ‘Lil Tokyo Reporter’

Set for release in spring 2012, “Lil Tokyo Reporter” tells the story of Issei Sei Fujii, a reporter who defended the Japanese American community and was part of a generation often forgotten in the laurels of civil rights history.

By Christine Fukushima  
Contributor

With Depression-era drama, violent run-ins with gangster gamblers, stabbings, shootings, Supreme Court battles, a dramatic death — and not just one, but two scandalous lovers — Sei Fujii’s life has the makings of a juicy soap opera, or at least an interesting documentary.

“Sei Fujii lived spectacularly and died spectacularly. It’s like an opera,” says Fumiko Carole Fujita, a founding member of the Little Tokyo Historical Society, or LTHS.

Along with other volunteers from the LTHS, Fujita uncovered the story of the Issei civil rights advocate while researching the Japanese Hospital in Los Angeles for a program at the Japanese American National Museum, or JANM.

Set to release in spring 2012, the live action narrative short film “Lil Tokyo Reporter,” which is under fiscal scholarship by Visual Communications, will tell a fraction of Fujii’s dramatic story.

It will open with his creation of newspaper *Kashu Mainichi* in 1935, through which he warned local JA farmers of the gangsters who ran the “Little Tokyo Club,” an exploitative gambling lounge in Los Angeles’ Japanese American community, Little Tokyo.

Enticing the naive farmers with “the best food in Little Tokyo” and free sake, the gambler gangsters successfully burned the naive farmers with rigged card games until Fujii intervened.

“So those gamblers tried to kill him — this is a true story — but he ended up surviving because of his expertise in judo and was found on Second Street near First in front of the New York Hotel by a pimp of all things,” said Fujita, who is the executive producer of “Lil Tokyo Reporter.”

The pimp then took him to the Japanese Hospital, which Fujii had helped found in 1929 after JAs were denied access to other hospitals during a flu epidemic.

He later died in 1954 while conducting a funeral for a friend in the community, 51 days after being granted the citizenship he had fought for during the 51 years he lived in the United States.

When 25-year-old Jeffrey Gee Chin heard about the Issei reporter and civil rights advocate from the JANM program, he knew that it could make for an interesting and informative film about early JA history.

So en lieu of the obvious choice of a documentary, the young filmmaker decided to make his directorial debut with a live action narrative short film that would both showcase the talent of Asian Pacific American actors and inspire others in the APA community and beyond to take seriously the contributions that APAs have made to history — and Hollywood.

In an effort to recruit a strong cast, Chin started with Academy Award winner Chris Tashima, who jumped at the chance to play such an important and interesting figure in JA history.

The Issei man’s struggles reminded Tashima, he says, of his own grandfather’s experience as a Japanese immigrant.

“I always identify with my grandfather on my mother’s side,” Tashima added, “His journey has always been very interesting to me and that of all of the Issei that were part of the wave that came through up until 1924 ... what they did [is] why we still have Little Tokyo.”

Plus, Tashima says, being part of “Lil Tokyo Reporter” gives him the opportunity to tell a story about a generation that contributed greatly to the history of civil rights, but is



PHOTO: TOYO MIYATAKE

Actor Chris Tashima plays Issei Sei Fujii, a newspaper man who fought for civil rights, in the new film “Lil Tokyo Reporter.”

rarely recognized for it.

Fujii’s contributions to civil rights extend beyond his role in creating the Japanese Hospital and protecting the JA Little Tokyo community from gangsters.

While most of his fellow JAs were sent to internment camps during World War II, Fujii boarded a bus to an F.B.I. detention center after his outspokenness landed him on the “Enemy Alien” list.

After the war “everybody else was able to come to the West Coast but Sei Fujii was only released in March of ‘46,” said Fujita. “And one of the first things he did was buy a piece of land in East L.A. to challenge the Alien Land Law.”

The law prohibited “aliens ineligible for citizenship” (namely, Asian immigrants such as Fujii) from owning land or property.

Fujii, who had graduated from the University of Southern California law school in 1911 but was not allowed to practice because he was not a citizen, took his case to the California Supreme Court where he prevailed, thus enabling Issei to become citizens and own land.

Fujii’s opera-like story, Chin’s enthusiasm and Tashima’s prestige persuaded other talented APA actors and actresses to sign onto the project, including 2010 Nisei Week Queen Lani Nishiyama as the 1935 Nisei Week Queen and Japanese actor Eijiro Ozaki as bookstore owner Mr. Sato.

“Gilmore Girls” actress Keiko Agena adds even more drama to Fujii’s story as his married love interest, Mrs. Sato. To escape Mr. Sato, who refused to grant his wife a divorce, the newspaperman took Mrs. Sato to Japan, where they had two sons.

He then “left her there with the intent, I think, of bringing her back to America but he ... started working and he met another married woman [named Mrs. Matsuo],” said Fujita. He married Mrs. Matsuo in 1947, a year after Mrs. Sato died, and had two children.

“It’s an interesting trait, I guess, of a lot of great leaders. [They] weren’t as great family men,” said Tashima.

With its strong cast and intriguing subject, the filmmakers

want to show Hollywood that there is enough talent in the APA acting pool and enough interest in early APA history to make a feature-length movie about Fujii commercially and financially feasible in the future.

“Filmmaking is expensive,” Tashima added, “It’s difficult to play the game at ... a studio level when your main characters basically are minorities. Because the studios view that as a risk and generally find it easy to turn that down or change [the lead] to a white person.”

But with a life that contains “enough material for a series of movies”, Tashima and Chin hope that “Lil Tokyo Reporter” will inspire major studios to take the risk.

Close to \$48,000 has been raised for the film’s production costs thanks to a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP), fundraising efforts at community events like obon festivals, the 2011 JACL convention and a large donation from Fujii’s home prefecture in Japan.

Chin says that “Lil Tokyo Reporter”, which is set to start filming in September, will be screened at Visual Communications, the Los Angeles Asian American Film Festival and other larger film festivals.

He is also hopeful that “Lil Tokyo Reporter” will qualify for the Academy Awards category of Live Action Short Films, exposing an important story in APA history to a broader audience.

“With this film we hope to open a lot of doors not just for the Japanese American community but for the entire Asian American community,” says Chin.

“Until we establish strong roots for the Asian American community, no one’s going to take us seriously. Until we establish in the media that we were here, our communities were here and we were working together to provide opportunity, that respect will not exist because people won’t know.” ■

To donate to the film, go to <http://www.ltreporter.com/donate.html>.



PHOTO: KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI

From 1942 to 1945, nearly 14,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center — one of 10 War Relocation Authority (WRA) concentration camps.

## Heart Mountain Museum Opens at Former Wyo. Incarceration Camp

By **Martin Kidston**  
*Billings Gazette*

HEART MOUNTAIN, Wyo.—They joined hands around a pair of pliers and cut the symbolic strand of barbed wire that restricted them 66 years ago.

For three years during World War II, more than 10,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated here at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center. Many vowed they'd never return once they were freed in 1945 after the surrender of Japan.

But on Aug. 20, more than 250 former internees, accompanied by family members, friends and supporters, returned to this rural landscape to celebrate the grand opening of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center.

After decades of discussion, years of planning and millions of dollars in fundraising, the center welcomed its first guests.

More than 1,200 people were on hand, moved by public reflection and entertained by ceremonies rich in Japanese custom.

In the 66 years since the camp's occupants were allowed to go home, Heart Mountain's message has become one of the lessons learned.

It's a symbolic reminder of what one speaker called "an imperfect response" to public hysteria and manufactured outrage.

"This is not about the past, but rather, this is about the future," said Norman Mineta, a former internee who went on to become a U.S. congressman and cabinet member. "History always has the ability of repeating itself. But what you're doing here is drawing that line in the sand, saying that this will never happen again."

Mineta arrived at Heart Mountain as a boy in 1942 and lived with his family in confinement until 1945. Later, his ambition carried him to politics, and after 20 years in Congress, he went on to fill cabinet posts under two presidents.

Heart Mountain was one of 10 relocation centers built across the U.S. in response to President Franklin Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, authorizing the mass removal of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast.

Three months earlier, in December 1941, Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, was a boy fixing his tie in the mirror, preparing for church, when the local radio station broadcast the news: Pearl Harbor was under attack.

"I took my father and went out in the street and looked down toward Pearl Harbor," Inouye said. "You could see black puffs in the air. Three aircraft flew over, gray in color, with the Rising Sun on the wing. At that moment, I knew that my life had changed."

Inouye served as an officer with the U.S. Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Germany, eventually winning the Medal of Honor for valor in battle.

When he returned home, wearing his uniform, medals pinned on his chest, Inouye was refused service at a restaurant. The proprietor said they "didn't serve his kind" — never mind his Medal of Honor.

Like so many other former internees who attended the Heart Mountain ceremonies, Inouye didn't let his physical

of Cody, the signs said, 'No Japs allowed,' or, 'You killed my son at Iwo Jima.' This is confusing stuff for a 12-year-old."

When the war ended and U.S. soldiers began returning home, the racial finger-pointing didn't stop. Simpson remembered Wyoming as a place unsympathetic to Japanese, a place eager to see that they left town once they were released from Heart Mountain.

But over the years, several visionaries looked to commemorate the experience of those interned at Heart Mountain. While most veteran organizations in the area strongly opposed the idea, supporters pushed on, and Simpson emerged to help realize their efforts.

"They hung on, and they've succeeded," Simpson said of the volunteers, board members and donors behind the new Heart Mountain center. "They lit the fire."

Those who converged on the camp that once held them prisoner remembered the dips in the land, where the high school stood, and the swimming hole that has long since gone dry. They purchased commemorative T-shirts and heavy red bricks taken from the old barrack chimneys.

And on Aug. 20, when Boy Scout Troop 883 raised the American flag to open the ceremonies, many stood with hands over hearts, reflecting on what it meant to be an American in the world's strongest democracy, even if that democracy is imperfect at times.

"The strength of this county is drawn from the dignity and determination of our fellow citizens who have been wronged, many of them terribly, but have not given up on the American dream, or the promise that their county will learn from its past mistakes," said Tom Brokaw, speaking at the Aug. 19 pilgrimage dinner in Powell.

Brokaw, former "NBC Nightly News" anchor and author of "The Greatest Generation," noted that America is an immigrant nation — a country that remains a destination for people around the world who have a dream of pluralism, democracy, economic opportunity and rule of law.

He also said great challenges require a common cause, and that taking the long and difficult road to a higher moral ground is more lasting than following the short and easy path of popular response.

Those who were interned at Heart Mountain and helped make the new center possible, Brokaw said, met those challenges and more.

"They did not give up on their country that had so mistreated them," Brokaw said. "In so many ways, this symbol of failure now becomes a symbol of triumph and a light to show us the way forward." ■



The Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center features many WWII memorabilia.

and emotional wounds alter his future. He became Hawaii's first congressman in 1959 and was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1962.

He helped to win passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, a law that acknowledged the injustice of interning Americans of Japanese ancestry during the war and established reparations.

"It wasn't easy for America or any country to come out and say it did something wrong," Inouye said. "Very few nations are strong enough to admit wrong. America is strong enough, and we did so."

Former Sen. Al Simpson, R-Wyo., also was instrumental to the passage of the 1988 act, co-sponsoring the legislation with Mineta.

Simpson met Mineta when they were boys. The two have remained friends for life.

Simpson admits that taking the high road wasn't easy in the climate surrounding World War II.

"It was a very puzzling time," Simpson said. "In the cafes



## WHY I'M A JACLER

# Finding Community Through JACL

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** "Why I'm a JACler" celebrates members who make a difference in the organization and the community. In addition to highlighting remarkable JAClers, "Why I'm a JACler" aims to encourage activism and raise the visibility of the JACL and its mission.

To get a better sense of the Japanese American community when he first moved to Orange County, Calif. over 30 years ago, Ken Inouye decided to join the local chapter of a national organization that he had already heard so much about.

**Ken Inouye, 64**  
Huntington Beach,  
Calif.  
SELANOCO JACL

As a new member of the SELANOCO JACL, Inouye was quickly embraced.

"The Nisei leaders really took me under their wing," said Inouye, 64, about his early JACL days.

JACL gave the Sansei father of three the opportunity to see the JA community's best and brightest minds at work. Leaders who really cared about the JA community, like Jun Fukushima and the late Clarence Nishizu, became sources of inspiration that have sustained Inouye's involvement in JACL.

His connection to the organization has spanned over 30 years and has included leadership positions at the local, district and national levels. After so many years, Inouye's reason for being a JACler remains clear.

"I want to raise the visibility of the JA community," said Inouye, a tax partner with the Laguna Hills, Calif.-based firm Inouye, Shively & Longtin. "There's no question JACL is respected. We need to have this organization for succeeding generations. If we ever lost JACL we would lose something that can't be replaced."

By ensuring JACL continues to attract bright, young leaders of tomorrow, the legacy of the Issei and Nisei leaders are honored, said Inouye. So he makes sure to involve local youth members in activities including field trips to meet local politicians and candidates.

"Mentorship of young adults gives him so much energy," said Nicole Inouye, a former JACL national youth student council representative, about her father. "He enjoys being that resource to help youth see the importance of JACL."

The impact is evident in Inouye's family — his daughters Nicole, Erin and Shannon are all active in their community.

The son of Colorado farmers, Inouye grew up in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles. His father George Inouye graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1941 and couldn't get a job, so he moved

back to work on the family farm in Colorado where during World War II the family avoided the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans on the West Coast. Seeing the injustice, George tried to enlist in the Army but was turned away because he was

labeled an "enemy alien." He tried again later, but was turned away because of a medical condition.

But the unjust basis of the WWII mass incarceration left a deep impression on Inouye.

With the JACL, he began standing up against injustice. During his 40s, Inouye became the Pacific Southwest district governor on the JACL national board. He was one of the organization's youngest board members during the Redress Movement, an "intense time," said Inouye.

"I first joined JACL to get a sense of community. The Redress Movement showed me and my family that we could make a difference," he said.

As a district governor during Redress, he watched Nisei leaders roll up their sleeves and muster up nationwide support to achieve almost an impossible dream, he added.

"If you have justice on your side you need to stand up and say what you have to say."

Harry Kajihara, former JACL national president, first met Inouye in 1982 at the first JACL Pacific Southwest district Redress meeting.

"While serving as president of the SELANOCO chapter, Ken attended all the monthly PSW district business meetings and all the monthly Redress meetings. Therefore, by the time he became a member of the national JACL board my impression of Ken was pretty much firmed," said Kajihara. "Ken is a very capable, dependable and conscientious person, a super friend to have. He is warm, very friendly, and easily approachable."

The day after the Redress bill was signed, Inouye was on a family vacation touring California. They decided to stop at Manzanar at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains in California's Owens Valley where many JA families were imprisoned.

"He really advocates for what he believes," said Nicole. "He knows what he believes in."

His leadership positions in the JACL also include *Pacific Citizen* editorial board chair,

*'Doors open if you're associated with JACL.'*



Inouye, a past JACL national president, says he has a passion to advocate for the voiceless.

vice president of public affairs, and JACL national president from 2004-06.

Outside of JACL, he has served as past chair and current vice chair of the Orange County Human Relations Commission, past president and current treasurer of the California Association of Human Relations Organizations, and the founding chair and current chair of the Huntington Beach Human Relations Task Force.

Inouye says it's his passion to advocate for the voiceless.

"I try to do it because it would have been nice if someone helped us during WWII."

He's proud that JACL has become a vocal advocate of other communities that have suffered from discrimination including the gay and lesbian community and the Arab and Muslim American communities.

"My dad is a great JACler because of his involvement in not only the JA community, but with other organizations as well,"

said Shannon Inouye about her father. "His commitment to ensuring civil liberties for people beyond his own community makes him an inspiring example of what JACL is all about."

From the young Sansei who joined JACL at the local level to the former national president and leader in human rights issues, Inouye hopes to inspire young leaders to follow in his footsteps.

"If you want to meet the best people in the community who unselfishly advocate for justice, JACL is a good place to start," he said. "Doors open if you're associated with JACL." ■

## NOMINATE A JACLER

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

pc@pacificcitizen.org.

## Join the movement. BECOME A JACLER

☐ Join JACL ☐ I want to give a JACL gift membership ☐ I want to renew my JACL membership

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Mail to:  
250 E. 1st St. #301  
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

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

Email Info. to:  
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# VERY

truly yours

BY HARRY K. HONDA

## MIS in Action

WHAT WAS A BLIP (a footnote in James C. McNaughton's comprehensive "Nisei Linguist") turns out to be a sagacious account in Ulrich "Rick" Straus' "The Anguish of Surrender, Japanese POWs of World War II." While McNaughton's history of the Nisei in the Military Intelligence Service is densely footnoted, Straus rounds out an incident already known, minus footnotes.

Take for example: Roy Matsumoto, an inductee in both the MIS and Rangers Hall of Fame.

"Seven West Coast Nisei who volunteered from the concentration camps and seven Nisei from Hawaii who were never affected by the relocation order joined the elite ranger unit. Roy Matsumoto was with the Marauder's Second Battalion in northern Burma when his unit came across a Japanese telephone line that linked the headquarters of the Japanese Eighteenth Division with component units further north. He climbed a tree, tapped into the line, and gained information about the location of an ammunition dump that his unit promptly destroyed. Matsumoto also learned a great deal about the enemy's troop dispositions in the area, allowing his behind-the-lines unit to evade the far stronger forces. A month later, his battalion surrounded by the Japanese, Matsumoto infiltrated behind enemy lines under cover of night close enough to overhear discussions of the enemy's plan to attack First Lt. Edward McLogan's platoon at dawn. The platoon booby-trapped its own foxholes and moved further up the hill. When the Japanese charged on schedule, the Americans held their fire until the enemy reached the line of abandoned foxholes. The second wave of Japanese hesitated in confusion. At that moment Matsumoto stood up in plain sight of the enemy and gave the order to attack in Japanese. This so startled the enemy forces that they obeyed the order and were mowed down by the well-prepared American forces. The action contributed to their eventual reopening of the Burma Road. While perhaps the most spectacular example of the Nisei's direct involvement in combat, it also underlined that the work of Japanese language personnel was not restricted to interrogations and document translations. Occasionally they found themselves in situations where they had to use their

weapons. Some Nisei even served behind enemy lines with OSS (Office of Strategic Services) units." *There are no paragraph breaks above in Straus' vignette.*

**McNaughton adds** S/Sgt. Roy, Los Angeles born Sansei, "by age, a member of the Nisei generation," attended middle school in Japan before the war. His family went to Japan but left Roy in California to attend high school.

Interned in Jerome, Arkansas, Roy volunteered for Military Intelligence Service in 1942. A member of Merrill's Marauders in 1944, he overheard a Japanese sergeant on a telephone line report that he had only three soldiers to guard an ammunition dump. The Americans destroyed the dump. Roy was later awarded the Legion of Merit.

After marching and fighting through some of the toughest terrain in the world, the Marauders occupied positions behind the famous Japanese 18th Division. The 2nd battalion dug in around the village of Nhpum Ga with 600 men including three Nisei. The Japanese surrounded the 2nd battalion and attacked repeatedly for 11 days. So close were the

Japanese that the Nisei could hear Japanese officers shouting commands, which they quickly translated so Americans could react in time. At night Matsumoto would crawl in front to eavesdrop on Japanese soldiers.

One night, he overheard preparations for a dawn attack, so he crawled back earlier than usual and made his report. The Marauders quickly pulled back from their front lines in the dark and left their fighting positions booby-trapped. Just as the Japanese attack began to falter, Matsumoto in plain view half naked, stood up and shouted in his best command voice, "Susume! [Advance!]"

The Japanese leapt to their feet and rushed straight forward into Marauder fire. One soldier observed this was the outstanding contribution "that saved the lives of every man who survived the long tenacious defense of Nhpum Ga." Roy became a legend overnight.

McNaughton points out, "Merrill's Marauders became the best known outfit in the Pacific War." Akiji Yoshimura's article in the 1956 *P.C.* Holiday Issue was reprinted in full in Ted Ikenouchi's "John Aiso and the MIS." ■

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



# NIKKEI

VOICE

BY GIL ASAKAWA

## Support Concentration Camp Preservation, Across the States

It's a fact: The 10 concentration camps built during World War II to imprison 120,000 people of Japanese descent — more than half U.S.-born and therefore American citizens, and most of them mere children — were in godforsaken corners of the country.

No offense to people who live near the sites of these former "relocation centers" (a silly government euphemism that was easier to swallow than the words "concentration camp" that President Roosevelt himself used), but Camp Amache in southeastern Colorado is a forlorn, dusty expanse of whole lot of nothing for miles and miles. It takes four hours of driving through mostly flat, dull prairie to get to the town of Granada from Denver.

It takes nine hours on the road from Denver to get to Heart Mountain, although the drive is a little more scenic, to the base of a towering peak north of Cody, Wyoming in the northwest corner of Colorado's neighbor to the north. For years, like at many of the concentration camps from the war years, there has been only a couple of memorials erected by former internees, and only a couple of buildings, including several of the dilapidated barracks buildings within view of the camp's namesake mountain. Most of the buildings and equipment were sold off to ranchers after the war; like many of the camps, non-profit groups have been tracking down and reconstructing buildings if they're available and still standing.

Heart Mountain is notable for a couple of reasons: It's where Bill Hosokawa, the journalist from Seattle, was interned for 13 months before getting a job at a newspaper in Iowa during the war. After WWII, Hosokawa moved to Denver and spent the rest of his life as a reporter, editor, diplomat and civil rights leader. And, Heart Mountain is the camp where a group of draft resisters became notorious and were eventually sentenced to federal prison for simply refusing to accept being drafted out of camp when their families had lost everything and were unjustly imprisoned by the U.S. government. This is one topic that still needs to be explained and discussed.

We've driven to Heart Mountain, and were chilled by the desolate majesty of the locale.

The mountain itself is a powerful image, one that adds an iconic feel to this camp that Amache in Colorado doesn't have (it's just flat and empty all around). We stopped at a florist and gift shop between Cody and Heart Mountain where a woman who was interned at the camp still worked, decades later. I wish I still had her name and number.

Over the years, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation has been working diligently — and quietly — on building an 11,000 square foot facility at the former camp site that includes exhibition space and a theater. The Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center (ILC) opened Aug. 19 and 20 with sold-out events including a dinner and all-camp reunion attended by some very high profile special guests.

I wish I could have made it. Among the guests were San. Daniel Inouye to give the keynote speech at the dedication ceremony, former NBC Nightly News anchor Tom Brokaw, who spoke at the pilgrimage dinner, and former Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta and former Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson. The two men met as boys when Mineta's family was interned from San Jose at Heart Mountain, and Simpson lived nearby in Cody. They were both Boy Scouts, and

their friendship has lasted the decades ever since. Simpson and Mineta, when they both served in Congress, were co-sponsors of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which granted redress and an apology from the U.S. government for internment.

Manzanar in California is the best known of the internment camp sites, but it's important to remember and support efforts to preserve lesser-known camps, including the ones in Colorado and Wyoming, Arizona and Arkansas.

It's great that the Heart Mountain Foundation has opened the ILC. We'll make it there soon, to applaud their accomplishment and to support the center. And someday, we hope to visit all the camp sites across all the states.

We want to touch the ghosts of history that still hover in these places, and let them know we haven't forgotten what happened to them. ■

*Gil Asakawa is a former P.C. editorial board chair.*

*'We want to touch the ghosts of history that still hover in these places, and let them know we haven't forgotten what happened to them.'*



# The Blue Collar Music of Blue Scholars



**Hailing from Seattle, MC Geologic and DJ Sabzi of Blue Scholars break conventions of what hip hop as well as what a hip-hop group can be.**

**By Christine Fukushima  
Correspondent**

For George Quibuyen, one half of Seattle-based hip-hop duo Blue Scholars, the desire to perform is in his blood.

"Growing up in the '80s, every time I went to a wedding, a debut [traditional Filipino coming-of-age party for 18-year-old-girls], a party, whatever, there were always older Filipino kids who were break dancing, singing, rapping. And I wanted to be like them," said Quibuyen, who goes by MC Geologic or Geo for short.

"From an early age I've enjoyed watching people perform and then trying it out myself, but I never took it seriously," he added.

But Quibuyen's reluctance to take a career in the arts seriously ended when making music became a viable career choice.

Like many other children of immigrants, Quibuyen entered college thinking he would pursue a science or engineering degree "for mom and pops," he says.

His father, a navy man, and his mother, a domestic worker, were both born in the Philippines countryside and came to America "with just the clothes on their back" in 1979, he said. Though they didn't push their son down one career path in particular, Quibuyen understood their lessons about working towards a stable future.

But starting in college, even though a career in music was not part of his plan, Quibuyen's love for it pushed him to find a balance between stability and passion.

As underage music-starved students at the University of Washington in the late '90s frustrated at the lack of all-ages hip hop venues in town, Quibuyen and his friend, Saba Mohajerjasbi, decided to make the music happen themselves.

They started throwing their own shows on campus, inviting independent hip-hop artists and "some of [their] own heroes" to perform. Utilizing their organizational skills to put on the popular concerts, Quibuyen and Mohajerjasbi gained a valuable network of connections to the music industry.

"That gave us the confidence to be like, 'hey let's try this out and [it] also gave us an advantage ... We already had one foot in the door from having put in work as a promotion team," said Geo.

With Quibuyen spitting poetic verses inspired by his days as a spoken word artist and Mohajerjasbi (known as Sabzi), a trained classical pianist, making a diverse array of beats, Blue Scholars released their first album in 2004.

Like many other musical artists of color, Blue Scholars' music is inspired by their involvement in their communities – both Geo and Sabzi are active in Seattle's APA community,



Hip-hop group Blue Scholars are known for their socially conscious message.

says Geo – which has led to their music being frequently described as socially conscious.

"Life [would] be empty without being connected with other people, other likeminded people. You just feel like you're not alone especially if you grew up as a working class person of color in America," said Geo, explaining why being active in the community has always been important to him and Sabzi.

But the duo insists that more than being socially conscious, their music is "inspired by our life and where we live, and we make an effort to keep it honest," said Sabzi.

"The song concepts usually emerge from the conversations Geo and I have about everything: life, politics, culture, comical nonsense, movies, books, philosophy and local Seattle happenings," he added.

Their self-described "eclectic" sound has gained them a diverse fan base and prominence in the underground rap scene. At their shows, MC Geologic says he is frequently one of the few APAs in the room.

"I don't think we would've been able to do this 15, 20 years ago. I think we probably would've made the music and hit a real core niche audience," said Geo. "But these days there are a bunch of kids who are more open-minded."

Counter intuitively, Geo thanks the advent of internet music downloading as the reason why Blue Scholars' music has reached fans who would probably not have picked up their CD in a record store, including fans such as Nastia Voynovskaya, a fourth year at the University of California, Berkeley.

"The Blue Scholars are cool because they have a unique take on hip hop. Their beats are fun to listen to, but their lyrics carry a deeper message," said Voynovskaya, who started listening to Blue Scholars' music online after watching them perform in Berkeley.

Blue Scholars' nine-week-long Cinemetropolis tour, named after their latest album, kicks off on Sept. 14 in Vancouver, B.C.

Instead of releasing their "Cinemetropolis" album through the traditional industry channels, the group launched a fundraising campaign through the website Kickstarter.com to raise funds for the 15-track CD.

Far surpassing their goal of \$25,000, fans pledged over \$62,000 towards the group's third full-length studio album.

On the "Cinemetropolis" tour Blue Scholars will be joined by Bambu, Geo's longtime friend and a fellow Filipino rapper and father, as well as The Physics and Grynch at select shows.

Beyond their friendship, the musical messages of Bambu and Blue Scholars makes the tour mates a perfect fit.

"If you really break Geo's lyrics down, me and him are on the same page ... we have the same ingredients, we just cook the dish a little differently," said Bambu.

And even beyond the music, Geo and Bambu have bonded over how fatherhood has changed them from their college days of partying on the road.

"Both me and Bambu can relate with that," said Geo. "Before having a kid it's like you can hit the studio anytime you want, you can go on tour anytime you want, you can say yes to every show. These days it's like you actually have to pick and choose and find a balance." ■



## 'What's Your Story?: White House AAPI Initiative Launches Video Challenge



Miya Saika Chen and Eddie Lee encourage APAs to participate in the "What's Your Story?" campaign.

The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders has launched an online video challenge, asking participants to submit personal stories about people who have had an impact on the people around them.

The effort, called "What's Your Story?", aims to highlight community service by AAPIs whose dedication to a cause has made a difference in their communities. Participants are asked to submit a video describing unique experiences that have shaped who they are in less than three minutes.

White House Initiative on AAPIs director Kiran Ahuja said the video

challenge is designed to help understand more about important issues facing the community and to highlight their contributions.

"A community's stories define who they are," said Ahuja. "This is an opportunity to highlight the work of people making a difference in our communities everyday. Whether you're a passionate advocate for nail salon health and safety or working tirelessly to make life a little easier for new Americans, this is your chance to let us know how you're making a difference."

Entries are accepted in any form, including music video, public service announcement,

short film, video blog or in an interview format. Essays will also be accepted in the place of video entries.

All entries should showcase someone's work around a specific issue facing the AAPI community in under three minutes or with fewer than 1,000 words.

Entries should be submitted online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/WhatsYourStory> by Nov. 1.

A select number of entries will be posted on the White House website and a group of exceptional leaders highlighted will be selected to attend a White House briefing this fall and given the opportunity to share their stories in-person. ■

## California Senate Committee Clears Shark Fin Ban

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A California Senate committee passed a bill to outlaw shark fin, a traditional Chinese delicacy, moving it one step closer to passage.

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed the bill 5 to 2 on Aug. 25.

The bill, which aims to ban the sale, possession and trade of shark fins, now moves to the California Senate floor. A vote is expected in the next few weeks.

Proponents of the bill say it would put an end to the harvesting of sharks, which is fueling the decline of sharks in regions around the world and potentially disrupting the ocean's ecosystem.

Some in the Chinese American community say the bill would discriminate against a cultural practice that has endured for centuries. Sen. Ted Lieu, D-San Francisco, said the bill is an attack on Asian cuisine and culture.



Shark fin soup is considered a delicacy in the Chinese culture

But others, including NBA basketball player Yao Ming, support the bill.

Assemblyman Paul Fong, D-Sunnyvale, said he grew up eating shark fin soup, but stopped after watching a film denouncing the practice.

"At this rate, they're going to be extinct in our lifetime," Fong explained in an interview. "And

without the top predator, our ocean's ecosystem goes into a huge imbalance and falls like a house of cards.

"I'm proud of my Chinese roots, and our culture will live and survive without shark's fin," he said.

The bill could go into effect in 2013, if approved by the Senate and signed by the governor. ■

## National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press



AP PHOTO/THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN, TADASHI OKUBO

### Biden Lauds Japan's Resolve in Tsunami Zone Visit

SENDAI, Japan—U.S. Vice President Joe Biden on Aug. 23 praised the resolve of the Japanese people to recover from the tsunami and reaffirmed the U.S.-Japan alliance as vital for regional peace and prosperity.

In a speech at Sendai's airport Biden spoke of the U.S. public's admiration of Japan after the March 11 disaster, which left about 20,000 people dead or missing.

Biden also visited China and Mongolia during his eight-day Asian trip, stressing the strong economic and military ties between Japan and the U.S.

### U.S. Treasury Gives Grants to Help Native Hawaiians

HONOLULU—The U.S. Treasury Department will award over \$1.5 million in loans and financial services to aid Native Hawaiian families.

Donna Gambrell, director of the department's Financial Institutions Fund, made the announcement Aug. 24 at the 10th annual Native Hawaiian Convention.

The fund awarded nearly \$12 million to 35 Native Community Development Financial Institutions and organizations serving economically distressed Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities nationwide.

### San Jose Panda Express Restaurant Sued By Feds

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Federal officials are suing a San Jose Panda Express, accusing the restaurant of making Latino workers perform menial work while Asian employees stood around and watched.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced the suit on Aug. 17. It alleges the manager also disciplined Latino employees more harshly and more frequently than their Asian counterparts.

The suit, which seeks monetary damages and workplace discrimination training, accuses the restaurant of violating the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on ethnicity.

### Grantees to Target Uninsured Children, Youth

CHICAGO—Two Illinois projects are receiving grants to identify and enroll children eligible for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

The two-year grants, authorized under the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, were announced Aug. 18 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Chicago's Sinai Health System is receiving just over \$340,000 and will work with the Mexican Consulate and the Mid-West Asian Health Association. Beacon Therapeutic Schools will receive \$409,000 to focus on enrolling uninsured and homeless youth in Cook County.

### New Banner Designs to be Installed in S.F.'s J-town

SAN FRANCISCO—Japantown will look a little brighter in September when two new, bigger banner designs are installed in the area.

The new 36-foot banners will replace the old ones thanks to the financial support of PG&E and the mayor's office of economic development.

One banner features two interlocking circles, representing the blending of Japan and California. The other banner is a contemporary take on the Peace Pagoda.

A subcommittee of the Japantown Economic Development and Marketing Committee, the Japantown Task Force and the Japantown Merchants Association selected the new banners. ■



## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

### S.F. School Renamed in Honor of JA Artist



The San Francisco School for the Arts will adopt a new name in honor of Japanese American artist Ruth Asawa.

The new marquee reading "The **Ruth Asawa** School of the Arts" will be unveiled Sept. 14.

Asawa, who was born in California in 1926, was unjustly incarcerated during World War II. She had dreams to be an art teacher, but couldn't finish her degree as a result of the existing prejudice.

Instead she headed to North Carolina's Black Mountain College and later became a well-known sculptor, crafting foundations across San Francisco, including one in Japantown.

She was a long-time advocate for arts education and helped found the art school that will bear her name.

### Hawaii Governor Appoints Mizuno to Board of Regents

Gov. Neil Abercrombie appointed former Hawaii County managing director **Barry Mizuno** to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Mizuno retired from Puna Geothermal Venture in 2006. The certified public accountant was the managing director of Hawaii County from 1990 to 1992.

The 63-year-old is expected to serve as interim regent until he goes before the state Senate for confirmation during the next legislative session.

The Regents Candidate Advisory Council, which was created in 2007 by the state Legislature, recommended Mizuno's appointment.

### Hawaii Registrar Wins National Award

Hawaii State Registrar **Alvin Onaka** is being awarded for his work in revising a law that outlines practices for collection of vital statistics.

Onaka received the award at the recent annual meeting of the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in New Orleans.

Onaka chaired a CDC group that revised the U.S. Vital Statistics Model Law, which promotes uniformity in state systems of vital statistics including births, deaths and marriages.

The group addressed changes in electronic birth and death registration, advances in assisted reproductive technologies, same-sex marriage, civil unions, surrogacy, identity theft, data disclosure and confidentiality and records preservation.

### Maggie Mui Will Head Wells Fargo Diverse Segment

Wells Fargo promoted Magdalen "Maggie" Mui to a newly created position that aims to diversify its market share with a focus on the Asian American community.

"Maggie is a celebrated team member and ambassador for our company. Her strategic agility coupled with her deep ties in the community makes her the perfect leader for this role," said Michael Billeci, executive vice president of Wells Fargo's San Francisco region.

Mui is a member of the Board of Directors at the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation, the Chinese Culture Foundation and Asian Business League of San Francisco.

### Director Justin Lin Signs Deal with Universal

Director Justin Lin has signed a two-year production deal with Universal Pictures for his company Barnstorm Pictures.

Lin previously directed "Fast And Furious," "The Fast And Furious: Tokyo Drift" and "Better Luck Tomorrow." Lin is slated to direct "Fast And Furious 6," which will open May 24, 2012.

On the Barnstorm Pictures roster is Elaine Chin, a former executive at Fox and HBO Films. The Barnstorm Pictures offices will be housed at Universal. ■

## 2012 NPS Grant Applications Now Available



Manzanar is just one of ten confinement sites that has benefitted from the federal grants program.

### JACL Serves on the NPS Advisory Council

Starting Sept. 1, the 2012 Japanese American confinement sites grant applications will be available for non-profit organizations, educational institutions and other public entities to aid in the preservation of World War II JA history, according to the National Park Service.

Applications must be received by Nov. 1.

The grants will be awarded on funds appropriated by Congress.

All grant applicants must register in the Federal Central Contractor Registration (CCR) system in order to obtain funding in 2012.

Congress established the grant program for the preservation and

interpretation of JA WWII confinement sites. The law authorized up to \$38 million for the entire life of the grant program to identify, research, repair and acquire historic confinement sites.

Grants will be awarded through a competitive process and require a non-federal match in at least a 2-to-1 ratio. The minimum grant request is \$5,000.

Also, JACL's national director has been appointed to the National Park System Advisory Council's Relevancy Committee, which assists in the planning and implementation of seven citizen conversations to be held in communities over a two-year period.

The committee will help the NPS to better understand how to

engage diverse communities.

The committee's first meeting was held in Estes Park, Colo., where the planning and assessment began.

Mori attended the two-day meeting with appointees from the Hispanic, African American, Native American, and Pacific Islander communities, who met with NPS officials including Mickey Fern, deputy director.

Dr. Carolyn Finney, an advisory council member and assistant professor of environmental science at the University of California, Berkeley, serves as committee chair. ■

#### On the web:

[www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/jacs/index.html](http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/jacs/index.html)

## N.Y. Judge Sets Date for Immigrant Program Papers

**The Secure Communities program has been criticized by several AA groups, including JACL.**

By Associated Press

NEW YORK—A judge in New York has ordered the federal government to speed up the release of documents about a U.S. program for identifying deportable immigrants after they have been detained.

U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin told the government to release some 40,000 documents about the Secure Communities program by Sept. 13 to civil rights groups and immigrant advocates. The judge set the schedule after rejecting a government plan to produce them by year's end.

Under the program, fingerprints of detainees arrested locally are shared with federal authorities.

Critics say the program has made immigrants reluctant to



report crime because they fear deportation.

After the Dept. of Homeland Security recently announced that it would terminate all existing agreements with state and local jurisdictions over the enforcement of the Secure Communities program, Asian Pacific American groups, including the JACL, have been blasting the move. "By terminating agreements with the states that allow them to opt out of the program, this

allows a continuing practice by Immigration and Customs Enforcement that encourages racial profiling, promotes the separation of families, and encourages the violation of basic due processes as guaranteed by the Constitution," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

"We believe states and counties have some say over what happens to this information," Angela Chan, an Asian Law Caucus attorney, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. ■



## KOKUSAI-PACIFICA 2011 TOURS

- Oct 17** Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" \$4095 - Tokyo-Niigata-Japan Sea Cruise-Sado Island-Kanazawa-Amanohashidate Kinosaki-Tottori-Matsue-Izumo-Osaka. **NEED HELP**
- Nov 20** California Riviera Cruise - 6 Star Crystal Symphony **NEW** LA - Santa Barbara - San Francisco - Ensenada, San Diego - LA. From \$2405. **\$500 PP Shipboard Credit.**
- Mar 5** "Reflections of Italy" \$2899 - Rome - Assisi - Perugia - 2012 Florence - Chianti - Venice - Murano - Lugano, Switzerland - Lake Como - Milan. **ALMOST SOLD OUT**
- Mar 28** Spring Japan "Cherry Blossoms" \$3995 - Tokyo-Bullet Train 2012 -Nara-Kobe-Maiko-Okayama-Bitchu Takahashi-Miyajima Island-Hiroshima-Inland Sea Cruise-Shodo Island-Kyoto.
- Apr 12** Washington DC 100th Anniversary Cherry Blossom Festival \$1995 2012 3 Days DC - Arlington Capitol Hill-War Memorials-Lincoln & Jefferson Monuments-Japanese American Memorial-100th Anniversary Cherry Blossom Festival Parade-Smithsonian-Mt. Vernon-via Richmond, Jamestown, Yorktown to Williamsburg.
- May 7** Japan Super Tour - \$2995 - Tokyo-via Hakone & Mt. Fuji-Nagoya Ise Grand Shrine - via Nara - Kyoto - Arashiyama - via Toyota Motors - Lake Hamana Hot Springs - Flower Park - Tokyo.

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- Nov. 29-Dec. 13** Ancient Capitals of Thailand & Laos
- Dec. 18-Dec. 20** Holiday in Las Vegas: Shows: Cirque du Soleil "Mystere"

### 2012

- Apr. 3-Apr. 12** Spring Japan - "The Beauty of the Cherry Blossoms"
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## JACL to Honor MLB History Maker at Gala

The JACL will present an award to Don Wakamatsu, the first Asian Pacific American manager in MLB history, at its Sept. 29 gala in Washington, D.C. as part of the "Salute to Champions" program.

This year's gala will award APAs who have made outstanding contributions to the field of athletics.

A native of Hood River, Oregon, Wakamatsu is the son of a Japanese American father and an Irish American mother. During World War II, Wakamatsu's father was born in Tule Lake.

In 2008, the Yonsei made history as the first APA manager of the Seattle Mariners and the MLB.

Prior to that, Wakamatsu played at the double-A and triple-A levels with the Los Angeles Dodgers, Texas Rangers, Cleveland Indians, Seattle Mariners and Milwaukee Brewers.

In 2008, Wakamatsu served as the Oakland Athletics' bench coach. Currently, he serves as the Toronto Blue Jays' bench coach.

"Don will be the light on a hill for many young people who are looking for positive role models from which to pattern their lives," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director.

In addition to Wakamatsu, the JACL will honor



PHOTO: BEN VAN HOUTEN VAN HOUTEN PHOTOGRAPHY, INC

Wakamatsu is the Toronto Blue Jays' bench coach.

NBA pioneer Wat Misaka and Rep. Eni Faleomavaega at the gala. ■

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

## COMMENTARY

# The Score: Ozaki vs. National Board

By Phillip Ozaki



This is not a joke. I have really challenged all 17 national JACL board members to a membership contest.

It's simple: every time a team scores a new member or an upgrade, they get one point. Upgraded members are those who support JACL at a higher level (like \$100/year for

Thousand Club). The contest ends Oct. 24 at 11:59 p.m. and the losing side will show up at the Oct. 29 national board meeting in drag.

At the last board meeting after the Los Angeles national convention, I gave a membership report. Membership is not looking great. One primary reason is that JACL suffers from a culture of not asking. I

wanted to do something about this and thus, here is our contest.

The current score is 3 to 3 with Gail Sueki, Chip Larouche, and Kerry Kaneichi hitting home runs. Our contest is a win-win situation for both teams and for our organization. We will get more members, upgrades and revenue. I'm hoping everyone can score one point and I'm hoping we have a fun and friendly competition.

If you would like to upgrade your membership for this contest, I ask you to join my team as I'm the underdog (but feel free to join for one of your board members. They'll need it!). It will cost about \$40 to upgrade and this money funds JACL's programs including the *Pacific Citizen*.

You can contact me for more information at 415/921-5225 or [pozaki@jacl.org](mailto:pozaki@jacl.org). You can also fill out the upgrade form below.

Stay tuned for updates. ■

Phillip Ozaki is the JACL national membership coordinator.

### JACL Membership Upgrade Form:

(Sorry, Upgrades are not online yet, but contact us at 415-921-5225/[pozaki@jacl.org](mailto:pozaki@jacl.org))

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

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Upgrading for: ☐ Team Phillip ☐ Team National Board (their name: \_\_\_\_\_)

-- please check an option for how you want to upgrade --

#### Option 1: Pay Difference & Upgrade (keep same exp. date)

- ☐ Student/Youth to Regular: \$35
- ☐ Regular to 1000 Club: \$40
- ☐ Couple to 1000 Club: \$30
- ☐ 1000 to Century Club: \$75
- ☐ Join 2012 Millennium Club \$1000

#### Option 2: Renew & Upgrade (exp. date a year from now)

- ☐ Student/Youth to Regular: \$60
- ☐ Regular to 1000 Club: \$100
- ☐ Couple to 1000 Club: \$132
- ☐ 1000 to Century Club: \$175
- ☐ Join 2012 Millennium Club \$1000

#### Payment Info :

- ☐ I have included a check and will mail to "JACL" 1765 Sutter St. San Francisco, CA 94115
- ☐ I will pay by Credit Card (info below)

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Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Thank you for upgrading!

Coupon provided by National JACL. For more info. contact 415/921-5225 or [pozaki@jacl.org](mailto:pozaki@jacl.org)

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## COMMENTARY

# Children Explore Culture, Impact of Bullying at JACL Day Camp Program

By Christine Munteanu

For a second straight year the sound of children's voices reverberated through the office of the Chicago JACL where Japanese American children, ages 7 to 10 participated in the 2011 Project Community! Day Camp Program. The two-week program, held July 26-Aug. 4, taught campers about Japanese American history, culture and community, as well as the importance of tolerance and diversity.

On the first day, campers spent time getting to know each other by drawing life-size portraits of themselves, which they decorated with facts about their lives and their favorite things. After all the posters were displayed around the room, each camper used adhesive notes to identify the things they had in common with each other camper, writing their shared characteristics on the adhesive note and sticking them on the other campers' posters. The activity served to portray the common ties that unite all of the different campers.

The next day, students read, "The Way We Do It in Japan," by Geneva Cobb Ijima. The book tells the story of a young Hapa boy who moves from San Francisco



Campers spent time getting to know each other by drawing life-size portraits of themselves.

to Tokyo, and learns the many differences between Japanese and American life. After reading the story, the campers created a Venn diagram that listed the differences they noticed between "the way we do it" in the U.S. and Japan.

While discussing some of the differences, one of the campers asked, "But I use both chopsticks and forks and knives, so where do I go?" It clearly illustrated the unique quality of Japanese American culture as a mix of traditionally Japanese and traditionally American cultural elements.

A session on the incarceration

required students to ask their parents about their own family experiences during World War II. These family stories were shared the next day. The campers then learned about Executive Order 9066 and life in the American concentration camps, as well as the concepts of stereotypes, discrimination and scapegoating. The session highlighted the bravery of the JA veterans, Min Yasui's court challenge, and the Redress Movement. The brave individuals involved in each of these efforts illustrated to the students that there are ways to fight for justice even in

the face of discrimination.

The second week of the camp was full of special guests who entertained and educated the students on specific topics. Esther Huhr, the director of training and curriculum at the Anti-Defamation League, led a session on bullying. The campers read and acted out a book called "One" by Kathryn Otoshi, a story about learning to stand up to a bully and how to turn a bystander into an ally. Campers discussed the terms "bully," "victim," "ally," and "bystander,"

as well as the feelings and motivation of the victim, the bully and the bystanders.

Anne Shimojima, a professional storyteller, delighted the students with traditional Japanese folktales, and the students performed the story of Momotaro. On the final day, May Nakano taught the students how to make their own *inarizushi*. The students had fun preparing and eating the sushi, as well as gobbling up the remaining rice!

Each day was also filled with various cultural crafts and games. A "human knot" team-builder activity, in which the campers intertwined their arms and then had to work together to get untangled, helped the group develop a sense of team work, communication and trust. Campers also created their own paper lanterns, decorated with Japanese *kanji* symbols, and a *koi* kite used to celebrate Children's Day. Overall, the campers seemed to fully enjoy the program, and it was encouraging to see both familiar and new faces this year. ■

Christine Munteanu is the JACL Ford program fellow.

## JOB POSTING Executive Director

### Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) was founded in 1899 and has its Mission to propagate Jodo Shinshu Buddhism throughout the United States. It is affiliated with Hampa Hongwanji in Japan. There are 61 member temples across the country. The BCA Endowment Foundation is a separate corporate entity and is charged with managing the endowed assets of the BCA.

The BCA Endowment Foundation Executive Director shall be responsible for managing day-to-day operations of the Foundation; serving as the primary interface between the Board and fund managers and other service providers; supervision of an assistant/bookkeeper; maintaining communications with donors, board members, and stakeholders in the Buddhist Churches of America. S/he must have excellent interpersonal skills; ability and willingness to make presentations to potential donors, BCA meeting attendees, and temple groups; and ability to work independently. Must have experience with the securities and financial services industry, and knowledge of accounting principles. Must be familiar with Excel and QuickBooks. Prior management experience is required. Working knowledge of the BCA organization is desirable.

The Foundation office is located in San Francisco. The Executive Director would be expected to work out of that office as telecommuting is not utilized at this time. Salary and benefits to be negotiated.

Interviews will be conducted in the Fall of 2011 in the Bay Area. The job will begin on January 3, 2012. Please apply in writing to:

David Unruhe  
BCA Endowment Foundation  
1710 Octavia Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Please include a resume. Finalists will be asked to submit three references.

## American Holiday Travel

### 2011 TOUR SCHEDULE

<b>NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR . . (NEW TOUR)</b>	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.	
<b>LA NISHI HONGWANJI SHINRAN SHONIN 750<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL &amp; PILGRIMAGE</b>	OCT 10-20
Kyoto, Takayama, Asama Onsen, Takada/Naoetsu, Sado Island, Tokyo.	
<b>OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR</b>	NOV 7-16
Naha, Ishigaki Island, Taketomi Island, Yufu Island, Onnason.	
<b>SANTE FE HOLIDAY GET-AWAY TOUR . . (NEW TOUR)</b>	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 9-18
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	JULY 31-AUG 11
MT. RUSHMORE-YELLOWSTONE HOLIDAY TOUR	AUG 21-30
ENCHANTING DANUBE RIVER CRUISE	SEPTEMBER 18-26
CHINA HOLIDAY TOUR	SEPTEMBER
EASTERN CANADA HOLIDAY TOUR	OCTOBER 3-10
JAPAN AUTUMN HOLIDAY TOUR	OCTOBER
MUSIC CITIES HOLIDAY TOUR	NOVEMBER 4-11
SPECTACULAR ANTARCTICA HOLIDAY CRUISE	DECEMBER

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi will attend the Oct. 1 awards ceremony.

**2nd Annual Immigrant Heritage Awards**  
**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**  
**Oct. 1, 6 p.m.**  
**InterContinental San Francisco**  
**888 Howard St.**  
**Cost: \$200/person, \$2,500/table**  
 The Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation is hosting the 2nd Annual

Immigrant Heritage Awards honoring the Jewish Family and Children's Services, California Supreme Court Justice Joyce Kennard, Andres Ly of Ly Brothers Corporation, philanthropists May and Sinclair Louie and Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi.

**Info: 415/262-4429 or**  
**www.aiisf.org**

## EDC

**'Tribute and Remembrance: Asian Americans After 9/11'**  
**NEW YORK, NY**  
**Sept. 8, 7 p.m.**  
**Museum of Chinese in America**  
**215 Centre St.**  
 This September marks the second anniversary of the Museum of Chinese in America's new home as well as the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11. MOCA and the Asian American Federation will co-present "Tribute and Remembrance: Asian Americans After 9/11," a documentary narrated by playwright David Henry Hwang.  
**Info: 212/619-4785 or www.mocanyc.org**

**GO!**

**Debra Samuels Book Talk**  
**LINCOLN, MA**  
**Sept. 10, 2 p.m.**  
**Lincoln Public Library**  
**3 Bedford Rd.**  
 Join Debra Samuels for a book discussion on "My Japanese Table: A Lifetime of Cooking with Friends and Family."  
**Info: 781/259-8465 or www.lincolnpl.org**

## NCWNP

**'The Places We Call Home' Poetry Event**  
**BERKELEY, CA**  
**Sept. 29, 7-9 p.m.**  
**Eastwind Books of Berkeley**  
**2066 University Avenue**  
 In celebration of the upcoming Filipino American International Book Festival, authors and poets will gather at Eastwind Books for a poetry event. Authors include Oscar Bermeo, Cecilia Manguerra Brainard, Rashaan Alexis Meneses, Veronica Montes, Barbara Jane Reyes and Benito M. Vergara, Jr.  
**Info: 510/548-2350 or**  
**www.asiabookcenter.com**

**SEE!**

## PNW

**Art Exhibit: 'Kip Fulbeck: Part Asian, 100% Hapa' and Free Workshops**

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**PORTLAND, OR**  
**June 10-Dec. 31**  
**Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center**  
**121 NW Second Ave.**

This exhibit is the artist's attempt to explore Hapa identity and the changing reality of contemporary America. Two free programs in the series will be held Sept. 10 and Oct. 20. The workshops include the "Hello Neighbor" workshop led by artist Julie Keefe and another on Hapa diversity taught by Dr. Linda Isako Angst.  
**Info: www.oregonnikkei.org or 503/224-1458**

## PSW

**JACL PSW's 15th Annual Awards Dinner**  
**Oct. 29, 6 p.m.**  
**Rose Center Theater**  
**14140 All American Way**  
**\$125/person; \$1,250/table sponsor; \$2,500/bronze sponsor; \$3,500/silver sponsor; \$5,000/gold sponsor; \$10,000/platinum sponsor**  
 The awards dinner will honor Madeline Ong-Sakata of the Asian Chamber of Commerce, Mary Anne Foo of the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance, Bill Watanabe of the Little Tokyo Service Center, Orange County Supervisor Bill Campbell. Honorees also include JACLers Rodney Nakada, Dr. Richard Matsushita, Sharon Kumagai and Ellen and Harold Kameya.  
**Info: Andrew Yick at 213/626-4471 or www.jaclpsw.org**

**JACCC's Fall Performing Arts**  
**TORRANCE, CA**  
**Oct. 8, 8 p.m.**  
**Armstrong Theater**  
**3330 Civic Center Dr.**  
**Cost: \$20/general; \$18/members**  
 The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center and the 2011 World Festival of Sacred Music is hosting the official closing night event of the Los Angeles festival with Mare Vaporum. Named after the lunar dark plain on the south side of the moon, Vaporum reflects on one's personal journey toward purity in the darkness of night.  
**Info: 310/781-7171 or**  
**www.torrancearts.org**

**NAAAP's Networking Mixer**

**IRVINE, CA**  
**Sept. 15, 6:30-10:30 p.m.**  
**The Atrium Hotel**  
**18700 MacArthur Blvd.**  
**Cost: \$15/members; \$20/non-members**

A portion of the proceeds from the mixer will benefit Senhoa Foundation, which works to support victims of human trafficking. A fashion show will showcase jewelry designed by survivors in Senhoa. There will be a cash bar and complimentary appetizers.  
**Info: www.naaapoc.org**

## IDC

**National Association of Asian American Professionals Seminars**  
**DENVER, CO**  
**Sept. 24, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**Daniels Fund**  
**101 Monroe St.**  
**Cost: \$10/non-members; free/students and members**  
 Participants can choose from seminars on public speaking or leading in a multi-generational workplace for experienced.  
**Info: www.naaapcolorado.org**

**Navigating the Challenge of Senior Care Giving Seminar**  
**DENVER, CO**  
**Oct. 9 & Oct. 23, 12:30-3:30 p.m.**  
**Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple**  
**1947 Lawrence St.**  
 The Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple Buddhist Women's Association, the Simpson United Methodist Church and the Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado will co-sponsor two seminars focusing on providing care for the elderly.  
**Info: 303/295-1844 ■**

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# IN MEMORIAM

## Ifuki, Masaki "Masa", 84

Pearl City, HI; Aug. 15; U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Adeline "Addie" and son, Lyle.

## Ioki, Miye, 85



Santa Monica, CA; July 21; preceded in death by siblings Masashi Kariya, Taeko Masuda and Kiyoko Hosaka; survived by husband, Susumu Ioki; children, Arlene (John) Dootson, Margie (Michael) Odanaka, and Diane (Patrick) Dempsey; siblings, Yoneo (Mary) and Hiromi (Kate) Kariya; sisters-in-law, Yoshiko Mori and Toyoko Sato; 5 gc.

## Kosakura, Phyllis "Terry"

**Teruko, 74**, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 13; her family was sent to Amache relocation camp during WWII; she was a children's clothing designer; she married her husband, Takeshi "Tak" in 1958; survived by her husband; her children Steven, (Cheryl), Lori and Mark; brother, Nobuo Kusumi; 4 gc.

## Minakawa, George, 81,

Montebello, CA; Aug. 21; survived by wife, Haruko; son, Garret (Kris); brothers, Takashi and James; sister, Hideko (Toshinori) Saruwatani; many nieces and nephews; 3 gc.

## Miyagishima, Misako, 87,

Gardena, CA; Aug. 23; she was a Japan-born Issei; survived by her husband, Masaaki; children, Lester and Juliann (Wade) Inouye; siblings, Naoki, Yoshisuke, Norio, Shuichi (Kayoko) Hosokawa, Chizuko Ito and Chitoe Furuta; brothers-in-law, Hisa (Nancy) and Tomio (Eiko) Miyagishima; sisters-in-law, Hanako Ito and Fumiko Matsumoto; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

**Miyake, Ishi, 84**, Nampa, Idaho; Aug. 13; he joined the Army in 1946; a year later he married Ruth; he was also an active

member of the JACL and served two terms as president and was a board member; preceded in death by his parents and his brother Robert; survived by his wife Ruth; daughters Karen (Jerod) Trailer, Cheryl (Pat) Russell and Brenda Miyake; sons Glenn Miyake, Steve (Linda) Miyake; sisters Mary (Allen) Records, Midge (Yasu) Teramura, Helen Otani; brother Bob (Kyoko) Miyake and several nieces and nephews; 11 gc and 11 ggc.

**Morishita, Ruth Kimi, 90**, Idaho Falls, ID; Aug. 28; preceded in death by husband Sadao, sister Merry and brothers Allen and Tom; survived by sons Ron (Sharon), Brian (Christine), Tim (Connie), and Don (Betsy); sisters Helen and Grace; 7 gc; 7 ggc.

**Nakagawa, Bunzo, 85**, Honolulu, HI; Aug. 18; he was an Army veteran and retired obstetrician-gynecologist; survived by wife, Frances; daughters Barbare Solarz, Joanne Arizumi and Leslie Perkins; brother Kenzo; stepsister Teruko Tobashi; 3 gc.

## Nakagawa, Capt. Gordon Ross;



76, Marina, CA; Aug. 23; a career naval officer, passed away August 23 following a courageous battle with cancer at the age of 76; he was born June 13, 1935 in Auburn, Calif. to the late Bunny and Harriet Nakagawa; he is survived by his beloved wife of 51 years Jeanne; their three children Gregory, Kathleen, and Steven; and three grandchildren, Ryan, Graham, and Tait. Celebration of life services will be held Sept. 17 at 1 p.m. at the Fort Ord Military Chapel, in Seaside CA.

**Oguro, Rose Fusaye, 89**, Los Angeles, CA; June 29; survived by her children, Robert (Jessica) and Jeanne (Robert) Sakamoto; sister-in-law, Marilyn (Miller) Johnson; also survived by many other relatives; 6 gc; 9 ggc.

## Okuji, Tadashi, 93



Cypress, CA; Aug. 24; survived by wife, Tomoe; many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Owaki, Yaeko, 85**, Irvine, CA; Aug. 20; survived by son, Roy (Sharon) Owaki; daughter, Judy (Lawrence) Di Fiore; also survived by many other loving family members both here and in Japan; 4 gc.

**Shimizu, Dorothy Aiko, 82**, Santa Rosa, CA; Aug. 19; she was a well-known community leader in Sonoma County; during WWII she was interned in Colorado; survived by children, Mark and Julene Leach.

**Shimizu, Mitsue, 92**, Gardena, CA; Aug. 20; survived by husband, Masao Ben; sons, Dr. Stanley (Irene), Cary (Linda), Gary (Linda), Dr. Kelvin (Arlene) Shimizu; brother, Yoshiteru Kikawa; brother-in-laws, Asayuki (Hiroko) Shimizu, Sakami (Alyce) Shimizu; sister-in-laws, Yuriko Sahara of Hawaii and Mitsuko Kikawa; 9 gc; 1 ggc.

**Suzuki, Reyeko Kikuchi, 83**, San Francisco, CA; Aug. 13; predeceased by her husband, Roy; siblings Kenichi and Mitsuo Kikuchi, sisters Miyeko Nitta, Takako Miyagishima, and Fujiko Hayashi; survived by her son, Rodney (Rev. Grace) Suzuki; and sisters Masako Okazaki, Shigeko Kikuchi, Akiko Kikuchi; brothers Kouji (Joan) Kikuchi and Kunio (Mary) Kikuchi; numerous nieces and nephews; 2 gc.

**Tashiro, Herbert Reizo, 80**, Miami Beach and Arcadia, Florida; Jan. 21; a nurseryman and cattleman; he was retired from the postal service in Lake City, Florida; survived by his wife Nancy H.; sister Yasuda; brother Joe Tashiro. ■

## HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. **Tributes**, which honor the memory of your loved ones with original copy and photos, appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.

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## Little Tokyo's Former Far East Café Building to be Restored

One of Little Tokyo's most historic buildings will be receiving a much-needed facelift thanks to a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, according to the Little Tokyo Service Center.

The \$7,500 grant will help with repair work on the 1896 Far East Building, home to Chop Suey Café (formerly the Far East Café). Its brick walls, which were damaged in the 1994 Northridge earthquake, will finally be repaired.

"As we expand our work to protect more places that mirror the histories of diverse communities, these projects are reminders of the many shapes that stewardship can take. They point to the vibrancy and complexity of Angeleno culture," said Stephanie Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The LTSC Community Development Corporation will be in charge of the restoration project.

The Far East Building is comprised of three buildings including the main front three-story building where the legendary Far East Café once stood as a Little Tokyo mainstay with its wooden booths, tall ceilings and a neon "Chop Suey" sign outside.

The building also provides 14 studio and two one-bedroom affordable housing units above the cafe and the LTSC's computer learning center, which offers affordable technology education and computer access for over 1,000 residents and members of the community annually.

Restoration efforts in 2003 did not include the brick walls.

The Los Angeles County Preservation Fund was established in 2009 by a gift from the Getty Foundation, with subsequent gifts from the Ahmanson Foundation, Ralph M. Parsons Foundation and the National Trust Board of Advisors.

Grants from the fund provide seed monies to non-profit organizations and government agencies for preservation, stewardship, organizational outreach and community revitalization involving historic resources. ■

## PSW District to Honor Community Leaders at Annual Awards Dinner

The Pacific Southwest District of the JACL will honor several community leaders at its 15th Annual Awards Dinner Oct. 29.

Among the honorees will be: Bill Watanabe, executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center; Madeline Ong-Sakata, executive director of the Asian Chamber of Commerce; Mary Anne Foo, executive director of the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance; Bill Campbell, Orange County supervisor, 3rd district; and Assemblyman Warren Furutani, 55th District.

The honorees exemplify the spirit of the theme of the dinner: "Looking to the Future: Partnerships Across Communities & Generations." The tradition and current work of JACL and the PSW district has been to work with diverse groups and ages to achieve a shared vision of civil rights for all.

Also at the annual awards dinner the PSW district will celebrate the legacy of JACL and look to the future as the fight for civil rights for all Americans continues. ■

## 15th Annual Awards Dinner

Oct. 29, 6-9 p.m.  
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## JAHSSC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

transport to temporary prisons or “assembly centers.”

Referring to any of the War Relocation Authority (WRA) prison camps as “internment camps” implied that inmates were to be considered less than American, whether they were aliens or “non-aliens.”

The phrase, “American concentration camp,” is important to describe what really happened during WWII to 120,000 JAs. Any other phrase diminishes the gross violation of constitutional and civil rights perpetrated against American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry.

The definition of “concentration camp” is “a place where people are imprisoned against their will based on arbitrary criteria, such as race, national origin, religion, political beliefs, etc.: inmates of such prisons have not committed any criminal acts to justify their imprisonment.”

The forced removal and imprisonment of innocent people to concentration camps by their respective governments in America and Germany during WWII was a great injustice. Horrifically, the Nazis went far beyond mere imprisonment by systematically torturing and murdering millions of people. In Europe, many of the Nazi prisons were not concentration camps in the traditional sense: they are more accurately described as “death camps” or “extermination centers” whose purpose was to torture and kill, not imprison its innocent victims.

In America, more than two-thirds of the inmates in the ten large prison camps run by the WRA were American citizens and half of

the inmates were children. The government called the concentration camps “relocation centers” during and after the war in public documents and media contacts, but used the term “concentration camps” in official documents and correspondence.

It took state and federal governments decades to officially designate the ten WRA prison camps as “concentration camps”. Historical landmark plaques at both Manzanar and Tule Lake prison camps are notable for referring to all ten WRA prison camps as “concentration camps.” Using any other term that attempts to be more palatable to the government or segments of the general public would be a giant step backward and an insult to all who suffered from the American government’s actions during WWII.

We support the suggestion by the American Jewish Committee that AJC and JACL representatives, along with interested community leaders, meet in the near future to further discuss this issue. ■

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## Arizona Matsuri Committee Receives Commendation Award



Matsuri committee co-chairs Ted Namba (left) and Doris Asano received the foreign minister’s award from Consul General Ihara on Aug. 19.

The Arizona Matsuri Steering Committee has received Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs Commendation Award.

The commendations are awarded to individuals and groups for promoting relations between Japan and other countries.

The Arizona Matsuri Steering Committee is comprised of 29 members (approximately one-third of the committee members are Arizona JACL members), who have helped

organize the Arizona Matsuri for the past 27 years.

Doris Asano and Ted Namba, Matsuri committee co-chairs, received the award on behalf of the committee.

According to Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 68 individuals and 30 groups worldwide have received commendations.

The Arizona Matsuri Steering Committee is one of two selections from the Los Angeles Consulate General office. ■

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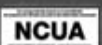
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