

2012 EXTRAORDINARY APAS SPECIAL ISSUE



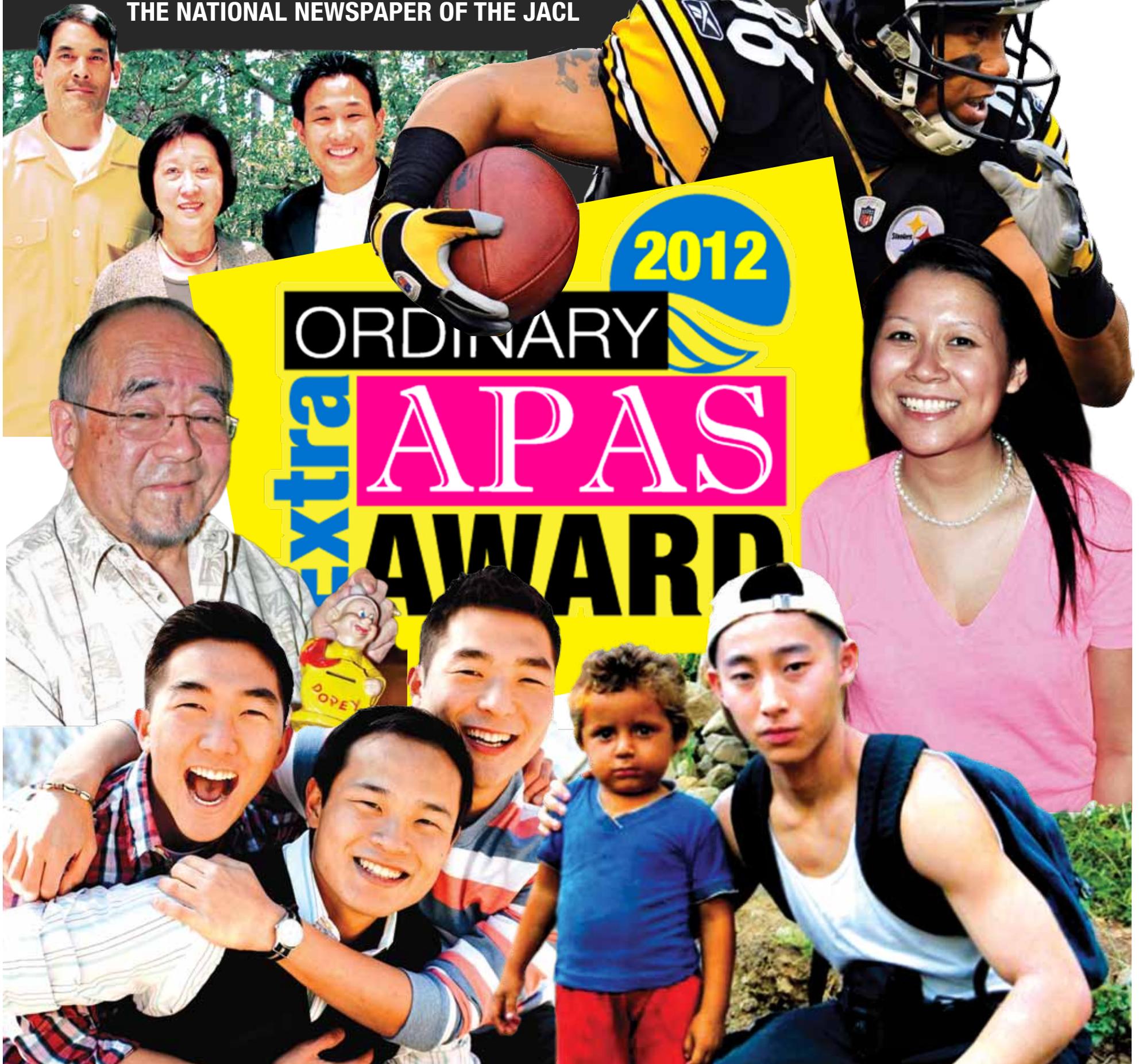
PACIFIC CITIZEN

- The Bellevue JACL
- National Convention
- is approaching.
- **Register now before it's too late.**

pg. 06



THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JACL





The scoop on Hines Ward's Mighty Mouse tattoo and info on other winners. Page 4 and on.

EXTRAORDINARY & INSPIRING

When we first came up with the idea to do an Extraordinary APAs issue we never imagined that it would become our most popular issue last year. Piggybacking on that dubious beginning we bring you our 2nd Annual Extraordinary APAs issue.



pacted the Asian Pacific American community and whose stories were reported in the *Pacific Citizen*.

In January, the *Pacific Citizen* editorial board met for their annual meeting where this year's Extraordinary APA winners were selected. We had a larger pool of nomi-

This year we honor 17 extraordinary individuals including a two-time Superbowl winner, a California supreme court judge, and our Congressional Gold Medal winners. We also selected a deserving honoree from each of the JACL districts.

nees this year and we thank the board for considering each of our nominees.

We hope you enjoy this special issue. Share your comments with us in print or at www.pacificcitizen.org.

This special recognition honors community leaders who have positively im-

Caroline Aoyagi-Stom
Executive Editor

(Right) David Mas Masumoto talks about the power of the peach. The men behind the Jubilee Project (below) say doing good is contagious.



SPRING CAMPAIGN SUPPORT FOR THE P.C. IS NEEDED BEYOND THE SPRING CAMPAIGN

By Gil Asakawa



The *Pacific Citizen* needs your help more than ever this year.

You've shown your support year after year during the *Pacific Citizen's* Spring Campaign. In the beginning, when I was the chair of the *P.C.'s* editorial board, the Spring Campaign aimed for \$10,000, which went toward upgrading computer equipment and cameras.

Last year, you stepped up and donated an amazing \$85,000 during the Spring Campaign. That money paid for Nalea J. Ko, the excellent reporter, and a advertising salesperson, as well as equipment, website improvements and digital archiving.

We need your help once again, and this year, in addition to donations to the Spring Campaign, we need your vocal support.

A national JACL budget has been proposed — and passed recently by JACL's national board — that cuts the critical position of assistant editor from the *P.C.* budget starting in 2014. It's a budget cut that would be a terrible blow to the *P.C.'s* operations, and I urge you to share your concerns with your chapters, districts and board representatives.

I believe this is a decision made of haste with good intentions, to

>>See ASAKAWA pg. 17

2012 PACIFIC CITIZEN SPRING CAMPAIGN

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COMMENTARY RETURNING TO SEATTLE

By Priscilla Ouchida



My first image of Seattle was on a postcard of the Space Needle that I received from my father — I made a beeline to the icon when I attended my first Seattle Convention. After a few days, I discovered that Seattle is a “many-splendored” place, and I can't wait to return to Seattle for the 2012 National Convention. The convention will run from July 5-8 at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue, Washington, just across Lake Washington from Seattle.

I invite delegates to bring the family along. At the risk of sounding like a tourist agent, there is something for everyone at and around the convention — from the flying fish at Pike Place Market to Mount Rainier. Our hosts are planning a tour of Seattle's Nihonmachi that includes a trip to Uwajimaya, the largest Asian grocer in the Pacific Northwest, owned by the Moriguchi family that is featured in a Bank of America commercial.

Other booster activities include a ferry ride across the Puget Sound to visit the new National Parks Service memorial on Bainbridge Island, and a golf tournament sponsored by the National JACL Credit Union to be held on July 8. The Sayonara Banquet will feature music by the Minidoka Swing Band, the Japanese American version of the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

Sponsorships from State Farm Insurance, AT&T, Union Bank, Eli Lilly and Southwest, the official airline for the convention, promise a wonderful meeting. An exciting component of this year's convention is a Wellness Fair sponsored by the Seattle JACL and Nikkei Concerns that will be held on July 7. Kelli Kuehne, LPGA player and national spokesperson for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, will be a

>>See OUCHIDA and registration form pg. 6

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HOW TO REACH US
E-mail: pc@pacificcitizen.org
Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
Tel: (213) 620-1767
Fax: (213) 620-1768
Mail: 250 E. First Street, Suite 301
Los Angeles, CA 90012

STAFF
Executive Editor
Caroline Y. Aoyagi-Stom

Assistant Editor
Lynda Lin

Reporter
Nalea J. Ko

Business Manager
Staci Hisayasu

Circulation
Eva Lau-Ting

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P.C. EDITORIAL BOARD
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ARTS
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How Willie Ito Found the Happiest Place on Earth

Willie Ito and Shig Yabu have collaborated to release the books "Hello Maggie" and "A Boy of Heart Mountain."

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

For Walt Disney it all started with a mouse, Mickey Mouse that is. But for Japanese American animator Willie Ito Jr. it all started with Dopey, the clumsiest of Snow White's seven dwarfs.

As a 5-year-old child the native San Franciscan's love of cartooning blossomed after watching Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," which originally premiered in 1937, at the local theater with his father.

"For some reason Snow White was so mesmerizing and then the seven dwarfs — and of course Dopey," said Ito in his home office, which is brimming with cartoon memorabilia. "He was my favorite cartoon."

The 77-year-old now has a stockpile of Disney and other cartoon collectibles in his Monterey Park, Calif. home. His wife jokes that she has learned to love their Disney collection.

"I was oblivious to it until one day, I realized it was all over the house," said Rosemary, about her husband's collection.

Tucked in a display case in his living room among shelves and shelves of Disney figurines is a collectible that has a special place in Ito's heart.

"I remember the day we had to go to camp because this sat on my dresser," said Ito taking a 73-year-old Dopey bank from its display case. "And then three years later when we returned, I ran upstairs to my old bedroom and it was still sitting there. I remember I had a few pennies in there and that was no longer in there."

The Dopey bank was a childhood toy of Ito's, but it was left behind when his family was forcibly removed from their home in San Francisco and unjustly incarcerated at Topaz in Utah during World War II. Some 120,000 people of Japanese descent were incarcerated during WWII after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Ito occupied some of his time in camp drawing on Sears, Roebuck & Co. and Montgomery Ward & Co. catalogues and animating them by flipping the pages.

After the war Ito's family returned to their former Bay Area home, which a Chinese American family was watching.

In 1948 at a youth club at the YMCA Ito met Shig Yabu, who had moved to the Bay Area with his family after they were incarcerated at Heart Mountain. The two friends also participated in the Boy Scout Troop 12, where they printed a newsletter using a gelatin kit.

"We printed our newsletter in Willie Ito's parents' garage, and we were impressed with Willie Ito's cartoons," said Yabu. "We even got businesses to place advertisements, but we could not make many prints because the gelatin would turn into Jell-O."

Years later the two friends created the publishing company, Yabitoon Books, and released the books "Hello Maggie" and "A Boy of Heart Mountain," which drew on their experiences of being incarcerated during WWII.

Yabu said he recalls Ito being "quite an animator"

when they were growing up in San Francisco. But the friends soon went their separate ways. They would reconnect again throughout the years at Barons club reunions. Yabu joined the United States Navy in 1951 and Ito went to Hollywood to pursue a career in animation.

Ito's parents were supportive of his desire to pursue a career in animation, but his father, Willie Sr., wasn't convinced a cartoonist could make a decent living.

"He was a barber in San Francisco, and so he always felt that maybe I should go to barber college, get a license and then have something to fall back on," Ito said of his father who was a musician before WWII.

When Ito first stepped foot in Disney Studios at the age of 19, he was attending the Chouinards Art Institute. Disney didn't hire Ito on the spot. Instead Ito received two weeks later a Western Union telegram recruiting him as an animator. That began his 45-year animation career.

"The first day that I went to Disney Studios with my portfolio, not seriously looking for employment,

I just wanted to see the inside of the studio and I figured since I had my student's portfolio with me it was a good ticket to make an appointment, go in, see the studio," said Ito who met on that first day his Disney mentor Iwao Takamoto, who was also a Japanese American animator.

Ito's first task at Disney was to work on the animated film "Lady and the Tramp."

"I wasn't particularly into cartoons. However, Willie was working on 'Lady and the Tramp' and eventually when the film was released, I saw it and really loved it," said Ito's wife of the animated film.

After a year and a half at Disney, Ito moved on to Warner Bros where he worked for six years. He later worked with Bob Clampett for a year, Hanna Barbera for 14 years and afterwards at Sanrio, before he returned to Disney where he retired in 1999.

Before retiring, Ito got a chance to show his father firsthand his success.

"Just before he passed away he came down here and visited me at Sanrio," Ito said of his father. "Sanrio was fun for him because of all the Japanese artists that were there also."

After 45 years of working in animation, Ito says he can see his artist touch in countless animated Disney, Warner Bros and Hanna Barbera cartoons.

"Oh, gosh," Ito said flipping through a Hanna Barbera comic book. "I guess throughout the years you could just kind of go through these and say, 'Oh, yeah. I was responsible for that one.'"

Retiring from a successful career in animation has left Ito with a few perks.

"We have what we call a silver pass. That will admit four on your silver pass," Ito said of his special Disney pass. "But I still have my regular ID pass that will admit me anytime I want to go there." With four adult children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren, that Disney pass comes in handy.

Now retired, Ito continues to work on illustrating books for Yabitoon Books. After 45 years of being an animator, Ito says he still enjoys sitting at his drawing table and working.

And with a house full of cartoon memorabilia, Ito now has his hands full with cleaning tasks.

"I'm due for the six-months dusting," said Ito with a smile looking at the display cases filled with Disney memorabilia. ■



BUY THE BOOKS!

See page 20
for coupon!

Ito helped animate the iconic spaghetti scene in "Lady and the Tramp"



Just the mention of the spaghetti scene from L&T evokes "oohs-ahhs." Considering it was my very first assignment, I am pleasantly surprised of its popularity. Of course, I was one of hundreds of animators working on the movie.

If he weren't a cartoonist/artist...

Using my love of art, I may have pursued medical illustrating. Having to study and learn all the medical terms would not have been my cup of tea.

What a cartoon about his life would look like:



WILLIE ITO

SPORTS

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Two-Time Super Bowl Champ Hines Ward is an Extraordinary Overachiever

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter



A tattoo of a Mighty Mouse in a Heisman pose is inked on Ward's right arm, a tribute to his love of football and symbolic of his overachieving attributes.

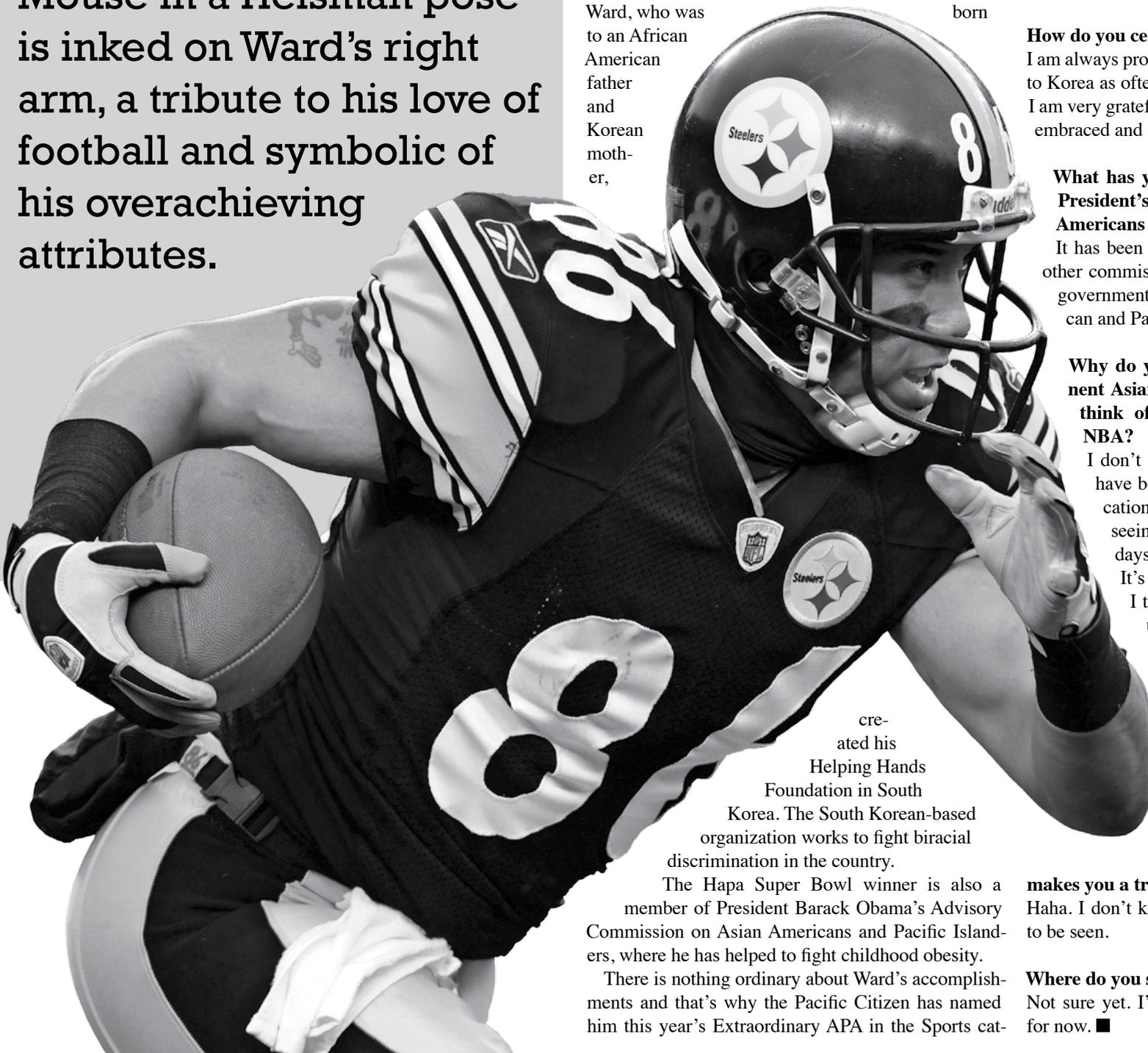
Hines Ward, 36, retired from the NFL after 14 years, but he is not slowing down or disappearing from the public arena any time soon.

The long-time Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver announced his retirement March 20. The Steelers released Ward, who was set to earn \$4 million next season, in a salary-cap maneuver three weeks before he retired. He leaves the NFL after claiming nearly every franchise record: an all-time leader in receptions, yards and touchdowns, a four-time Pro Bowler and a MVP of the 2006 Super Bowl, among other accomplishments.

As if he didn't have enough awards and accolades, Ward also took the mirrorball trophy in season 12 of ABC's "Dancing With the Stars."

But fans will perhaps remember Ward best for his wide, infectious smile that shined from behind his Steelers helmet.

Ward also devotes his time to giving back to those in need. His Helping Hands Foundation in the United States is dedicated to promoting literacy among children. With a \$1 million donation, Ward, who was born to an African American father and Korean mother,



created his Helping Hands Foundation in South Korea. The South Korean-based organization works to fight biracial discrimination in the country.

The Hapa Super Bowl winner is also a member of President Barack Obama's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, where he has helped to fight childhood obesity.

There is nothing ordinary about Ward's accomplishments and that's why the Pacific Citizen has named him this year's Extraordinary APA in the Sports cat-

egory. The P.C. caught up with Ward to see how he is enjoying his retirement.

You've been quoted as saying you have some more football in you. Why retire from football now instead of playing for another team?

I thought a lot about it and had interest from other teams, but after reading all my fan emails, tweets etc., I was touched by all the love and support from Steeler fans everywhere. When you spend all your career with one team — and a team as world class as the Steelers — playing for any other team just didn't seem right. I am a Steeler 4 life and want to keep it that way. And I didn't want to let my fans down.

You've spoken publicly about being teased for being biracial growing up. If you could talk to your bullies now, what would you say?

Probably, "Look at me now." I would also try to show them that I have no hard feelings. Their teasing and ridicule was very hurtful. But I always kept my head up and I turned a negative into a big positive.

How do you celebrate your Korean heritage?

I am always proud of my Korean side. I try to get back to Korea as often as I can and take my mom with me. I am very grateful for how the entire country of Korea embraced and supported me.

What has your role been as a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders?

It has been a big honor. My role, along with my other commissioner colleagues is to be the federal government's eyes and ears to the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Why do you think there aren't more prominent Asian American athletes? What do you think of Jeremy Lin's recent rise in the NBA?

I don't really know. I think most Asian kids have been taught to study hard and that education is most important, and it is. But I am seeing more and more Asian kids these days getting more involved in athletics. It's a good thing to see. I love Jeremy Lin. I think he is great and I hope he continues to do well.

Where do you keep your "Dancing with the Stars" mirrorball trophy?

I keep it in my trophy case at my house, right in between my two Lombardi's.

You can play football. You can dance. What's a third talent that makes you a triple threat?

Haha. I don't know. I guess that third talent remains to be seen.

Where do you see yourself five years from now?

Not sure yet. I'm just getting adjusted to retirement for now. ■



The Jubilee Project

Jubilee Project founders (l-r) Jason Y. Lee, Eric Lu and Eddie Lee juggle producing short film projects and working at their full-time jobs.

The founders of the Jubilee Project just wrapped up a college tour where they premiered their medium-length film “Dear Daniel.”

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

The founders of the Jubilee Project are setting out to encourage others to do good one video at a time, and with nearly four million video views on their YouTube channel, they’re getting close to accomplishing their mission.

The three friends — Jason Y. Lee, Eddie Lee and Eric Lu — created the Jubilee Project in 2010 with a simple objective: to make doing good contagious.

The Jubilee Project creators have been making monthly videos to encourage others to do good too. The videos also help raise funds for various nonprofits. Through making videos about nonprofits like Project Red Balloon or American Society For Deaf Children, among others, the Jubilee Project founders have raised over \$30,000.

Their latest project “Dear Daniel” is a medium-length coming-of-age film, which they premiered on their recent college tour. The Jubilee friends took off about a week from their full-time jobs — Lu is a medical student, Eddie Lee works on the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders and Jason Lee works in business — to create the film that is aimed at raising awareness about depression. The film is set, Jason Lee says, to be released in the next couple of months.

The *Pacific Citizen* caught up with the three friends who won the Extraordinary APAs Award in the New Media category to talk about their latest project and future ambitions.

How do you find the time to continue to work on the Jubilee Project?

Eric Lu: If it’s worth it, you’ll make time for it. I think it’s a matter of prioritizing and making sure that I’m still able to do the things that I love.

Eddie Lee: Because Jason and I have full time jobs and Eric is in medical school, it’s difficult to put in the necessary hours to make Jubilee Project what we want it to be. In order to do what we have done, we have had to make sacrifices. Whether it’s not getting enough sleep or spending less time on our social lives, it has been a trade off. But we do it because we are passionate about it. And it’s something we all love doing.

Jason Lee: We would love to be shooting every weekend. But I would say every week we spend probably anywhere from five to 10 hours or so working on the Jubilee Project. But often it comes in waves. So we’ll spend an entire weekend working on the Jubilee Project when we’re all together in the same city. One of the major challenges for us is that we’re not based in the same cities right now. So when we are together we have to really take advantage of that time.

What does the Extraordinary APA Award mean to you?

Eric: It’s an unbelievable honor, but I don’t think it would’ve happened without the support and generosity of the greater APA community. They’ve really helped us so much to get to where we are today.

Eddie: It’s truly an honor and we are so humbled by this award. It empowers us to keep doing what we do.



Jubilee Project founders (pictured above with the First Lady and president) attended the 2011 White House holiday party.

Jason: We’re incredibly humbled by it. For us we feel like it’s a tremendous honor and a privilege to be a part of such an extraordinary group of individuals.

What inspires you to make videos?

Eric: The stories we hear and the desire to share them and make an impact in this world. They’re real, touching and inspiring.

Eddie: We are inspired by the people we get to meet along the way. To see that tangible impact we are making in people’s lives is truly a blessing. It gives us an incredible platform to share what we believe in, and we don’t take that lightly.

Jason: I think for us we’re really inspired when we hear stories of individuals who are

touched by our work, and that’s really why we do what we do.

What is the Jubilee Project working on?

Eddie: We are working on a couple of short films right now. One that I am especially excited about is “Dear Daniel,” which is a story of a college student who finds himself at a crossroad in his life. Our hope is that the film will encourage young people to chase their dreams and fight for something they believe in. Another film that we hope to release soon is “Back To Innocence,” a short film about sex trafficking. We love the power of films and social media to make a difference in the world.

What makes you laugh?

Jason: I think kids make me laugh, especially little kids. I think they’re super funny and really, really innocent and really, really happy and that makes me really happy.

Do you have any strange habits or hobbies?

Eric: I’ve worn a white T-shirt and blue shorts whenever I’m at home for the past seven years.

If you could go back in time and change one thing, what would it be?

Jason: I think for me in my personal life the very first girl that I really, really liked, I never had the courage to ask her out. I would go back and I would ask her out. I think that’s what I would do. Life’s too short not to take chances and to take action. That’s something I learned and that’s something we encourage a lot of young people to do — not necessarily to ask people out — but to follow your dreams. ■

..... COMMUNITY LEADER

Michael Lin Makes an Impact

The chair of the 1882 Project helped garner an expression of regret from the Senate for the Chinese Exclusion Laws.

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For more than 30 years biomedical scientist Michael Lin was a program director for the National Institutes of Health where he worked on cutting edge research in the cardiovascular field. His work has even contributed to a Nobel Prize.

But his name also rings a familiar bell when it comes to civil rights and the Asian American community. He is a former president and national executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans or OCA, an organization he has been a member of for over 20 years.

It was his experiences at OCA that led him to his current involvement with the 1882 Project where he chairs the effort to educate lawmakers and the public on the Chinese Exclusion Laws and the impact such legislation had on the history of Chinese Americans. Late last year the Senate passed a resolution expressing regret for the anti-Asian laws.

"Michael has been an inspiration in the APA community who demonstrates the dedication and vision to support the Asian community goals and needs," said Ken Lee OCA national president. "Many

colleagues including myself have benefited from his mentoring and wisdom."

**Michael C. Lin,
Ph.D., 73
First generation
Taiwanese American
Potomac, Maryland
Retired Biomedical
Scientist
from National
Institutes of Health**

How did you celebrate when the Senate passed a resolution apologizing for the Chinese Exclusion Act?

When the resolution was passed on Oct. 6, 2011, it was more a relief than excitement to many of us. After a few days, we finally realized the enormity of its historic significance. Yes, we organized a celebratory reception at the U.S. Capitol Building in November attended by our stakeholders across the country with Sen. Scott Brown and Congresswoman Judy Chu attending, both of whom introduced the resolution in the Senate and House respectively.

What sparked the fire in you to become a champion of this cause?

I have always believed in social justice and protection of our fundamental rights as Americans. In order to contribute to these causes,

I have been a member of OCA (Organization of Chinese Americans) more than 20 years. My long lasting relationship with my colleagues provides unique opportunities to continue serving the community outside of my professional biomedical career.

Nearly two years ago one such opportunity emerged when several major Asian American organizations realized that we need to put a closure to the Chinese Exclusion Laws, first enacted in 1882. Shortly after, the 1882 Project was formed and is currently spearheaded by a Steering Committee consisting of C.A.C.A. (represented by Ted Gong), Committee of 100 (Frank Wu), JAACL (Floyd Mori), NCCA (Haipei Shue) and OCA (myself). The goals of the project are two-fold: 1) to seek congressional resolutions acknowledging the injustice of the Chinese Exclusion Laws and reaffirming the commitment to protecting the civil rights of all persons and 2) to sustain an effort to educate the public and the future generation about the history and consequences of the Chinese Exclusion Laws.

Why is there a need for a statement of regret from Congress for an injustice over a century old?

Although Chinese Exclusion Laws were repealed in 1943 during WWII for military and political reasons, Congress has never expressed regret and acknowledged the injustice of these laws. The last generation of Chinese immigrants

>>See MICHAEL LIN pg. 16

JUSTICE

2012
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Judging Liu

Good things come to those who wait.

Last May, Liu told President Barack Obama that he was withdrawing his nomination for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit after a protracted confirmation process. Two months later, Calif. Gov. Jerry Brown nominated him for a seat on the California Supreme Court.

"The thought that this skinny kid with a funny name could one day become a judge is a healthy sign of the times," Liu said at a joint dinner of the Pan Asian and Filipino American lawyers in San Diego earlier this year.

Liu's presence alongside Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye and Associate Justices Ming W. Chin and Joyce L. Kennard gives the California Supreme Court its first Asian Pacific American majority.

Some of Liu's biggest fans are from high places, including Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the law school at the University of California, Irvine, who has been quoted as saying he can easily envision Liu occupying a seat on the nation's highest court. Liu also serves on the boards of the National Women's Law Center, and the Alliance for Excellent Education.

The Yale Law School graduate and a former associate dean at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law says progress still needs to be made for APAs in the field of law.

"I am delighted to receive this honor," Liu told the *Pacific Citizen* about his Extraordinary APA title, "and look forward to increasing numbers of Asian Americans joining the bench and bar." ■

OCA National Center Congratulates Michael Lin for being honored with Pacific Citizen's Extraordinary APAs.



THANK YOU for your outstanding leadership over the years with **OCA** and most recently with the achievements of the 1882 Project.

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MILITARY

Congressional Gold Medals Latest Honor for WWII Nisei Vets

After an official ceremony last November, these Japanese American World War II heroes continue to be honored in regional celebrations across the country.



The Japanese American community has long been a group that honors its heroes and the Nisei World War II veterans are often at the top of that list.

Last November in the Capitol, hundreds gathered to honor in person the legacy of these soldiers with the bestowment of the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor given by Congress.

It was a moment that brought tears of joy to many and another chapter in the legacy of these men and women who fought for their country even as many of their family members were incarcerated in various WWII incarceration camps.

To this day, the combined forces of the 442nd Regiment and the 100th Battalion is the most decorated of any unit for its length of service in the history of the U.S. military. The Military Intelligence Service, whose accomplishments were long kept secret until recently, have been credited with helping to shorten the length of WWII.

For these reasons and many more, the Congressional Gold Medal winners are this year's "Extraordinary APAs" in the military category.

The *Pacific Citizen* posed one single question to these heroes: "For you personally, what does the Congressional Gold Medal mean to you?" This is what some of those Nisei heroes had to say:

Jimmie Kanaya
442nd Medic, Col. USA Ret.
Gig Harbor, WA

"The award of the Congressional Gold Medal was the culmination of the Nisei efforts and sacrifices from being labeled 'enemy alien' in 1942 to true Patriots in 2011. In spite of humiliating name-calling and families being unjustifiably incarcerated behind barbed wire, Nisei came forward to bear arms against our country's enemy. Some 800 men gave their all for the cause. This medal was accepted in their honor and memory.

"We did not compete to win the Congressional Gold Medal. It was awarded to us for our participation during WWII in spite of being considered disloyal and a threat to the country of our birth. We were but a few among over 11 million men and women in uniform during that war; and yet, we had an additional purpose. We wanted to prove our loyalty by offering our services. In the process many gave their all. The heroism of the 442nd/100th and MIS has been well documented. The Nisei deserve the honor and recognition of the Congressional Gold Medal."

Yeiichi (Kelly) Kuwayama
442nd Medic, Co. E.
Washington, D.C.

"The receipt of the Congressional Gold Medal by the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, etc., belated though it was, is recognition of Japanese Americans as Americans by Congress and that they should be treated as Americans without any mental reservations."

>>See MILITARY pg. 16



**JAVA Honors
Congressional Gold Medal Recipients
and
All Asian Pacific Americans
Who Are and Have Served**

THE MIS VETERANS CLUB HAWAII

celebrates the extraordinary
bravery of WWII Nisei veterans.



NON-PROFITS

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Shin Fujiyama Dreams Big

The 28-year-old co-founded and now heads the non-profit Students Helping Honduras, which builds schools for underprivileged Honduran kids and their families.



Shin Fujiyama is a big believer in the power of youth. That's because he's witnessed it firsthand.

Fujiyama is the executive director of Students Helping Honduras (SHH), a non-profit he co-founded with his sister Cosmo in 2007. From an idea that sprouted after a brief trip to Honduras in 2005, Fujiyama took what he developed in his dorm room at the University of Mary Washington and transformed it into a non-profit that has raised over \$1 million.

In 2012 Fujiyama's non-profit is working to build its tenth school for underprivileged students in Honduras. His non-profit has already built a village for 300 people. Today, SHH has a dedicated staff, two offices and four vehicles. And each year a thousand student volunteers travel to Honduras to continue helping Fujiyama and his non-profit bring to life his dream of building 1,000 schools by 2020.

Fujiyama dreams big and has made much of it a reality. For all his work with his non-profit we honor Fujiyama with this year's "Extraordinary APA" award in the category of non-profits.

You were also named a CNN hero and recognized by Larry King. How do you think you've earned these honors and distinctions?

People sometimes think that we've seen

success overnight, but it's actually been the accumulation of hard work and long hours for many years that have allowed us to produce the results that are being recognized. I also have incredible staff

members that make everything possible.

How much closer are you to building 1,000 schools in Honduras by 2020?

We are working on our 10th school, so we have just 99 percent left to go. We need to accelerate our pace and get more volunteers to come down to Honduras!!

Why is it so important for you to help the children of Honduras?

Because in today's age, you can advance in your own life and career AND follow your passion. It wasn't like that a few decades ago but with technology and the Internet, anything is possible. For example, even if I am physically in Honduras helping the kids, I can continue to: learn Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu online even if there is no gym here, educate myself through online courses or reading on my Amazon Kindle. Best of all the experience of running a nonprofit organization is teaching me more than any \$200,000 MBA degree ever could.

My job has taught me marketing skills, how to build websites, basic construction skills, how to make videos, how to speak in front of thousands of people, how to manage a team, how to write persuasively, how to organize large events, speak fluent Spanish, how to manage my personal time, basic accounting skills,

how to create a movement, how to run a children's home, how to run a school, and so much more.

What are your typical 20-something traits?

I love to exercise, like running, playing soccer, and practicing Muay Thai and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. I need to exercise at least five times a week to stay sane in a seemingly insane environment.

When was the last time you cried?

When we opened the children's home last November so that we could finally provide a home for 13 kids, who lived on the streets or were abandoned by their parents. It took me seven years of planning to make the project possible.

When was the last time you laughed?

I laugh out loud every day. A day isn't complete if you haven't laughed out loud. Life is too short to take it too seriously.

What advice would you give others who want to make a difference?

Read "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho, "The Education of Millionaires" by Michael Ellsberg, "The 4-Hour Workweek" by Tim Ferriss, and "The Art of Non-Conformity" by Chris Guillebeau. Then get up to do something you're passionate about, and figure out a way to make a living doing it. ■

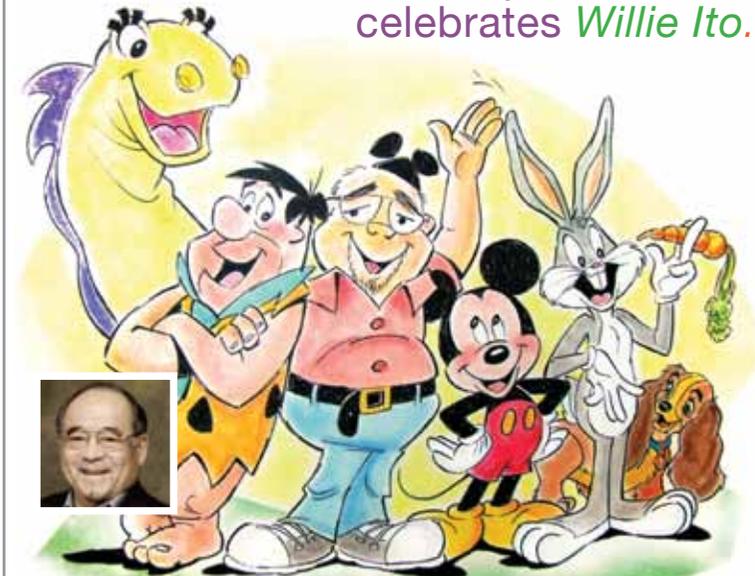
'A day isn't complete if you haven't laughed out loud.'

We proudly salute Nisei Soldiers and their families. Your valor during WWII helped win the War in Europe and the Pacific and lift the internment's stigma of shame. Yours is an extraordinary legacy for all Americans. Congratulations on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.



NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
WWW.NJAMF.COM

In celebration of all the extraordinary talent that came out of Topaz, the Topaz Museum celebrates Willie Ito.



The Topaz Museum also congratulates Marion Hori for her much deserved title as an Extraordinary APA.

Congratulations to
CAROLE FUJITA, JEFFREY CHIN, and
CHRIS TASHIMA
 for your extraordinary work with the Lil Tokyo Reporter film!
We are so proud of you!!




Willie,
 You have proven
 that dreams do
 come true.

Congratulations!
 Shig Yabu



PHOTO: MARIO REYES/RAFU SHIMPO

(L-r) Chris Tashima, Fumiko Carole Fujita and Jeffrey Gee Chin aim to complete the film this summer.

Congratulations,
Gary!

We always
knew you were
extraordinary!



- From the *Pacific Southwest District*

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Congratulates
Willie Ito
 on being named
 Pacific Citizen's
 Extraordinary
 Asian Pacific American
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‘Lil Tokyo Reporter’ Crew

The film's crew includes: director Jeffrey Gee Chin, actor Chris Tashima and executive producer Fumiko Carole Fujita.

To tell the extraordinary story of Sei Fujii's life — a gambler and a heroic newspaperman who wanted to expose the truth about his neighborhood — director Jeffrey Gee Chin and his film crew transformed Little Tokyo into a 1930s bachelor's society filled with scandalous characters.

"It is a true history," said Chin, 25, about his forthcoming narrative short film, "and had it not been for Fujii's determination to protect the livelihood of his people, willing to risk his own life, much would have been lost."

The goal is to complete post-production on the short film starring Academy Award-winner Chris Tashima as Fujii by the summer. Fundraising for the film is ongoing, and so are the trials and tribulations customary of an independent film production.

But the filmmakers persevered.

While researching Fujii's life, Fumiko Carole Fujita, a Sansei South Bay JACL member, often wondered what the trailblazing Issei was like.

"My thoughts included wishing to have been able to meet him to have a conversation," she said. "So bringing Sei Fujii to life in the film through Chris Tashima's portrayal of him was an awesome experience."

Can you talk about the behind-the-scenes drama involving a disgruntled production member?

Chin: There was an early supporter of our production who was not entirely enamored with the story and wanted us to minimize the truths of the gambling and romance that existed during the 1930s. This individual felt it would not portray the community in a positive light. These opinions were personally acknowledged

and addressed. However through lack of communication, feelings were hurt and it took months for the entire situation to calm. The individual's concerns did cause our team to take time to re-evaluate and assess our film's effect on the community. However, we were able to garner greater support, therefore indirectly in a creative sense, we are thankful. We acknowledge and appreciate the constructive criticism provided by members of the community and encourage those within the community to continue supporting the culture, heritage and youth in arts.

Sei Fujii was an American patriot.

Fujita: He was a self-sacrificing hero, a forerunner of civil rights advocates and according to Keizo Norimoto, former president of the *Hokubei Mainichi*, a samurai, potentially the last of the breed of outspoken and proactive role models for the Japanese American community. Although as an Issei, Sei Fujii was 'ineligible for citizenship' he worked to change the law and became a U.S. citizen, 51 days before he died in 1954.

To donate to the production of the film visit, <http://ltreporter.com>

What Sei Fujii would say about the film?

Tashima: First, I think he would chuckle, being flattered that we're making a movie about him. I think he was a modest man, like the Issei were, putting others before himself. But, because of that, I feel he would see the value of his own story, and what he did for our community. I think he would say, "Thank You," for keeping his legacy alive and for letting others know, today, all that he accomplished on behalf of his fellow Issei.

Finish this sentence, "If I had \$1 million, I would..."

Tashima: Consider many of the stories of how Asian Americans have participated in the building of our country and use the money to share our experience through film or perhaps theatre. And maybe I'd buy a Harley. ■

Asm. Mike Eng Brings Community to Politics

The longtime mayor of Monterey Park, Calif. hasn't forgotten his roots as a Calif. State Assembly member.

Many in the Asian Pacific American community recognize the name Mike Eng for his long career in politics.

Eng, 65, is a California State Assemblyman and he continues to work on behalf of issues that directly affect APAs.

Each year Eng, who is Chinese American, introduces a bill declaring Feb. 19 as a Day of Remembrance (DOR), commemorating the anniversary of Executive Order 9066 that sent tens of thousands of Japanese Americans to WWII incarceration camps.

Rep. Eng has also been at the forefront of a commemorative stamp for the Nisei WWII veterans. He is the author of Assembly Joint Resolution 33 that urged the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service to issue a stamp honoring the heroic soldiers of the 442nd, 100th and MIS.

For Rep. Eng's positive con-

tributions to the Asian American community, the *Pacific Citizen* has selected the assemblyman as this year's "Extraordinary APA" award winner in the category of politics.

Is it time for DOR to become a state and/or national holiday?

Definitely yes. Our communities have already commemorated Executive Order 9066 for the past 70 years and have shown that it is significant to every community that has experienced injustice. We should formalize what we are already doing to make sure that everyone would have an activity to attend on Feb. 19.

Will you advocate for a WWII Nisei veterans' stamp?

Definitely, yes. I introduced AJR 33, which recognizes the contributions of Japanese American WWII veterans by encouraging the U.S. Postal Service's Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee to approve a commemorative stamp honoring

the veterans.

How do you mark Dec. 17, the Day of Inclusion?

Since my legislation was enacted in 2009 to recognize California's Day of Inclusion I have attended commemorations in Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Oakland. I personally mark the day usually by calling one of my family members and usually the Day of Inclusion will come up.

The San Gabriel Valley has a very high APA population. Is this unique to the area or a sign of a nationwide trend?

The 2010 Census indicated that the Asian Pacific Islander population is the fastest growing race group in the United States. After New York City, Los Angeles has the largest Asian or combination Asian popu-



POLITICS

lation with 484,000. The San Gabriel Valley will continue to attract Asian Pacific Islanders and other groups because of education, business, quality of life, and cultural opportunities.

When was the last time your wife, Rep. Judy Chu, gave you unsolicited advice? Did you take it?

We are constantly giving each other advice because after many decades of being involved in the

community, we are always looking to do a better job and we know that we can help each other out and it doesn't matter where the advice comes from, we know that we can always do better.

If you could have one superhero power what would it be? Why?

Amadeus Cho's super-human ability to calculate every possible option and make a split second (correct) decision, which is something I need each and every minute. ■

MDC JACL



Jennifer Linh Vu (center) worked with the community, along with JACL, following the BP oil spill.

Jennifer Linh Vu Helps Those in Need

As a daughter of refugees from Vietnam, Jennifer Linh Vu has made it a personal mission to help those in need.

Being a community leader on the Gulf Coast, Vu has worked directly with Vietnamese Americans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the 2010 BP oil spill. She also worked as an aide to Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao.

Following the Gulf Coast oil spill Vu served at times as an interpreter helping the Vietnamese American community, when their frustrations peaked, navigate the often complicated recovery system.

"It's really rare for Vietnamese

older men to actually show any kind of emotion because of their pride and the culture - I've seen them on the verge of tears, asking how they're going to pay for their house, how they're going to pay for their boat, their kids' education," Vu said in a 2010 New York Times Student Journalism Institute article.

Giving back to those in need is personal for Vu, whose family struggled to survive in the war-torn Vietnam.

Her father, Khanh, was in the Southern Vietnam air force and escaped when his base was bombed. Her mother, Ngoc, left Vietnam in a boat with Vu's brother. But the Viet Cong captured the mother and

son.

Vu's personal ideas of serving her community were in synch with JACL's mission.

Today she is the president of the Gulf Coast Asian Pacific Islander JACL chapter, which was ratified in 2011 at the Los Angeles JACL National Convention. To honor her work the *Pacific Citizen* selected Vu as the Extraordinary Asian Pacific American in JACL's MDC District.

"As an Asian American woman, I was raised to serve my family, community and church," Vu said in a 2011 article in the *Pacific Citizen*. "JACL has the same type of ideals. It's about getting services to the needy." ■



KOKUSAI-PACIFICA

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Jun 26 Summer Special Japan "Family Tour" - \$3333 - Tokyo-Nasu -Ouchijuku-Shizuoka-Mt. Fuji-Kyoto-Nara- Toyota Motors -Lake Hamana -Tokyo. **GUARANTEED DEPARTURE**

Jul 18 Glacier National Park & Canadian Rockies - \$2595 - Calgary - Waterton Lakes - Glacier NP - Whitefish - Kootenay NP -Banff NP -Lake Louise -Columbia Ice Fields.

Aug 14 Discover Cuba - \$3899 - 6 Days Havana - Terrazas Vinales - NEW 2 Days Trinidad - Playa Giron - Hemingway Farm - Cojimar.

Sep 6 Grand Mediterranean Cruise - NCL Spirit - From \$3571

Oct 6 Colors of New England - \$2799 - 2 days each in Cambridge/Boston, MA - Stowe, VT - North Conway, NH - & 1 nt Boothbay Harbor, ME, with lobster dinner.

Oct 16 Hokkaido & Tohoku - \$4195-Sapporo-Sounkyo Gorge-Sahoro Shiraoi Ainu Village-Lake Toyo Hot Springs-Hakodate-Aomori-Lake Towada-Hachimantai-Matsushima-Sendai-Tokyo.

Oct 29 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" - \$4095 - Tokyo - Niigata - Japan Sea Cruise - Sado Island - Kanazawa - Amanohashidate - Miyazu - Tottori - Matsue - Osaka.

Nov 6 Okinawa & Kyushu - \$3995 - 5 Days in Okinawa - Nagasaki - Kumamoto - Beppu Hot Springs - Fukuoka.

Nov 26 NEW Irish Splendor \$2699 - Dublin - Killarney & More!

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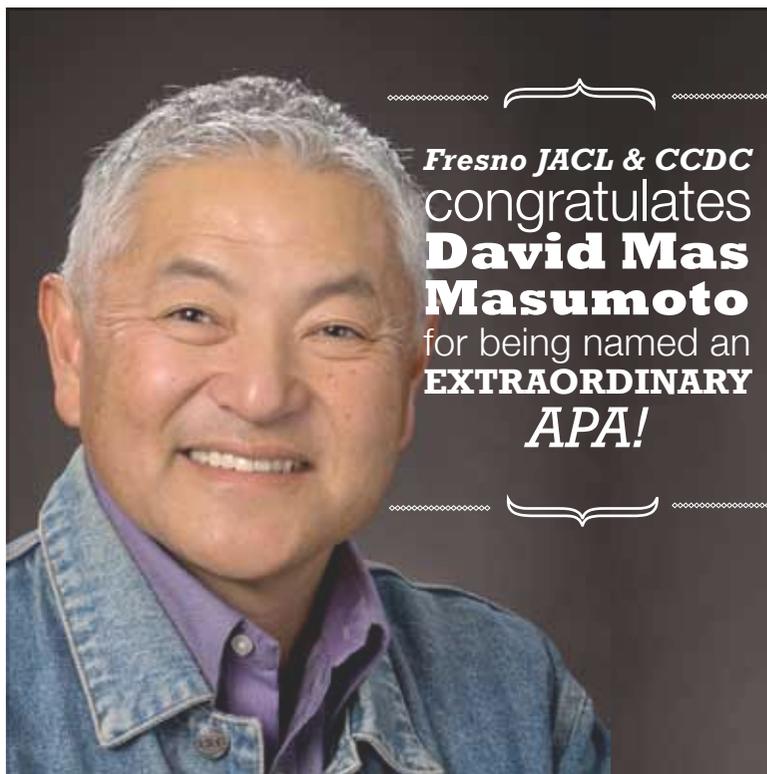
Apr 17 Croatia -11 Days - about \$2995 - Zagreb - 2 days each Zadar, Dubrovnik, & Split - Pitvice Lakes & Zagreb

Sept New York City & Niagara Falls - 8 Days - about \$2595 - 3 days New York with Broadway show - Cooperstown - Upstate New York - Niagara Falls.

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Fresno JACL & CCDC congratulates **David Mas Masumoto** for being named an **EXTRAORDINARY APA!**



Peachy Keen

Why he's extraordinary:

David Masumoto is a Sansei farmer who has been specializing in environmentally responsible farming years before the word "organic" became a household name.

Age: 58

Peach as a power fruit:

I don't think I've ever hated eating a peach. I thrive on new ways to use peaches as fusion food: peach filled manju, shaved ice with a peach topping, vin de peche (a peach extract liquor). Yum. [I've] yet to have peach sake.

On his 80-acre farm in Del Rey, Calif. peaches, nectarines and grapes thrive, but despite his green thumb, one crop hasn't flourished in the soil.

"Money, it eludes me," the Sansei Fresno JACLeR joked.

In a business of mass production, Masumoto Farm is a rare gem — family owned and run from generation to generation, so a bite of a Masumoto peach is like accepting a gift from a friend. For years, Masumoto has been pioneering the art of organic farming.

Now it's a \$26 billion dollar industry.

"And it has created a new consumer: the foodie who wants fantastic quality and connection with the farmer and the farm," he said.

Masumoto is also a master of words. He's an author that can make the simple act of biting into a piece of fruit sound like an act of sin.

"He has transformed his farming into art and a search for significance deeper and broader than his own individual life," said his daughter Nikiko. "My dad is extraordinary because his work reflects struggle, memory, and flavors that bind us

>>See **MASUMOTO** pg. 15



Emily,

We're so proud of you.

Love,

Mom, Dad, Kent and Bachan

Congratulations Emily!

Great job on your scouting project for Komure School.

French Camp JACL

We are proud of **Fumiko** for being a **2012 APA!**

Congratulations!

Neal & Trudy, Natali & Albert, Dennis & Maew, Richard, Kristine & Brent, Gary & Elizabeth, and Paula



Scout's Honor

Why she's extraordinary:

Emily Isakari created a project about George Y. Komure, the late Nisei vet, to help educate students about his legacy.

Age: 15

Generation: Yonsei

Favorite school subjects: World civilizations, orchestra symphony and Japanese.

Special talents: Plays the French horn in her school's symphony orchestra and is a member of the school varsity badminton team.

Take a break? This Davis High School student doesn't know how. The Davis, Calif. resident is working on a project to educate the local community about the contributions of local Nisei veterans.

She gets brownie points: the new project will help fulfill her Girl Scouts' gold award requirement.

"I am writing the project proposal for my troop leaders now and hope to get council approval by year-end," said the French Camp JACLeR.

Her previous project about George Y. Komure not only helped her snag the Scouts' silver award and the hearts and minds of many, but also an Extraordinary APA title.

"She is focused," said Dean Komure, French Camp JACL president. "She sets her goals and follows through to achieve them."

On why it's important to remember George Komure.

Nisei like George Komure endured much hardship during their lifetimes — the Depression, the camps and serving in the Army during WWII. Despite all this, the Nisei returned home, and without any bitterness, made significant contributions to their communities in areas like education and public service. For these reasons, I think their story and legacy need to be preserved.

>>See **ISAKARI** pg. 15



Lillian Kimura Continues to Inspire Youth

In April, former National JACL President Lillian Kimura turned 83 years old, but not surprisingly, she hasn't slowed down. For the past 50 years she's been involved with JACL in various leadership positions which culminated in 1992 when she became the first-ever female national JACL president.

"I still think JACL is the only game in town," said Kimura in a recent *Pacific Citizen* interview.

It was during her presidency that JACL affirmed its support for same-sex marriage. It's something that she is still most proud of today.

Kimura, of the New York JACL chapter, has taken her years of experience leading a civil rights organization and her lengthy career with the YWCA to continue mentoring youth and encouraging them to take on leadership positions.

"I don't think people realize the shoulders that they stand on," she said. "Kids take it for granted. They need to give back to the community. If they don't, who will?"

Kimura is the *P.C.'s* choice for "Extraordinary APA" for the Eastern District.

Why do you think there have only been two female JACL national presidents in the organization's



history so far?

With the many responsibilities young women have for work and home, they may not have the time to give to leadership positions. Both Helen (Kawagoe) and I were older. It may not be as important since we have a woman national director now.

JACL leadership positions (until now) have traditionally been very male dominated. Did you face any pushback during your tenure as national president being the first female in this role?

When I took over the presidency, all the other officers were young people, mostly under 30. The older men no longer were in leadership

positions. Young men were not threatened by women leadership. My problem was an aggressive female past leader who came to national board meetings and challenged my leadership.

How would JACL benefit from having another female president?

JACL will benefit from any leader — Young, male or female — committed to the goals of the organization.

Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not?

I consider myself a feminist — one who wants to make a contribution to the development

of the community from a female perspective.

During your presidency, JACL became one of the first civil rights organizations to affirm its support of same-sex marriage. Today, the battle rages on. How far has the Asian American community come in seeing same-sex marriage as a civil rights issue since 1994?

JACL has not pushed aggressively to promote same-sex marriage although support has been indicated. I was disappointed that the single LGBT chapter formed after our decision did not continue.

What has been your biggest personal achievement thus far?

Having opportunities to provide leadership and becoming national president. And being a mentor to some young people to become leaders in JACL. Also I learned a lot from my position on the national staff of the YWCA of the USA, especially working with civil rights pioneer Dorothy Height and receiving the YWCA Civil Rights Award.

Complete this sentence, "People would be surprised to know that I _____."

.... am 83-years-old. ■

The first female national JACL president draws on her experiences in JACL and her lengthy career at the YWCA to mentor youth to become our future leaders.

Her Passion is Education



As a professor and teacher training workshop facilitator, Sharon Ishii-Jordan uses her expertise to teach the lessons of the WWII internment.

When it comes to passions, education is at the top of the list for Sharon Ishii-Jordan, 57. And the one topic she is most passionate about is the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

As a former professor in the education department at Creighton University and the current associate dean in the school's College of Arts and Sciences, she has often taught her students about this important part of American history.

But it has been through her volunteer work at the JACL — she's a former Midwest governor and a longtime member of

the National JACL Education Committee — that she has been able to spread the lessons learned from the WWII experiences of Americans of Japanese ancestry. Last fall she was part of a group that headed to Skokie, Illinois to ensure that teachers from this area would make the history of the WWII camps a part of their classroom curriculum.

"Educators touch the lives of so many students from kindergarten to adult education; 'students' who will become the decision-makers," said Ishii-Jordan, who still continues to volunteer her

>>See ISHII-JORDAN pg. 14



Lillian is a dedicated community leader.

JAPANESE AMERICAN SERVICE COMMITTEE
ESTABLISHED 1946

Congratulations
.....
TO Lillian C. Kimura
OUR Extraordinary...
MEMBER
New York Chapter



At 101, Hayashida's Life Chronicles the History of JAs from Bainbridge Island

The oldest living former JA internee from Bainbridge Island has spent years helping to raise funds for a permanent memorial.

At 101 years of age Nisei Fumiko Hayashida is the oldest living survivor of the World War II incarceration camps from Bainbridge Island, Wash. She celebrated her recent birthday milestone with a trip to the Tulalip Casino.

Although she says she's slowed down a bit in recent years, her long support of the Bainbridge Island Memorial has helped garner much needed funds for the important monument that broke ground on phase two in 2009.

But perhaps Hayashida is best known for the iconic WWII image of her holding her infant daughter Natalie as they prepared to head to Manzanar from their home in Bainbridge Island along with over 200 Japanese Americans.

Hayashida joined the JACL in 1942 and continues to be a member of the Seattle chapter.

How did you celebrate your

100th birthday?

The family held a big party for me. Over 100 family and friends came to celebrate. We had a nice dinner and I was able to take photos with everyone who came. I was very surprised and happy to be surrounded by so many people. For my 101st birthday we had a smaller (40 family members) party. Can't wait for next year!

What feelings and thoughts come to mind when you see the famous evacuation photo of yourself holding your sleeping daughter?

I didn't know the photo was taken. It could have been anyone. I remember being scared of not knowing where we were going.

As one of the oldest members of the first group of JAs to be forcibly removed, what do you remember about the day you had to leave everything behind on Bainbridge Island?

I was sad to leave friends and

my home. Bainbridge Island is where I was born and grew up and having to leave with only what you could carry was daunting. I was only comforted that I had family members with us.

That photo has been republished in many history books. What do you hope the younger generations take away from that photo?

I'm not sure what they will take away. I have great grandchildren and I hope that the photo piques their interest. I hope that once the children learn more about what happened, they understand the whole scope of the Japanese internment.

In 2009, you boarded a construction backhoe to break ground on phase two of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial. Why do you think it's important to build memorials about the World War II Japanese American experience?

It's important because we should



not forget the past, so we can learn from it.

What goals and dreams have you yet to accomplish?

I have accomplished everything in my life. I have traveled extensively. I had a wonderful husband that spoiled me, a good

family and many friends. I'm surrounded by people that care for me and now I'm taking it easy.

If you could do one thing over in your life what would it be? Why?

Nothing, the road of my life has been full and now I just want to take it easy. ■



ISHII-JORDAN

>>continued from pg. 13

time at teacher training workshops. "The decisions and prejudices that led to the unjust discriminatory incarceration of individuals of Japanese descent and those who supported this population, as well as the initiative, perseverance, and courage to use our country's democratic principles and processes to bring forth public awareness and reparations is such an incredible story.

"The more we all understand about this era in our U.S. history, the better able we are to critically examine issues of injustice, engage in collaborative exchange of perspectives, and find resolutions toward just actions."

Ishii-Jordan is the *Pacific Citizen's* selection for "Extraordinary APA" from the Midwest District.

If you could go back in time and redo one part of history what would it be? Why?

I'm not sure that I would re-do any part of history. The triumphs and the tragedies over time have

contributed to societies that shape themselves through collective reflection, shame and inspiration. Without events at both ends of the spectrum, learning from our mistakes and moving toward a better existence may not occur. However, vigilance is important to maintain the precarious balance between individual desires and the common good.

Complete this sentence: "The last time I was frustrated was when _____."

The last time I was frustrated was this spring when so many different tasks came due at the same time in work, personal and organizational responsibilities. Sometimes the frustrations centered on involved decision-makers whose actions or beliefs were quite different from my own. Of course, at other times my frustrations have been with temporal perceptions — don't many of us feel like we don't have enough time?

What's the No. 1 thing you'd rather be doing than grading papers?

Aside from my job, I love traveling the globe.

If not bound by geographic location, what is the No. 1 reason for a person to join a JACL chapter in the Midwest District?

The Midwest District chapters are spread across the largest geographic area with the fewest number of chapters per square mile and some of the smallest chapter sizes to engage in activities that will carry out the mission of JACL. There is a lot to do, but a wonderfully diverse and enjoyable group of individuals with whom to share the load.

If you had the power to stop time for 10 minutes, what would you do? Why?

My goodness, 10 minutes is not much time! We all need a break to refresh ourselves, so I would breathe deeply, hug my family members, smile, say a quiet prayer of thanks for those 10 minutes, and then begin organizing my time after that luxury ended. ■

Congratulations, Fumiko!

You are an inspiration to all of us.

Seattle JACL

MASUMOTO

>>continued from pg. 12

together. I'm biased, of course, but it's also true that not all parents inspire their children to greatness, and my dad does that."

How did internment create a hole in your family?

The Masumotos had four brothers ready to finally buy a farm and plant roots in the early 1940s. Internment shattered our dreams. My grandfather was in his 60s and his hopes were destroyed. My grandmother grew bitter, understandably terrified about the government taking things away, especially when my father bought our farm after the war. This all created a climate for most Sansei farm kids to run away from the land and a mass exodus from farms did occur. Any evolution of JA family farms was crushed. I was one of the few naive enough to come back to the farm.

Internment created a hole in our family – and I was stubborn enough to try and fill it on the land. Farming organically seemed to be a natural extension of Japanese culture and reverence of nature and coupled with the history of JAs, another struggle and challenge to endure.

How can peaches make for wild farm work?

Next year we will publish a Masumoto Family Farm Peach cookbook – we're testing recipes now. As part of the research and writing, we had to test peach bellini, a mixture of peaches with prosecco, a wine. We did a minimum of 10 versions. While this recipe isn't that unique, testing them at nine in the morning was – it made for some wild farm work and tractor driving the rest of that day.

Do you have an argument as to why people should eat more produce?

Check the price of a Twinkie – it's typically over \$5 a pound. And consider how much cheap produce is thrown away because it lacks flavor. That's wasteful and very expensive.

You're a writer and a farmer.

I can't separate the two – I write about farming and I believe our family farm is an evolving story. I have a passion for both, a blessing and curse that's passed down to our daughter, Nikiko, who is an artist and taking over the farm. Once, someone told me writing and farming would be incompatible. They were wrong, there's an art of the story and the art of growing a peach. Besides, neither profession makes a ton of money so they're quite compatible. ■

ISAKARI

>>continued from pg. 12

The main theme of a project on her life would be *Ichi go ichi e*.

I'm only 15, so I think it is a bit premature for me or anybody to reflect on my life! But one of my favorite Japanese expressions is "*Ichi go ichi e*" which to me means living life to its fullest each and every day. I like this expression as it reminds me to keep a positive attitude even when things may not be going right.

Her ideal lunch dates would be eclectic.

George Komure, Barack Obama (the first person of color to be U.S. president), and my grandfather (never met).

"Bridging Communities" broadened her horizons.

I was very fortunate to participate in the JACL's "Bridging Communities" program last year as it taught me so much about the similar history of injustices toward the Nikkei and Muslim American communities. I was also even able to visit the Tule Lake internment camp and participate in a National Park project – something that I never dreamed of doing.

Her advice to JACL.

I think one important role of JACL is to provide diverse educational opportunities to the youth. These opportunities could be related to learning about the internment camp experience (like "Bridging Communities"), our Japanese cultural heritage or how to get involved in Asian American community affairs.

As for opportunities to learn about our Japanese culture and AA community affairs, I know there are other organizations that have started programs in these areas and so it would be nice to see if JACL could form alliances with them and thus promote these programs to the youth membership. Otherwise, it is really hard for youth who live in isolated areas to hear about these learning opportunities and thus get involved. ■

The Legendary Marion Hori

Marion Hori is pictured here with her two daughters, Crystalyn (left) and Jaclyn.

The former Wasatch Front North chapter president has helped to triple the once dying chapter.

Friends and acquaintances of Marion Hori all know that when it comes to all matters JACL, she will not take "no" for an answer. She will get you to volunteer for a chapter event and in the long run you will become a member of the organization, even a chapter president.

Hori's abilities are not myth, they are a reality. During the 1990s when her Wasatch Front North chapter in Utah was barely surviving she agreed to become the chapter's president. Soon, the chapter had tripled its membership. Today, Wasatch Front North has about 75 members.

"I believe in the JACL," said Hori, 70, in a recent interview with the *Pacific Citizen*.

Hori has been a JACL member for almost 50 years and her family has a long tradition in the organization. Almost all of her family members have at one time served as the Wasatch Front North chapter president including her husband Tom, her daughter Jaclyn and brother-in-law Gerald Nisogi.

"Her dedication to JACL is tremendous," said Larry Grant, former IDC district governor. "I am sure she will say she is just ordinary, but her stamina and commitment are extraordinary."

In your opinion how do you increase membership and interest in JACL as a whole?

Persistence. You have to keep encouraging people to become involved and let them know they are valued and have skills that

will help the chapter. Invite them to all the various activities and when they come, welcome them and ask them to help with different tasks and keep increasing your interest in them staying involved. If you give up, they will give up and not stay as members. Also family members are a great way to keep growth. Encourage them to invite their family members and they will feel more comfortable when they come to chapter activities.

Your family members say your persistence is legendary. Would you call it pushiness or persistence? Why?

Depending on who you speak to, they may say persistence leans toward pushiness, but sometimes, depending on the circumstance, a gentle push is necessary.

Why do you believe in JACL?

I believe it is necessary to have an organization that will stand up for anyone that is being discriminated against for any reason. It still happens and there should be some-

where people can go to get help.

Why is it important for you to have your entire family involved in the JACL?

They are the easiest to convince that JACL needs help.

If you were riding an elevator with an energetic group of Asian Americans, what would you do or say in that short duration to get them involved in JACL?

First, I would introduce myself and ask if they had heard of JACL. Then see if they were interested in going to a party being put on by the local JACL chapter. Tell them all the fun activities that the chapter does. Ask if them to bring something (food, music, friends, family). Then explain all the things JACL has done for people, not just Japanese Americans.

Aside from JACL, what hobby is usually the center of conversation at mealtimes?

Watching "Dancing with the Stars" or "American Idol" or NBA basketball. ■

A Big Congratulations

To:

Marion Hori

*Extraordinary APA
in JACL District*

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2012*



 National JACL
Credit Union

Leading JACL to its First Annual National Convention



Gary Mayeda (pictured above with actress Tamlyn Tomita) of the PSW District may have made it look easy but a lot of sweat and tears went into JACL's first annual convention in Los Angeles.

For JACL members who have had the experience of leading a national JACL convention, exhaustion seems to be a common outcome by the end of it. Some may even ask why they took on such a monumental assignment, all on volunteer time.

But not Gary Mayeda of the PSW District who was the chair of the first annual JACL national convention in Los Angeles back in 2011. He says he has no regrets and would do it all over again.

"The district planning committee was a joy to work with," said Mayeda, 48, of the APAN JACL Chapter. "We were people from different chapters and professional backgrounds with a common objective. Gathering talent like that and seeing everyone work together with such fantastic result is gratifying beyond belief."

Any advice for the folks taking on the upcoming convention in Bellevue, Wash. July 5-8? Mayeda's advice: make your convention unique and show off the great attractions and talent the PNW District has to offer.

"National may want you to do certain things but hold your own and trust your years of leadership abilities," he said. "I've known the chair Elaine Akagi for many years and I know she will do a great job."

Mayeda is the *Pacific Citizen's* choice for "Extraordinary APA" from the PSW District.

What was the biggest challenge of hosting JACL's first annual national convention?

There were several. Having only 18 months to plan the convention was probably the shortest amount of time in the history of JACL to plan a convention. The second was a venue change. National had to change the hotel site six months before and didn't secure the new hotel until four and a half months before the convention.

What was the biggest triumph of hosting this historic event?

For the first time in convention history, we collaborated with the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJALC) on workshops to expand the networking of JACL to beyond just the JACL community. The sponsors saw value in this and sponsored the events to bring JACL greater financial security. For me personally, it was seeing the delegates having a great time at special events like Madame Tussauds and taking silly pictures in the photo booth.

Is it true actor Gary Busey was

roaming the halls outside of a JACL board meeting? Any other star sightings?

Yes indeed, Gary Busey was just outside the PSW office giving an interview in the hallway. Actress Tamlyn Tomita graciously hosted our Culmination Banquet. If you were at Madame Tussauds then you saw all the famous Hollywood actors in character.

Would you consider JACL's move to an annual convention a success? Why?

Yes and in many ways a series of firsts for JACL. We were able to bring together JACL delegates and APA leaders from CJALC to discuss important issues facing our communities. From a business model, all of our vendors were either JACL members or people that are currently doing business with JACL. It is a way of strengthening the business relation we have with our partners. Never before was this a conscience effort for any convention. The cheapest vendor does not always enhance future growth.

This was also the first time a district hosted a convention. Typically a chapter hosts a convention so this involved the whole district. I also came up with the idea to have membership upgrades during the convention and solicited the help of Membership Coordinator Phillip Ozaki to implement. We also had the third highest net profit of all conventions and at 60 percent this was the first convention that gave more than the normal 50 percent of the profits to National JACL.

Complete this sentence, "If I had known then what I know now, I would _____"

... have spent more time with my mother. ■

MICHAEL LIN

>>continued from pg. 7

impacted directly by these laws deserves closure before passing.

Is an expression of regret enough?

Nothing will adequately correct the injustice caused by the repeatedly enacted exclusion laws and the six decades of suffering of early immigrants before these laws were repealed. However, for Congress to show courage to acknowledge the injustice is a start for the healing. More importantly, the passage of Congressional resolutions opens the opportunity to understand why and how this chapter of dark history occurred and what we can do to prevent it from happening again.

The fight for an expression of regret is pan-Asian (including JACL). Why do you think the lessons of the Exclusion Act resonate across ethnic communities?

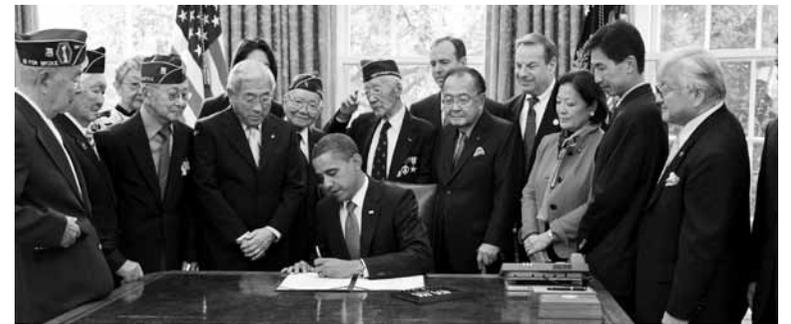
These exclusionary laws were enacted by representatives elected by the people and carried out in a democratic institution of the people with the beneficial intent for the people. Without an acknowledgment of the injustice and renewal of the commitment, we could be all impacted again, such as the internment of Japanese Americans during the WWII.

What's the next step?

We still have the companion House Resolution for passage. It is currently pending in the House Judiciary Committee and there seems to be encouraging signs that the committee is willing to consider it. Once the passage is achieved, we need to continue an effort to educate the public and future generations about the history and consequences of the Chinese Exclusion Laws and their extended impact on Asian Americans and their significance for all Americans. ■

MILITARY

>>continued from pg. 8



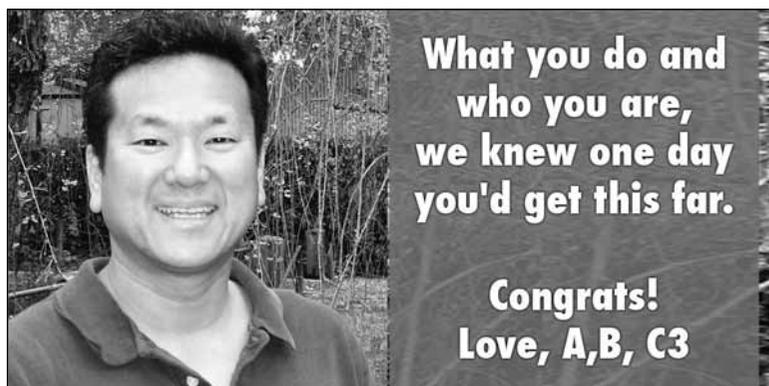
Virgil Westdale 522nd Field Artillery Michigan

"When I got the first hint that there was a bill (S1055) being introduced in Congress to bestow upon the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team their highest award the Congressional Gold Medal, I wondered if it would ever come to fruition. Over time thanks to so many Congressional members' help it was submitted to the president for his signature.

"When all this happened I thought of my soldier friends and those RCT members Killed in Action or passed on who could not be present when the Congressional Gold Medal was presented on Nov. 2, 2011, in Washington, D.C. How astounding the 'Honored Message' completely filled my thoughts as I truly realized the United States is saying to the RCT and the MIS, accept our humble thanks for the heroism, bravery, trustworthiness, and perseverance you demonstrated during those very difficult times. The deep sting that affected all of us, some more than others, was gone. I have no regrets how my life has turned out. The Congressional Gold Medal has sent a strong 'Honored Message' to us for WWII, before, during, and after. I very humbly accept the 'Honor' and I thank Congress for it."

Terry Shima 442nd veteran, recently retired executive director of JAVA (Japanese American Veterans Association) Washington, D.C.

"I link the Congressional Gold Medal to the accusation of Japanese American disloyalty during WWII. The Congressional Gold Medal is a reaffirmation of America's faith in Japanese Americans as loyal Americans. To admit it had made a huge constitutional mistake, to make corrections, and to offer a national apology at the highest level speak of the Greatness of America." ■



ASAKAWA

>>continued from pg. 2

balance precarious national finances.

The *P.C.* is a large line item on JACL's national budget (8 percent of the budget), which makes it an easy target. But the fact is, producing a great news operation is expensive, and Editor Caroline Aoyagi, Assistant Editor Lynda Lin and reporter Ko produce a great newspaper and website with a skeleton staff and an already very, very tight budget.

Newspapers everywhere are cutting back, so why shouldn't the *P.C.*, especially if JACL is financially hurting? It's the classic cliché of cutting off your nose to spite your face: Newspapers are finding that there is a point of no return when they keep cutting staff to balance their books: quality suffers.

When you keep trimming fat, you eventually cut into bone. We're about to slice bone.

Lin has been integral to the *P.C.*'s level of quality journalism since her arrival,

and she has brought great energy and talent to the operation. She's not just a savvy editor and sharp writer; she's also a skilled graphic designer who's helped establish a cleaner design for both the print edition and the *P.C.* website.

It would be difficult to imagine the *P.C.* operating smoothly for long if Caroline permanently lost Lynda.

I've said in past national board meetings during my tenure as *P.C.* board chair, that we've been incredibly fortunate to have both Caroline and Lynda running the paper. Their pay is low compared to similar media jobs in the market, but they've stayed on because of their passion for JACL, and for producing great quality journalism. That quality has been reflected in New America Media awards.

The *P.C.* has always worked to accommodate national JACL's shrinking budgets, and last year accepted a \$79,000 drop in membership dues funding. With each cut, the *P.C.* has worked harder and leaner, and thanks to you, increased its support from the annual Spring Campaign. It's not just with staffing; the *P.C.*

spent \$30,000 less on expenses in 2011 than it did in 2010.

The *P.C.* is consistently named as one of the most important benefits by JACL members. For many JACLers away from the West Coast the *P.C.* is the only "lifeline" to JACL that we see on a regular basis. It's what connects us, especially if we're not active in our chapters.

I hope you'll join me in urging JACL to continue the funding for the assistant editor position, both before and during the Seattle convention. If you're going, speak up on behalf of the *P.C.* If you're not, let your chapter and district representatives know how you feel.

Newspapers all over have made drastic cuts; the *P.C.* made its drastic cuts years ago, and cutting Lynda's position now would be a cruel, desperate move that would affect the *P.C.* adversely, making JACL's membership lifeline less effective and ultimately, membership itself less valuable. ■

Gil Asakawa is a former P.C. board chair and the current P.C. IDC rep.

2012 CONVENTION THEME: INFORM * TRANSFORM * PERFORM ... EMBRACING JACL IN AN ERA OF TRANSFORMATION

JACL remembers the past, approaches current challenges, and acts to secure and uphold human and civil rights for current and future generations. JACL promotes and preserves the cultural heritage and values of Japanese Americans.

INFORM — share our stories and describe the history of Americans of Japanese ancestry, and the experiences of the JACL. Who are we? Where did we come from? What experiences have we had and how have we responded? What have we accomplished?

TRANSFORM — the JACL organization is changing. The fundamental values and principles of JACL from 1929 remain intact, formed in response to prejudice and discrimination. As JACL moves from "the good old days" to the "brave new world," conscious, deliberate attention is needed to manage change. We need to acknowledge that when there is change, loss is always involved, even when the change is positive.

Where are we now? Where do we want to go as an organization? What programs will support our mission and help us to achieve our priority goals? How do we get there?

PERFORM — a high-performing organization brings out the best in people, mobilizes teams, nurtures a learning environment where people can share diverse ideas and disagree respectfully. A high-performing organization is one that is oriented to achieve, to meet and exceed defined goals.

Each biennium, JACL's "Program for Action" sets the course. How can we strategically move JACL through the 21st century? ■

WORKSHOPS

>>continued from pg. 6

Tom Ikeda, director of Densho.

- "Nikkei Senior Health - What the Individual and the Community Should Know" - Dr. Lianne Hirano, medical director of Seattle Keiro Center and Mirabella and faculty member, University of

Washington and Jeffrey Hattori, CEO of Nikkei Concerns.

- "Identity is Not a Math Equation: Multiracial, Multiethnic and Mixed Identity" - Christine Munteanu, JACL Ford program coordinator.

There will also be a "Living Well" Health Fair that will focus on diabetes. Screening and information about the pre-

vention and treatment of diabetes will be offered by professionals from the American Diabetic Association.

The workshops and performances are designed not only to enhance the conversation about the JACL and its future, but also to ensure that everyone has access to information to enjoy good health and be energized to enjoy life to the fullest. ■

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TRIBUTE

Franklin Aizo Hijikata

August 24, 1922 – March 1, 2012

Franklin A. Hijikata, 89, died on March 1 in Baltimore, MD. He spent over 25 years of his career as the executive director of the Neighborhood House in St. Paul, MN.

Frank was born in Ikebukuro, Tokyo, Japan, to an American-educated Baptist missionary, the Reverend Kiichi Hijikata, and his wife, Kimiko Aoki Hijikata. When he was four, his family immigrated to Sacramento, CA, where his father was minister of the First Japanese Baptist Church. He had two younger sisters, Ruth and Lillian, as well as a younger brother who died in infancy.

Frank's youth was spent in Sacramento, although the family spent periods in Loomis and Pacific Grove, CA, due to his father's declining health. After high school, he attended Sacramento Junior College, receiving an A.A. degree.

As part of the Evacuation, Frank was sent to the Walegra Assembly Center and then was interned at the Tule Lake War Relocation Center, both in California.

During the war, the Baptist church sponsored Frank's release to Buffalo, NY, where he earned a B.A. from the University of Buffalo. Frank then received a M. Div. from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, NY, and a M. Sc. (Social Administration) from Western Reserve University's School of Applied Social Sciences in Cleveland, OH.

Prior to the Neighborhood House, Frank was the executive director of the Firman House, a Presbyterian settlement house in Chicago, IL. He also served as pastor of the Nisei Christian Fellowship in Cleveland, OH, and the Fernwood Baptist Church in Rochester, NY.



He was a member of the Religious Society of Friends.

Franklin A. Hijikata is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rose Takano Hijikata; three daughters, Judith Hijikata, Susan Hijikata and Heidi Hijikata; and four grandchildren, Nathan Cox, Alexander Graber, Sachiko Graber, and Nicholas Cox. In addition, he is survived by a sister, Ruth Tsuchiyama of Montebello, CA, and a daughter-in-law, Sandra Hijikata. A son, F. Bruce Hijikata, died in 2002.

American Holiday Travel

2012 TOUR SCHEDULE

- DISCOVER CUBA HOLIDAY TOUR (NEW TOUR - Waitlist) JUN 19-27
Havana, Trinidad, Pinar del Rio, Playa Giron, Bay of Pigs Museum, Hemingway's Farm.
- GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR JUN 24-JUL 3
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Nara.
- CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS HOLIDAY TOUR JUL 15-21
Hyannis, Hyannisport, Plymouth, Cape Cod, Provincetown, Boston, Martha's Vineyard, Newport, New England Lobster Dinner.
- CANADIAN ROCKIES-GLACIER NATIONAL PARK HOLIDAY TOUR JUL 28-AUG 4
Calgary, Waterton Lakes National Park, Glacier National Park, Banff, Columbia Icefields-ride the Ice mobile, Albertan BBQ.
- ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE & TOUR JUL 31-AUG 11
Tour - Anchorage, Denali National Park, Fairbanks, Tok, Dawson City, Whitehorse.
Cruise - Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan, Vancouver. Holland America MS Zuiderdam.
- MT. RUSHMORE-YELLOWSTONE HOLIDAY TOUR AUG 21-30
Denver, Rapid City, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Cody, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Jackson, Salt Lake City.
- CHINA-YANGTZE RIVER HOLIDAY TOUR SEP 19-OCT 2
Beijing, Xian, Yangtze River Cruise, Shanghai, Hong Kong.
- EASTERN CANADA HOLIDAY TOUR OCT 3-10
Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls
- HOKKAIDO AUTUMN HOLIDAY TOUR OCT 9-19
Sapporo, Wakkanai, Soukyou, Abashiri, Shiretoko, Lake Akan, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate.
- DISCOVER CUBA HOLIDAY TOUR (NEW TOUR - space limited) OCT 30-NOV 7
Havana, Trinidad, Pinar del Rio, Playa Giron, Bay of Pigs Museum, Hemingway's Farm.
- MUSIC CITIES HOLIDAY TOUR NOV 4-11
New Orleans, French Quarter, Memphis, Graceland, Beale Street BBQ, Nashville, Grand Ole Opry, historic RCA Studio B, Old Ryman Auditorium.
- SPECTACULAR ANTARCTICA HOLIDAY CRUISE NOV 27-DEC 10
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- Aug. 04 - Aug. 12 **Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park**
- Sep. 06 - Sep. 17 **Let's Go Hokkaido**
- Sep. 29 - Oct.10 **The Legendary Danube River Cruise: Hungary, Austria, Germany**
- Oct. 03 - Oct. 17 **New England Colors & Eastern Canada: Fall Foliage**
- Oct. 05 - Oct. 09 **Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta: New Mexico's Most Dazzling Spectacle**
- Oct. 16 - Oct. 25 **Autumn Japan: Magnificent Fall Colors**
- Oct. 22 - Nov. 03 **Spectacular South Africa & Victoria Falls**
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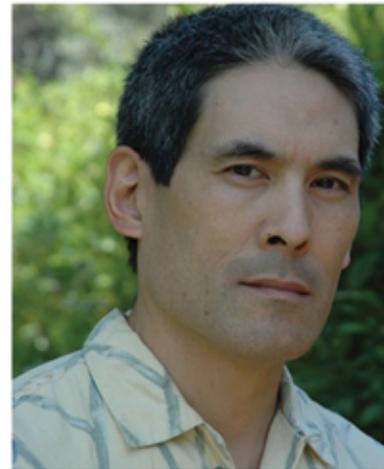
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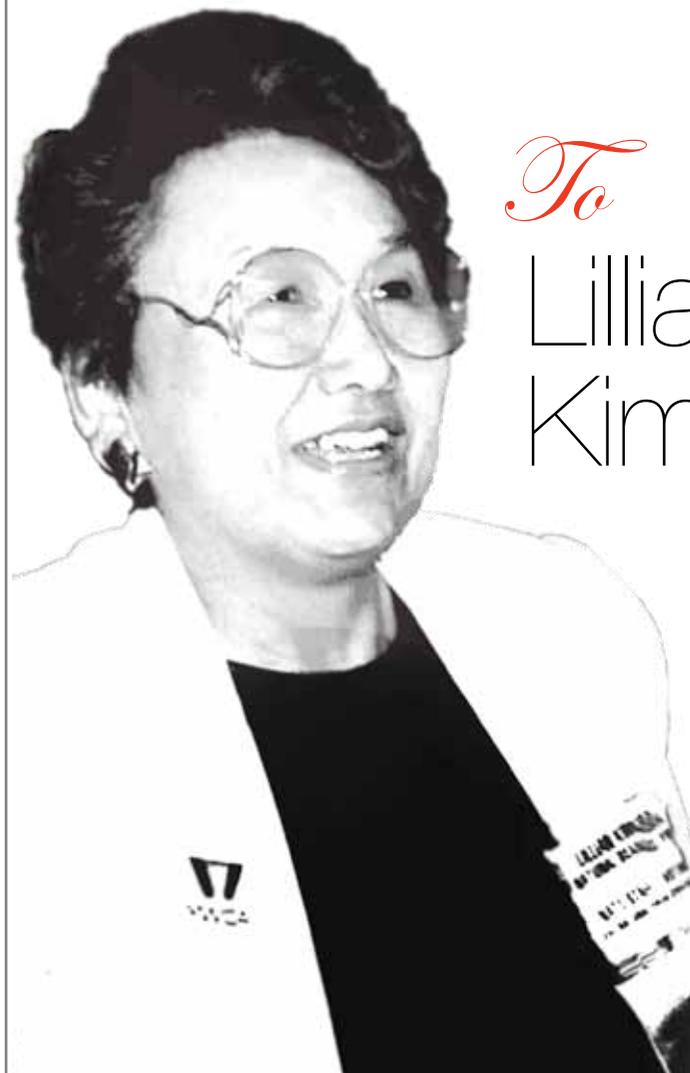
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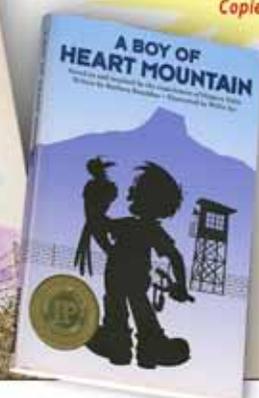
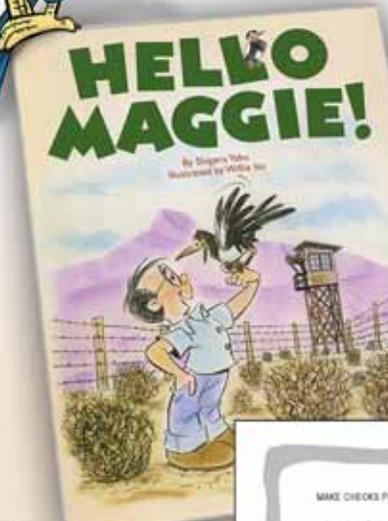
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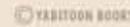
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