

JUNE 01 - JUNE 14, 2012



PACIFIC CITIZEN

THE NATIONAL
NEWSPAPER
OF THE JACL



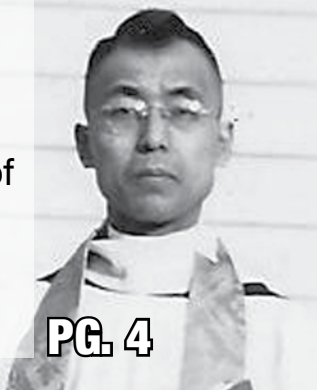
PG. 3

AA Studies Now!

Students demand more AA Studies courses and centers.

FEATURE

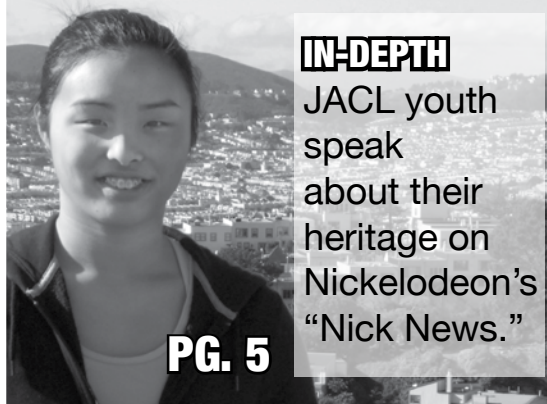
Nebraska plans to honor one of its heroes, Rev. Hiram Kano.



PG. 4

IN-DEPTH

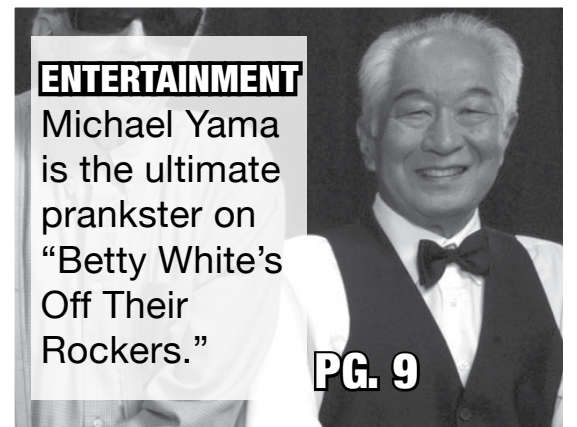
JACL youth speak about their heritage on Nickelodeon's "Nick News."



PG. 5

ENTERTAINMENT

Michael Yama is the ultimate prankster on "Betty White's Off Their Rockers."



PG. 9

Letters to the Editor

MY MEMORIES OF SHIGEKI HIRATSUKA

After reading the tribute to Shigeki Hiratsuka in the April 6 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, I humbly feel compelled to add my own words. In 2000, I was the fortunate recipient of the Aiko Susanna Tashiro Hiratsuka Memorial Scholarship. I sent a thank you letter to Mr. Hiratsuka, surprised at the coincidence that he resided in Tucson, Arizona, where I would attend the University of Arizona for my graduate degree.

A fortunate recipient indeed, in no way at that time could I have imagined the precious life's gifts that awaited me far beyond this generous monetary award.

Mr. Hiratsuka attended every one of my performances and receptions, always supporting me with generous enthusiasm and warmth. I had concerns that the performing arts could be a difficult passion to pursue, especially for people of Asian descent, but in his encouraging way, he told me about his late wife — her remarkable talents, dedication to the art of music, and outstanding accomplishments. As he spoke, I especially remember how his exuberance strongly reflected his deep respect and love for her.

All of this happened years ago, yet Mr. Hiratsuka is still with me. I always will look upon the time I spent with him — sharing his love for the arts, feeling his unselfish concern for my welfare, smiling at his verve for life as if he were such a good contagion — with lifelong gratitude.

Jessica Mariko Deardorff-Elder
Phoenix, AZ

RE: FEMALE SUMO WRESTLERS



I enjoyed the piece on female sumo wrestlers in the April 6-19 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*. For an earlier [1911] photo, see my "Pictorial History of the Japanese in Hawaii, 1885-1924" published by the Bishop Museum Press back in 1985. The photo is on page 125 and there are a couple others with boys/men and sumo.

Franklin Odo
Via email

MORE JA STORIES, NOT JUST CAMPS

I subscribe to the JACL for the news. I would like to see more articles on current Japanese Americans and others who should have news coverage. For instance, there should be articles about Minoru Yamazaki, the architect of the World Trade Center. Not enough has been said about him. There should also be more articles on Eurasians (I hate the term Hapa which you promote) who are on TV, especially those of Japanese descent.

The JACL news is always looking back, running articles about the camps. We need more articles and news about others in the academic field, industry or in finances.

Yoshiko Kelley
Tenafly, New Jersey

SPRING CAMPAIGN BUCKET LIST

By Roberta Barton



Something happened when middle age caught up with me. An undeniable urge was born to rediscover my Japanese (and Japanese American) roots before my time on this earth expired. The obsession grabbed hold and refused to let go. Ever since that watershed moment over a decade ago, I've been on a relentless mission to reconnect to my heritage.

So I started a Japanese American "bucket list" of sorts. I've spent these past 10 years volunteering for a number of cultural projects and committees in my quest

>>See BARTON pg. 16

NAT'L DIRECTOR'S REPORT NEW BEGINNINGS IN D.C.

By Priscilla Ouchida



I have packed up my boxes for my move to Washington, D.C. to begin my service as your national director. I am filled with excitement and the realization that it will be a challenge to follow in Floyd Mori's footsteps. Floyd has left an enduring legacy not only to the JACL, but to all Asian Americans.

I realized the magnitude of his contributions in conversations with other members of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans. Floyd has been a mentor and leader in the broader API community, and has changed the face of Asian American advocacy. His many friendships on the Hill have propelled JACL into the national spotlight. I am very pleased that Floyd has agreed to continue to contribute to the organization as national executive director emeritus.

On my list of "to dos" as incoming director is this column that will

>>See OUCHIDA page 16 and registration form page 6

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Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
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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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THE NEXT WAVE OF ASIAN AMERICA ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES



Members of Purdue University's Asian Student Union Board (*left to right*) Sirada Sasitorn, Denise Chung, Victoria Loong and Tamara Dizon have been circulating a petition to create an Asian/Asian American Resources Center on campus.

At institutions of higher education across the nation, students have been engaged in efforts to create new Asian American-related programs.

By Christine Fukushima, Correspondent

When Twitter accounts “Purdue Asians” and “Kim Jong Il” (with the handles @OrientalSwag and @Purdue_Asian, respectively) started tweeting things like “I sleep for entire crass & stir get better grades than you! :D” Asian American students at Purdue found another reason to sign a petition being circulated for the establishment of an Asian/Asian American cultural center on campus.

“What affected me the most about the account was it was branded Purdue. I chose to go to this school and to see my culture being mocked hurt,” said Tamara Dizon, a sophomore who has been spearheading efforts to create an Asian/Asian American cultural center at her school.

“I think this is all the more reason to have a cultural center at Purdue, to better educate everyone of the different cultures and how some statements can be hurtful,” Dizon added.

From large public institutions like Purdue University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to small private colleges like Williams College and Princeton University, students across the country are advocating for an increase in Asian American-related programs, such as academic departments, course offerings, and cultural centers, at their schools.

Although many of these colleges have relatively small Asian American populations, oftentimes they make up the largest minority group on campus. For example, at Purdue University, Asian Americans make up only about five percent of the undergraduate population, but are the largest ethnic minority group.

For those Asian American students at Purdue, the cultural

center would serve as a valuable resource and unifying space on campus, especially in light of the racist tweeting incident and others affecting the Asian American community, says Victoria Loong, a sophomore who has been working alongside Dizon.

“In response [to the racist tweets] people have said to ‘just ignore it — these people thrive off attention and we’re giving it to them,’ which I found to be utter nonsense because of the way people react to racism with other minorities,” said Loong.

She added, “I’d say with a cultural center we would have the resources to start a[n] . . . awareness campaign to have fought it in one unified group. Without a location for us all to convene we are all separated despite our numbers.”

Asian American Studies (AAS) as a distinct field of academic study did not emerge until 1969, when the Third World Liberation Front was formed by students of color at San Francisco State University (SFSU) and UC Berkeley to demand the formation of a Third World College.

Although this movement led to the establishment of Ethnic Studies as a college at SFSU and a department at UC Berkeley, it wasn’t until the 1990s that university departments dedicated to Asian American Studies specifically were created.

In 1995, advocates for an AAS minor program at Northwestern University organized a student hunger strike that lasted 23 days.

The strike inspired students at other universities to demand AAS programs and courses, and in that same year, the University of California, Santa Barbara began offering the country’s first Bachelor of Arts degree in AAS.

“Programs like this are intellectually, socially, and institutionally important . . . Institutionally because it can help open up historically white institutions and transform them into genuinely diverse institutions,” said Professor Ji-Yeon Yuh, director of Northwestern’s AAS department.

Currently, the AAS program at Northwestern is “thriving,” says Yuh. She has taught courses on Asian American women and Japanese American internment, among other topics, at the university.

According to the Association for Asian American Studies, there are now about 32 autonomous AAS programs at universities across the country. Programs in California and New York make up the majority of the list. There are also 20 colleges that offer the program within other departments and 18 that feature AAS courses but no AAS department.

Despite the progress made during the early 1990s in establishing AAS departments, many universities still lack or are in the process of implementing such programs.

The struggle to establish an AAS minor at Tufts University in Boston has lasted over 20 years, says Lorraine Shen. Shen, a member of Tufts’ Asian American Association (AAA), helped organize a teach-in to raise awareness about the program.

The AAS minor was recently voted into the Tufts curriculum after students organized to be able to get a student working group that advised the faculty working group responsible for creating the program, says Shen.

“On our own campus, Asian Americans are the largest minority but we have only a couple of classes that speak to this experience,” said Shen.

She added, “Asian American Studies is extremely important . . . [it] is not just about social identity politics, but about power structures and a fuller understanding of American history and society.” ■

“Programs like this are intellectually, socially, and institutionally important . . . Institutionally because it can help open up historically white institutions and transform them into genuinely diverse institutions.”

Professor Ji-Yeon Yuh
Director of Northwestern’s AAS department

Kano (front row in black, holding book) in 1935 following a confirmation service.

PHOTOS: EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR COLLECTION



NEBRASKA CHURCHES PREP FOR CELEBRATIONS TO HONOR JAPANESE AMERICAN REVEREND

Episcopalians in Nebraska are gearing up for a Japanese Heritage Celebration that honors the late Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano, who was an integral community leader.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

Nearly 100 years have passed since Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano set foot in the United States, but his legacy continues to live on in fading newspaper clippings, black and white photos and within the hearts of Episcopalians in Nebraska.

Kano, who was known by some as the "Saint of Nebraska and Colorado," died in 1988 three months before his 100th birthday. He was a prominent leader in the Japanese American and Episcopalian communities in Nebraska and later Colorado.

"He was a father," said Adeline Kano, 84, the daughter of the late reverend. "He was a scholar, a very devout man and very devoted to his mission, which was to serve the Japanese people in Western Nebraska in agriculture as well as in church activities."

To honor the memory of Kano the St. George's Mission and St. Mary's Mission in Nebraska are holding celebrations July 29 and July 30 at the Episcopal Church of Our Savior. Adeline and her older brother Cyrus are planning on attending the Japanese Heritage Celebration.

"The Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano served as an advisor, minister, teacher and translator to Japanese immigrants residing in Western Nebraska," said Stephen W. Kay, 58, a mem-

ber of the Episcopal Church of Our Savior and chair of the Japanese Heritage Celebration Committee. "The Japanese Heritage Celebration will commemorate the life, ministry and service of Fr. Kano, as well as the Episcopal Japanese Missions in North Platte and Mitchell."

Born in Tokyo, Japan in 1889 to an influential family, Kano's interest in the U.S. was piqued after his family hosted American politician William Jennings Bryan, who was also a family friend.

It was 1916 when Kano arrived in the U.S. Kano's experience in the country would not be without turmoil.

"He was of small personage, but a really dedicated Christian and he worked with the Japanese people here in the Panhandle," said Nancy Sato, 79, who moved to Mitchell, Neb. in 1962. "And he was at the St. Mary's Mission here and then he helped all the Issei, which would be our first generation Japanese."

Sato was integral in helping to publish Kano's autobiography called "Nikkei Farmer on the Nebraska Plains." The book chronicles the Nisei's life in the Midwest before and after WWII.

At the University of Nebraska, Kano earned a master's degree in agricultural economics.

In 1919, Kano testified at the state Capitol to argue against a bill that prohibited "illegal

aliens" from owning land in the state. The anti-Japanese bills failed in Nebraska, although anti-Asian sentiments remained.

Before the outbreak of WWII, Kano was ordained a deacon in 1928 and worked as a priest in 1936.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Kano was arrested by FBI agents and was unjustly interned for two years in incarceration camps.

The JA community in North Platte and Mitchell, Nebraska still remembers the work accomplished by Kano nearly a century ago.

"We're probably one of the less than five or 10 surviving families of that era of Father Kano because that's another century ago," said Mary Kumagai Okamoto, 89, a resident of North Platte and long-time member of St. George's Mission. "Well, my goodness he was a very important part of our lives at that time. He was a priest in the Episcopal church."

Okamoto says she still remembers participating in a youth fellowship at the church and gathering at Kano's home for social activities.

"Those are my happy memories of going there," Okamoto said about growing up in North Platte with her four siblings. "We had a social time and played softball and things like that."

Remnants of Kano's legacy still live on throughout the JA community in Nebraska.



Kano was known by some as the "Saint of Nebraska and Colorado."

Justyn Yaeko Wada, who was born in North Platte, remembers her father working with Rev. George A. Beecher and Kano to support legislation to allow Japanese immigrants to become American citizens.

"I was baptized before leaving Nebraska and it was Fr. Kano who gave me my middle Japanese name," Wada said.

Kano became a naturalized citizen after the Immigration and Nationality Act was passed in 1952. He retired from the priesthood about five years later. With his wife Ai "Ivy," Kano moved and bought farmland in Fort Collins, Colo. His daughter Adeline still resides in the city.

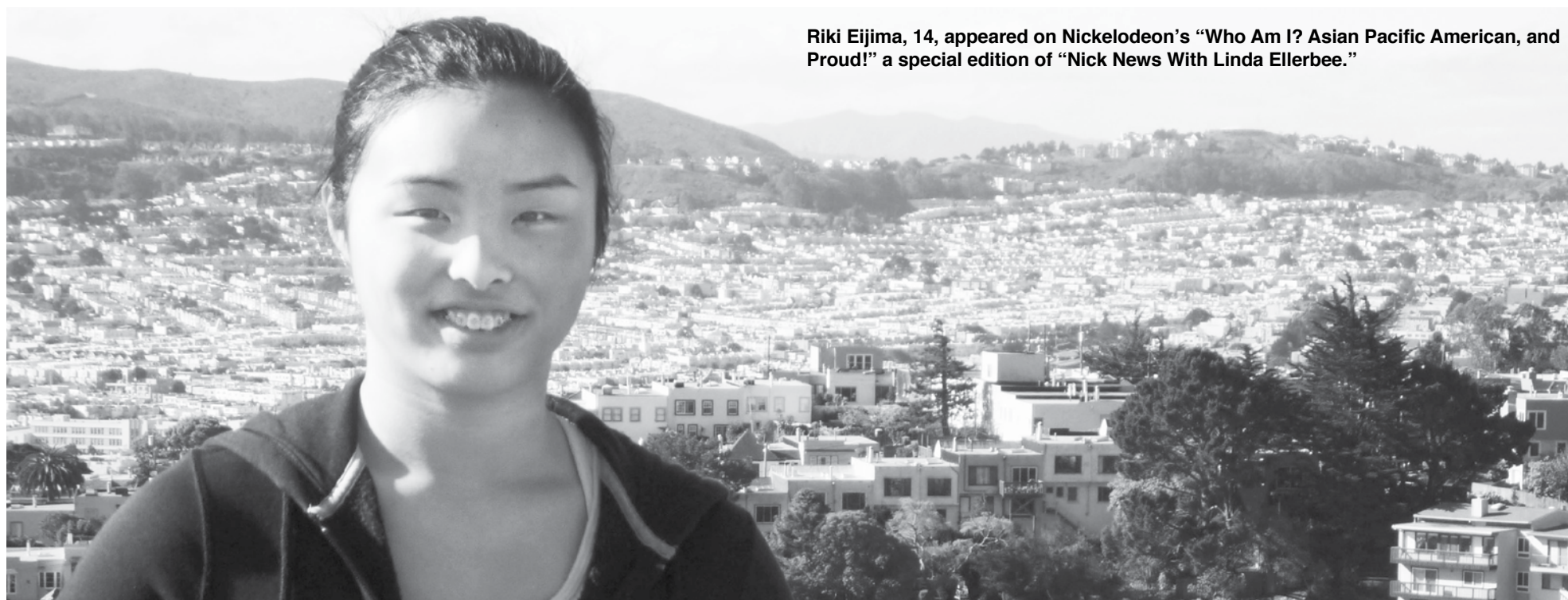
To thank Kano posthumously for his work in the JA community, Nebraska Sen. Thomas Hansen introduced Legislative Resolution 620, which was adopted on April 10. Many Nebraska residents say the honor is long overdue.

"The honoring of the Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano as a 'holy man,' will be a vindication of his life and legacy as well as those Japanese Americans who suffered the terrible ordeals of being imprisoned in what was called in American history as the 'internment camps' during World War II," said Rev. Dr. Winfred B. Vergara, missionary for Asiamerica Ministries in the Episcopal Church, who will also attend the upcoming events.

Adeline says she left North Platte when she was in the eighth grade and returning to the city to attend an event in her father's honor is a humbling experience.

"My father was humble," she said. "I don't know what else one would say. He was diligent in everything he did. And my mother was always there." ■

For more information about the Japanese Heritage Celebration: www.cosnp.org, secretary.cosnp@gmail.com or 308/532-0515.



Riki Eijima, 14, appeared on Nickelodeon's "Who Am I? Asian Pacific American, and Proud!" a special edition of "Nick News With Linda Ellerbee."

APA YOUTH EXPLORE THEIR IDENTITY ON NICKELODEON

The JACL was asked to help find Japanese American youth for a special Asian Pacific American edition of the Nickelodeon show "Nick News With Linda Ellerbee."

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

Most eighth graders at San Francisco's Hoover Middle School have graduation on their minds, but valedictorian Riki Eijima is also anxiously anticipating another important date.

The 14-year-old Japanese American appears with other Asian Pacific American kids on Nickelodeon's "Who Am I? Asian Pacific American, and Proud!" a special edition of "Nick News With Linda Ellerbee." The show was created by Ellerbee, an Emmy Award-winning journalist.

Days before the show's premiere, Riki said she was preparing to watch the episode with her family.

"I am super excited to see myself on TV! I think it's going to turn out great!" said Riki before the show's May 27 premiere. "Filming at school was crazy! Some kids just couldn't get enough of the camera."

The show explores and confronts APA identity and stereotypes through the perspective of kids from various backgrounds. For Riki's appearance on the show, cameras followed her at school and home.

"It was also hard to stay quiet while they were shooting," said 10-year-old Tomi, Riki's sister. "It takes a lot of work to make a few minutes of television."

Riki's younger sister was not the only family member who had to adjust to the cameras in their San Francisco home.

"Riki's friend, sister, and I had to hole up in a bedroom and be very quiet during the filming. It was difficult!" said Tami J. Suzuki, Riki's mom. "They followed Riki from

school to home to dance class and to church over three days. We enjoyed having the crew with us, and my girls were sorry to see them leave."

The show was timed to coincide with May's APA Heritage Month. The special segment gives a voice to APAs from different ethnic subgroups.

"Asian Pacific American kids often deal with societal expectations and stereotypes and this special gives them a platform to share their personal stories," said Marjorie Cohn, Nickelodeon president of development and original programming.

Joining Riki for her Nickelodeon appearance was her 91-year-old paternal grandfather, Warren, who is also a veteran of the Military Intelligence Service. But the Nickelodeon appearance is not Warren's first stint on TV.

"I was interviewed for a couple of other things and events," Warren said of being interviewed in the past at the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony. "I was interviewed when we went to Washington, D.C."

The MIS, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 100th Battalion were honored last year in Washington, D.C. with the Congressional Gold Medal. It is Congress' highest civilian honor.

Warren was a sophomore at the University of California, Berkeley, when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. The Nisei was detained with his family at Tanforan Assembly Center before being relocated to Topaz. Leaving the Utah-based camp to attend Temple University, Warren was drafted for the United States Army in 1944.

With the MIS, Warren served in the Philippines and later was sent to Japan to assist with the rebuilding efforts after the war ended. Those in the MIS handled classified information and translated enemy documents, among other tasks.

Some 6,000 Japanese Americans like Warren served in the MIS during World War II while most of their families were unjustly incarcerated and classified as enemy aliens. The work of the MIS, however,

was secret until 1974 when the Freedom of information Act was passed.

"Having my grandfather on the show meant the world to me," Riki said. "He told his story well and I felt his support." Warren's wife, June, was also filmed for the Nickelodeon show.

Talking about his experiences during WWII is something Warren says he rarely shares with his four grandchildren. Riki is the eldest of the four grandchildren.

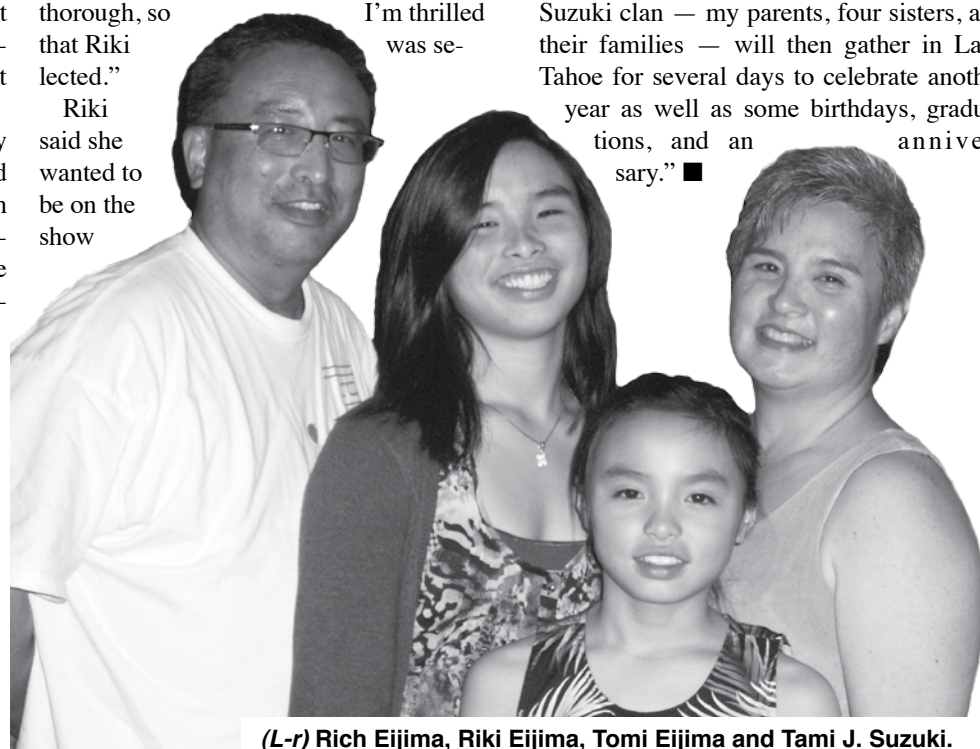
"But they're starting to ask questions and once I get started I can't stop," he said with a laugh. "I think they should know about it. I tell them of my experiences and especially where we were discriminated against."

To find JA students for the show Nickelodeon contacted JACL officials.

"I put out the request to my chapters and other community contacts, then had to follow up with those parents whose names I was given and speak with them about their children's participation," said Patty Wada, Northern California/Western Nevada/Pacific Regional Director. "Apparently, the interview and selection process was quite thorough, so that Riki selected."

Riki said she wanted to be on the show

I'm thrilled
was se-



(L-r) Rich Eijima, Riki Eijima, Tomi Eijima and Tami J. Suzuki.

to share her family story and to introduce young viewers to JA history.

Laotian American Malysa Kettavong was one of the other APA youth who participated in the show to highlight the differences and similarities shared by all kids across cultures.

"We are one of the smallest minority groups in America and usually people don't know much about us," said Kettavong, a 15-year-old from New Britain, Conn. "It's great to share our views and culture to the kids watching around the country. We're still the same kids, but with different backgrounds."

Now that the Nickelodeon show has aired, Riki can focus her efforts on another important milestone: her eighth grade graduation.

The 14-year-old is heading to Lowell High School next year. She plans on going into physical therapy or sports medicine after going to a prestigious college like Brown University, Stanford or the University of California, Los Angeles.

"We'll watch Riki and her classmates graduate from Hoover Middle School," Suzuki said about her eldest daughter. "The Suzuki clan — my parents, four sisters, and their families — will then gather in Lake Tahoe for several days to celebrate another year as well as some birthdays, graduations, and an anniversary." ■

NATIONAL CONVENTION BOOSTER ACTIVITIES

By National JACL
Convention Committee

Welcome convention boosters! The Seattle JACL National Convention Committee has some special activities planned just for you. While your delegate is busy with convention business, here are some activities being planned for you.

• Friday, July 6th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. — Enjoy visiting the Chinatown/International District and touring the Panama Hotel (www.panama-hotelseattle.com) and the Wing Luke Asian Museum (www.wingluke.org) in the morning. We'll share dim sum and other Chinese food at a local restaurant, then tour the Nisei Veterans Hall, Museum & Memorial Wall (www.seattlencv.org) and finish the afternoon with a tour of the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington (www.jcccw.org) located at the old Japanese Language School.

• Saturday, July 7th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. — Explore and tour the Pike Place Market (www.pikeplace-market.org) with lunch at Cutter's Crabhouse (lunch cost not included) (www.cutterscrabhouse.com). We'll leave the market and drive to Ballard to walk-around the Locks (www.seattle.gov/tour/locks.htm)



and watch the boats move to and from fresh water in Lake Union to the salt water of Puget Sound. We'll return to the Hyatt Regency Hotel via a drive through the University of Washington Campus (www.washington.edu).

Other activities include:

• For those who arrive by July 4th, enjoy a BBQ and an up-close viewing of 4th of July fireworks at the Downtown Bellevue Park.

• Friday evening, July 6th — 'Adults' (21 & older) can try their late night luck at one of

our favorite and sponsoring casinos. Round-trip transportation to either Muckleshoot or Snoqualmie casinos will be provided. (Which casino is still to be determined.)

• Sunday, July 8th, 9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. — A quick trip to Uwajimaya (www.uwajimaya.com) for any last minute Asian specialty groceries and souvenirs to take home! ■

For more information and other requests, contact Ken Kurata at kenkurata@windermere.com or 206/601-5834.

PSWD UNVEILS NEW ORAL HISTORIES PROGRAM, KATAROU HISTORIES

By Eri Kameyama

The Japanese word *katarou* or "let's share stories" is the inspiration behind a new oral histories program recently created by the Pacific Southwest District. Katarou Histories is a multi-generational program designed to collaboratively share and preserve Japanese American and API history through creative means.

High school and college students, plus Nisei and Sansei are encouraged to apply for this 10-week multi-generational program to bring together students and adults to collaboratively foster an understanding of identity, community, and the importance of preserving oral histories in the San Fernando Valley's Japanese American community.

Through a series of workshops, participants will learn the significance of telling their own stories and preserving their oral histories through creative outlets. Each session will gather community speakers to conduct interactive workshops focused on issues of ethnic identity, to the role of oral histories, to more artistic modes of activism.

Katarou Histories will meet every Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. from June 14 to Aug. 23, with the exception of July 5. Sessions will take place at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center. There will also be a retreat from July 14 to 15 where participants can interact with more community members and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for Japanese American identity, history and activism.

The latter half of the program will be dedicated toward creating the final project to present at Culmination Day on Aug. 23. As participants get familiar with oral history methods and creative activism, they will learn to become agents of the preservation of history through the creation of their own work.

For more information or to request an application, visit www.jaclpsw.org or contact PSW Associate Regional Director Marissa Kitazawa at programs@jaclpsw.org or 213/626-4471. This program is sponsored by AT&T, San Fernando Valley JACL and the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center. ■

REGISTRATION FORM

Online: To register online visit <http://www.jacl.org/2012>

By Mail: A separate form must be completed for each individual registration. Additional registration forms are available online, or by email at info@jaclseattle.org, or by calling (206) 623-5088. Convention Package \$250 (\$300 after June 1st) Youth/Student Package (for ages 25 and under) \$200 (\$250 after June 1st)

Both packages include the Welcome Mixer, Awards Luncheon, Youth Luncheon, Workshops, Continental Breakfast, Sayonara Banquet & Dance. These events can also be purchased individually (see below).

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- ☐ Health Disparities
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☐ Serving Nisei Seniors
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☐ Identity is not a Math Equation
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☐ Breaking the Silence
☐ Youth Council
☐ JACL Membership
☐ Preserving Community Treasures
☐ Legal System & Civil Rights
☐ Health & Wellness Fair
☐ JACL Profiles

* Notice: For workshop descriptions, please check www.jacl.org/2012.

Convention Package (Incl Conference)	Early Bird	After June 1 st
	\$250	\$300
Youth Convention Package (Incl Conference)	Early Bird	After June 1 st
	\$200	\$250
Individual Events	Early Bird	After June 1 st
Welcome Mixer	\$40	\$55
(Youth/Student)	\$35*	\$50*
Awards Luncheon	\$75	\$90
(Youth/Student)	\$60*	\$75*
Youth Mixer	\$75	\$90
(Youth/Student)	\$60*	\$75*
(Youth Member)	\$55**	\$60**
Sayonara Banquet/Dance	\$150	\$175
(Youth/Student)	\$100*	\$125*
Workshops	\$25	\$40
(Youth/Student)	\$25*	\$40*

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be received by June 1, 2012 for a 100% refund. Cancellations received between June 2, 2012 and July 2, 2012 will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be issued for cancellations after July 2, 2012.



METHOD OF PAYMENT

Payment and this form due by June 15, 2012 to:

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JACL National Convention July 5-8, 2012
 Hyatt Regency Bellevue, WA



APAS NOT UNIFIED IN SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DEBATE

By Pacific Citizen Staff
and Associated Press

President Barack Obama's support of gay marriage has emboldened activists and politicians on both sides of the issue, setting off a flurry of political activity in a number of states and serving as a rallying point in others where gay marriage votes are being held this fall.

Fifty percent of Americans support gay marriage and 48 oppose it, according to a Gallup Poll released May 8. Within the divide are Asian Pacific Americans who land on both sides of the issue.

"Our children, our brothers and sisters, and our friends may have loving relationships with a same-sex partner. We strive for a day when they too can enjoy equal standing with other Americans and marry the person they love," said Priscilla Ouchida, JACL national executive director, in a press release after the president's historic announcement in support of gay marriage.

Citing a shared history of marriage discrimination, many APA leaders say it's important to take a stand against inequality. Until 1967, many APAs were similarly barred from marrying the partner of their choice because of anti-miscegenation laws.

But the APA community has not spoken with one voice on the touchy issue of same-sex marriage.



In 2008 after Proposition 8, a ballot measure to restrict marriage to a man and a woman, passed in California an exit poll conducted that year revealed 64 percent of APA voters in Los Angeles voted against Proposition 8.

Same-sex marriage is now legal in six states and the District of Columbia. Thirty-one states have passed amendments aimed at banning it. The issue is expected to come up in at least four ballot measures this fall:

- Maine's ballot question asks whether gay marriage should be legalized.
- Minnesota is asking whether a ban on gay marriage should be part

of the state constitution.

- Maryland and Washington are expected to have ballot measures seeking to overturn same-sex marriage laws that were recently passed by the legislatures.

Other civil rights groups, including Asian American Center for Advancing Justice in Washington, D.C., have issued statements applauding the president's stance in support of gay marriage. The NAACP, the country's oldest African American civil rights group, has also recently endorsed same-sex marriage. The JACL has been a longtime supporter of marriage equality. In 1994, JACL became the first non-gay organization —

after the American Civil Liberties Union — to support same-sex marriage.

The re-galvanized debate about marriage equality coincides with the 45th anniversary of the *Loving v. Virginia* decision, which legalized interracial marriage on June 12, 1967.

America has come a long way in its views of interracial marriage. About 15 percent — an all time high — of all new marriages in the United States are interracial, according to the Pew Research Center.

Every year, communities across the nation celebrate Loving Day to commemorate the day people were

free to marry.

"Marriage means a lot of things to a lot of people," said Ken Tanabe, founder of Loving Day. "It can mean tax breaks and health insurance coverage. It can also mean dignity and equality."

On the other side of the issue, lawmakers are gearing up to fight the same-sex marriage legislations in several key states.

In Oklahoma, the state Senate recently voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution reaffirming opposition to gay marriage, even though there's a ban already enshrined in state law and the state constitution. Republican Sen. Clark Jolley said he introduced the resolution in direct response to Obama's position.

In Minnesota, a Minnesotans for Marriage spokesman said Obama's announcement "demonstrates why marriage needs to be protected and put in the state Constitution where politicians can't get at it."

For supporters, the right to marry is fundamental.

"While I believe that religious organizations should have the freedom to define marriage however they wish for their own community, I believe that our government is responsible for ensuring that all Americans are given equal protection under the law," said Tanabe. "That includes life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the right for consenting adults to marry the person of their choice." ■

MEMORIAL UPSETTING JAPANESE OFFICIALS

By P.C. Staff and
Associated Press

Japanese officials are asking a small, northern New Jersey town with a large Korean immigrant population to remove a public monument dedicated to women who were forced into sexual slavery by Japanese soldiers during World War II.

The monument in Palisades Park, New Jersey is a brass plaque on a block of stone dedicated in 2010 to the memory of the "comfort women," over 200,000 who were forced into sexual slavery by Japanese soldiers during World War II. Many of these women were Korean.

Two delegations of visiting Japanese officials have unsuccessfully appealed to Palisades Park administrators to have the plaque removed.

The town officials' refusal to remove the plaque highlights the



ongoing tension between Japan and South Korea over the legacy of the "comfort women."

According to the *New York Times*, Japanese Consul General Shigeyuki Hiroki met with town officials and offered to plant cherry trees and donate books to the public library if the memorial were removed.

"I couldn't believe my ears," Jason Kim, deputy mayor of Palisades Park, said in the same article. "My blood shot up like crazy."

Japanese leaders have said that their formal apologies regarding the treatment of comfort women are sufficient, including an offer to set up a \$1 billion fund for victims. Surviving victims have rejected the fund since it would be using private funds and not government monies.

The monument in Palisades Park is the only one in the United States dedicated to comfort women, borough officials said.

Chejin Park of the Korean American Voters Council, which supported the Palisades Park memorial, said the Japanese government's opposition to it is galvanizing efforts in Korean communities across the U.S. to build similar memorials. ■

HAWAII TO AWARD POSTHUMOUS DEGREES TO JA WWII CADETS WHO FORMED ARMY UNIT

By Associated Press

HONOLULU—The University of Hawaii says it plans to award honorary degrees to seven Japanese American U.S. Army ROTC cadets who formed a civilian battalion and were killed in action during World War II.

University officials say the students were enrolled during the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and called to serve in the Hawaii Territorial Guard. But they were kicked out because of their Japanese ethnicity.

They petitioned and formed a civilian battalion that eventually led to the establishment of a U.S. Army regiment of Japanese Americans.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team served in Italy and France and is still the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history.

The students to be honored are: Daniel Betsui of Hanapepe, Jenhatsu Chinen of Helemano, Robert Murata and Grover Nagaji of Honolulu, Akio Nishikawa of Paia, Hiroichi Tomira of Wailuku and Howard Urabe of Kapaa. ■



NIKKEI VOICE

WHAT WERE MARION BARRY AND MIKE COFFMAN THINKING?

By Gil Asakawa

Sometimes, you have to wonder what politicians were thinking when they opened their mouths and something ill-advised slip through their lips.

I'm not just talking Joe Biden-style gaffes, although he's certainly prone to them. In his latest case, even when he spoke without thinking, Biden's comment about same-sex marriage ultimately led to President Obama finally going public with his endorsement, which was a good thing.

I'm talking about two examples from the opposite ends of the political spectrum, who have been in the news for statements they've made that are racially charged.

The first is Colorado Congressman Mike Coffman, who was recorded at a closed-door fundraising event making this claim: "I don't know whether Barack Obama was born in the United States of America. I don't know that. But I do know this, that in his heart, he's not an American. He's just not an American."

It's about a clear and direct endorsement of the "birther" movement as has been articulated. He later retracted the "not American" part. But in the media glare ignited by the quote, Coffman kept a low profile and sent surrogates to Denver-area events he had scheduled (including an Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration that my wife and I emceed), but was caught like a deer in headlights by a TV reporter. The subsequent brief interview went viral on the Internet because the congressman was so clearly uncomfortable, and repeated his rehearsed message over and over to every question: "I stand by my statement that I misspoke and I apologize."

The other politician is on the East Coast: Former Washington, D.C. mayor and current councilman for the District's

Ward 8, Marion Barry, ignited his firestorm in early April by complaining about Asian shop owners in his district.

"We've got to do something about these Asians coming in, opening up businesses, those dirty shops," he said. "They ought to go, I'll just say that right now, you know. But we need African-American businesspeople need to be able to take their places, too." He apologized for his "bad choice of words," but not for his point.

A couple of weeks later, he added to the firestorm when he singled out Filipino service workers, especially nurses: "In fact, it's so bad, that if you go to the hospital now, you find a number of immigrants who are nurses, particularly from the Philippines," he said. "And no offense, but let's grow our own teachers, let's grow our own nurses — and so that we don't have to be scrounging around in our community clinics and other kinds of places — having to hire people from somewhere else."

Then he apologized in earnest, because he ended up in a hospital with a blood clot ... and was attended by Filipina nurses. "I also thank outstanding medical staff, incl. kind professional Filipino staff. I stand corrected; I truly didn't mean 2 hurt or offend."

He assembled a community forum to apologize publicly to the Asian community, and managed to bungle his own good-intentioned event by saying that the history of America has been filled with racial strife (true enough). He cited the Irish and Jews and then the "Polacks," which to someone of Polish heritage is like the "N-word" to African Americans or the "C-word" to Asian Americans.

It appears Marion Barry, who's something of an iconic figure in D.C. politics for his ability to survive as a public servant in spite of a conviction for crack cocaine, and other legal entanglements, is prone to verbal vomit when it comes

to racial and ethnic issues.

He has no filter, like Mike Coffman (who has a reputation for generally being a moderate Republican) lost his filter when he was behind closed doors with conservative donors.

But Barry's lack of judgment is potentially more damaging, not just because he aimed his ignorance first at Asians, but because his comments reflect a long history of animosity between some African Americans and some Asian Americans.

That animosity goes back to the 1960s, when Barry was starting his career as a civil right activist, and a *New York Times Magazine* article first used to term "Model Minority" to describe Asians (Japanese Americans in the article) for being hard-working and uncomplaining — the subtext was that the African Americans protesting for civil rights were troublemakers, the "bad" minority. Tensions have continued through the '80s, '90s and 2000s, with flare-ups between black communities and Asian businesses.

The most vivid of these confrontations came during the L.A. Riots following the 1992 acquittal of four policemen who beat Rodney King. Much of the black community's rage was aimed at the Korean small business owners and their shops.

It was during the chaos of those riots that Rodney King uttered the words that I wish politicians like Mike Coffman and Marion Barry would keep in mind: "People, I just want to say, you know, can we all get along?" ■

Gil Asakawa is a former editorial board chair of the Pacific Citizen and the current IDC representative to the P.C. editorial board.



VERY TRULY YOURS

APT ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

By Harry K. Honda

With four books being added to our modest home library, this shall be a different tangent.

No. 1. Greg Robinson. "Pacific Citizens: Larry and Guyo Tajiri and Japanese American Journalism in the World War II Era" (2011), University of Illinois Press, Urbana, Illinois, 295pp.

No. 2. Ansho Uchima, Minoru Shinmoto. "Nikkei Generals and Admirals: United States Military" (2010), Cal State Fullerton. Nikkei Writers Guild Division of Japanese American Living Legacy, Fullerton, CA 92831, 134pp.

No. 3. Isami Mike Tsuji. "Go For Broke: Me and the War" (2011), Cal State Fullerton. Nikkei Writers Guild Division of Japanese American Living Legacy, Fullerton, CA 92831, 148 pp.

No. 4. Jamie Ford. "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" (a novel) (2009). Ballantine Books, Random House, Inc., New York City, 302pp.

No. 1 - Greg has written several books but this was special for me, having known Larry when we were both Maryknoll School students prewar in Los Angeles, only he was four

grades above me. Read Greg's introduction and be set for the great variety of topics Larry tackled prewar in the *Kashu Mainichi* and *Nichibei Shimbun* and wartime at the *P.C.* in columns and editorials. Greg's selections are panoramic as he explains at the beginning of the chapters.

Larry's "Malice in Wonderland" (*P.C.* Sept. 25, 1943) looks at wholesale evacuation when DeWitt left and Gen. Emmons from Hawaii succeeded and was being warned to "keep his hands off the Japanese evacuation issue". How often does Emmons' name appear in current views regarding Evacuation?

In Larry's writing beyond *P.C.*, his wartime letters, post-war (Larry contributed columns till his untimely death in '65 and a chapter on Guyo's role, how they met, etc., are all enlightening.

Many of Larry's letters that Greg had were addressed to *Common Ground* editor M. Margaret Anderson, a progressive monthly published during the war years. It was JACL's way to pass on their message to a greater community. The *P.C.* then only printed 8,000 copies and no more because of

wartime ration restrictions of newsprint.

Larry's articles were comprehensive and entertaining. The magazine was the same size as the *Reader's Digest* — easy to read in a streetcar or at home with a coffee cup within a quick grasp.

Anyone asking me about the war years, I shall recommend they read this book first — hardcover at \$60, the last time I heard. We're waiting for softcover or paperback prices.

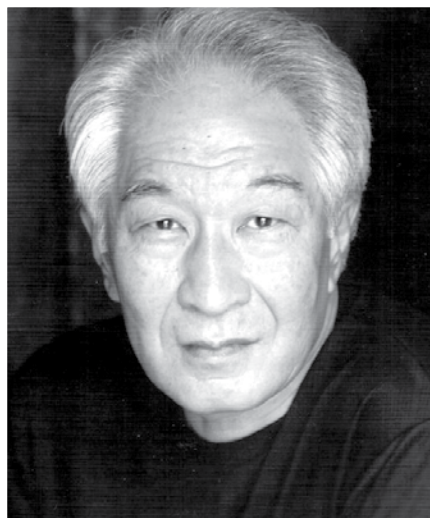
No. 2 - How Ansho and Min can focus on "how about?" matters is heartwarming. They had produced one on prewar (1930s) Japanese families in the Seinan district. My cousins, the Monjis, lived there. Naturally I wanted to check it out and was satisfied but more rewarding was to see familiar faces and names that I couldn't remember which that volume did for me.

They found "as of this publication," 42 Americans of Japanese ancestry, the first being Brig. Gen. Francis Takemoto of Hawaii earning his fourth star in January 1964, and the



>>See HONDA pg. 13

MICHAEL 'THE DESTROYER' YAMA GETS RASCALLY ON 'BETTY WHITE'S OFF THEIR ROCKERS'



Actor Michael Yama has honed his pranking skills for decades, and now he's playing practical jokes on TV for Hollywood icon Betty White.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

Japanese American actor Michael Yama, 68, admits he has a twisted sense of humor, but he says that's almost a prerequisite for being on NBC's "Betty White's Off Their Rockers."

A crew of unruly senior citizens, led by the queen prankster Betty White, pranks unsuspecting youngsters in this hidden camera show. They have the sweet face of your grandparents, but this motley band of seniors is up to no good.

Yama's nickname on set is "Yama the Destroyer" because he plays characters that hurl pineapples or bowling balls in malls and knock down product displays to the shock of younger customers. Another regular character he plays is a blind man who wanders around throwing birdseed on people lounging in the park, mistaking them for birds.

In other episodes Yama plays a technologically-challenged senior who asks younger people to help him send text messages like, "Cute picture. But that's not my baby. It's not even Asian." Betty White told the *Pacific Citizen* Yama is "very good" on the show.

For 38 years Yama has worked in theater, TV, film and on various animation series. This is Yama's first hidden camera show gig. But before Yama pranked youngsters on TV, he perfected his jokester skills on his friends.

The *Pacific Citizen* spoke with the actor about his mischievous ways and his journey to Hollywood.

How did you land a role on "Betty White's Off Their Rockers?"

My agent called me and he said, 'They're looking for people who can do improvisation and I thought that was really great.' He didn't really tell me it was about old people. And so there I am at the first audition and there's a lot of old people and I'm going, 'What am I doing here?'

You did a prank where your necktie was under a car tire and you're sprawled out on the sidewalk. How did you stay in

character?

I've laughed hysterically, and that specific bit I couldn't leave because the car is truly on top of my tie. But, oh, I've giggled a lot as I walk away from the unsuspecting person.

It seems like because the cast is older the younger people getting pranked don't get angry.

The younger people have gotten pretty upset. I was feeding birdseed again [laughs] and a guy was lying on this towel and enjoying the sun.

I'm throwing pounds of birdseed on people and they're asleep and I wake them up and the amount of expletives that came out of his mouth [laughs].

But I'll tell you what I've discovered is people will accept a lot.

I know you're originally from Hawaii and left when you were 12. Do you go back often?

Oh, I've been back many, many times. Even though I'm a katonk.

Was your family interned during World War II?

We were all in Hawaii. But my father was arrested because he was kind of like a leader in the community.

He was gone for a week and no writ of habeas corpus, nothing.

Did you know after graduating from college that you wanted to be an actor?

I knew I wanted to be an actor when I was born. I went to Kaahumanu School ... and they had this wonderful little acting class during rest period. This was fourth grade at Kaahumanu School.

Did you continue to do theater in high school and college?

We moved up to Northern California and so in high school I took dramatics. And then that was when the 'Old American Bandstand' from Philadelphia with Dick Clark became a sensation.

San Francisco had their version called 'San Francisco Dance Party' and they had regulars. The show had already been airing. I auditioned, and 5,000 kids auditioned. I made it.

In college did you major in theater?

Well, I had to please my parents. I got my degree in business education. So then when I went to college I said, 'OK. I'm going to please them. I knew the Vietnam War was escalating during that time. So I knew that there was no way I could get out of the draft.

How did you get into acting after that?

While I was at Fort Ord I became permanent party, which means I'm stationed there. I never gave up hope, the dream of being an actor.

And then finally I got out of the Army. I came down to oblige- Los Angeles. All my tions were finished, and I could pursue my dream.

Do people on the street recognize you now from 'Off Their Rockers'?

I was at Ralphs yesterday and what they say is, 'Don't ever go grocery shopping when you're hungry.'

Yeah, you buy the worst stuff.

I spent \$120! And all I have is like crushed tomatoes.

Anyway, I was at the checkout and she's scanning all this stuff and this woman that's waiting behind me says, 'Are you on that show?' And, of course, she started talking about it.

You said you also teach accounting once a week at Los Angeles Valley College.

Teaching is performing.

How do you get anything done in class? If you were my instructor I would just want to ask you about Betty White.

[Laughs] We talk about it after class. Sometimes I tell them — like when they're so totally bored with accounting — I'll tell them about some of the things that I've done.

How are 20-year-olds today different from when you were in your 20s?

In so many ways they're more sophisticated and in so many ways they're more naïve.

But I'll tell you whichever way it is we have to have faith in the younger people. I do. Because I'm telling you like what I said before about pulling these pranks on the people and what they put up with. Really what most of them do, first they're very angry when I throw birdseeds. Then they realize I'm old and blind, and they change.

Have you ever been tempted to do pranks when you're not filming?

I remember in college, the pranks that they pull in college, especially the guys. At the time I went to San Jose State.

What we did to this one guy was he had left his dorm room, and so another guy hid in his closet. Then when he left we go in and we collected newspapers and we crumpled it up and filled that room from floor to ceiling.

But what we didn't know is it cost \$400 to haul the newspaper away [laughs].

You had to foot the bill?

Not me, but all of us. It's those kinds of little silly practical jokes, actually similar to what we have on the show. I think you have to be a little twisted to be on the show. And you know what they want is these people that look quite normal, but have these twisted thoughts [laughs].

Like Betty White herself.

Well, Betty White will twist every thought [laughs]. ■



OBAMA ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS INFORMATION TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ISSUES REGARDING AAPI STUDENTS



The Education Department plans to evaluate data methods to better aid disadvantaged AAPIs.

The U.S. Department of Education, in collaboration with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, is currently seeking public input on promising practices for disaggregating data on subgroups within the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) student population. The department will be accepting responses until July 3.

"If we're going to do a better job of addressing [real problems], then we first have to stop grouping everybody in one big category," said President Barack Obama at the recent Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies' 18th Annual Awards Dinner, stressing the importance of data disaggregation.

According to the most recent Census data, some AAPIs have staggering educational needs that may be overlooked or masked by aggregated data. For example, 29 percent of Vietnamese Americans, 38 percent of Hmong Americans, 33 percent of Laotian Americans, and 37 percent of Cambodian Americans do not complete high school. Only 13 percent of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders 25 years of age and older

have at least a bachelor's degree.

"This is an important first step for the U.S. Department of Education, but it could lead to a giant leap for millions of students and their families across the country," said Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "We need to hear from people at every level so that we can identify achievement gaps that need more attention, and take the steps needed to address these disparities. This is another tool to ensure we will graduate the highest proportion of college students in the world."

"It's tempting to think of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as 'model' minorities when public policies are set, but many of these communities face real problems," said Kiran Ahuja, director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. "These differences are too important to ignore."

The Education Department's request seeks information on practices, policies, and challenges of collecting and utilizing disaggregated data on AAPI subgroups. The department plans to use its findings to disseminate promising practices in disaggregated data collection to institutions of higher education and state and local education agencies.

Additional information can be found at: <http://1.usa.gov/AANHPIdata>. Responses should be submitted at <http://1.usa.gov/JKWvs8>. ■

HEART MOUNTAIN CENTER GETS MUSEUM AWARD

By Associated Press

CODY, Wyo.—The Heart Mountain Interpretive Center in Park County has been recognized with an award from the American Association of Museums.

The site of a World War II Japanese American concentration camp received the association's "Eloquent Presentation of Topic" award.

The Heart Mountain center opened in August 2011. The 11,000-square-foot interpretive center includes permanent displays and exhibits developed to showcase how the U.S. government denied basic rights to people of Japanese ancestry following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941.

The exhibits are told from the perspective of the internees and highlight their pre-war lives on the West Coast, forced evacuation and travel to Heart Mountain, where they settled into their barracks and lives as prisoners. ■

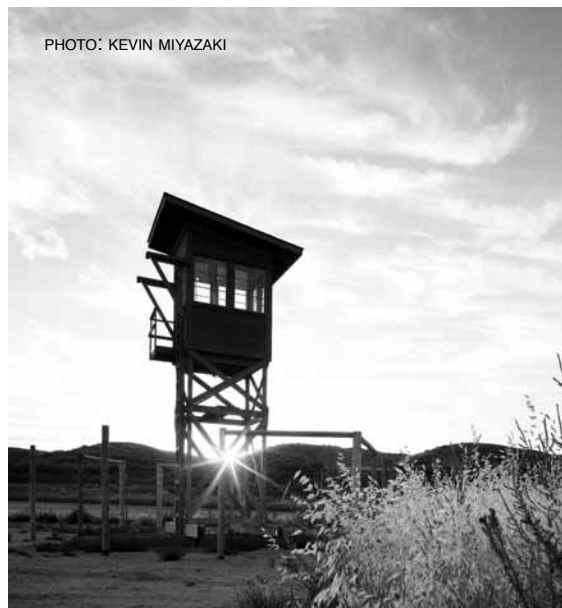


PHOTO: KEVIN MIYAZAKI

NATIONAL NEWSBYTES

By Associated Press

Marion Barry: I Misspoke When I Said 'Polacks'



Barry apologized to APA leaders, including JACL's Floyd Mori (right).

WASHINGTON—While apologizing to the APA community for comments he made last month, D.C. Councilmember Marion Barry said he misspoke when he referred to the Polish community with the disparaging term "Polacks."

Barry made the remark when he was meeting with APAs. That meeting was set up after Barry made two offensive statements last month about APAs.

At an election night victory party, he said, "We gotta' do something about these Asians coming in, opening up these dirty shops," he said April 3. He later apologized.

Barry was asked about racial tensions in the U.S. and he said: "The Irish caught hell, the Jews caught hell, the Polacks caught hell."

In a statement, Barry says he misspoke and should have said Polish.

Thousands of West Coast Immigration Files Released

SAN BRUNO, Calif.—The federal government has released thousands of historic West Coast immigration records to the public, shining a light on Pacific migration patterns.

Troves of photographs, personal correspondence, vital records, interview transcripts and visa applications are now available at the San Bruno-based National Archives at San Francisco.

Most belonged to immigrants from China, Japan and the Philippines, who were processed in Honolulu, Guam and San Francisco and were born in 1910 or before.

The documents were transferred from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. They come from 40,000 immigrant case files known as "Alien Files" or "A-Files."

The records are among millions of case files that eventually will be opened to the public. The files later will be transferred to the National Archives and saved in perpetuity.

Kauai Veterans Cemetery to Nearly Double in Size

LIHUE, Hawaii—The Kauai Planning Commission is approving a plan to expand nearly double the size of the Kauai Veterans Cemetery in Hanapepe.

The five-acre cemetery currently has room for 2,500 gravesites.

It averages one to two burials per week.

Neal Mitsuyoshi, chief engineer officer at the state Department of Defense, told *The Garden Island* newspaper it will reach capacity in about 10 years if nothing is done.

Permits approved by the commission will allow the cemetery to add six more acres and expand to 4,500 gravesites.

Mitsuyoshi says the federal government will fund the expansion.

21 Percent in Hawaii Say They're Part Native Hawaiian

HONOLULU—U.S. Census figures crunched by state officials say more than one-fifth of Hawaii residents identify as at least part Native Hawaiian.

The state department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism says nearly 290,000 Hawaii residents identified themselves as either fully or partially Native Hawaiian in the 2010 Census.

That's up 21 percent from 2000, well outpacing overall population growth of 12.3 percent.

The state's analysis shows populations of other Pacific Island groups also grew quickly during the decade. ■

APAS IN THE NEWS

By Pacific Citizen Staff

APA Youth, Mile Hi JACL Receive Prestigious Awards

Gunsanaa Olonbayar, a junior at George Washington High School in Denver, received a scholarship award for leadership, the first-ever sponsored by Allstate Migaki Insurance Agency at the 27th Asian Education Advisory Council Awards.

Gunsanaa received \$500 and a two-week paid internship with Allstate Migaki Insurance Agency. Gunsanaa, who is from Mongolia, is a multilingual member of the ROTC, Honor Platoon, Honor Cadets, Rifle Team and the National Honor Society.

Mile Hi JACL also received a Special Recognition Award for its contribution to the JA community.

Other award winners were **JoAnne Migaki** of Gust Elementary, **Ben Schwartz** of Bromwell Elementary, **Himanvi Kopuri** of Hamilton Middle School, **Cho Cho Htay** of Merrill Middle School, and **MinMin Hein** of Emily Griffith High School.

UCLA to Bestow Highest Honor on JA Medical Pioneer



Paul Ichiro Terasaki, a pioneer in organ transplant medicine, will be awarded the UCLA Medal, the university's highest honor, at the UCLA College of Letters and Science June 15 commencement ceremony.

Terasaki, a professor emeritus of surgery who earned three degrees at UCLA, was the first to devise a method to perform "tissue

typing" and to develop antibodies to be used in that procedure, which assesses the compatibility of organ donors and recipients.

The UCLA Medal is bestowed on those with exceptionally distinguished academic and professional achievement whose body of work or contributions to society illustrate the highest ideals of UCLA.

Kinaga Receives University Award

Patricia Kinaga was awarded the University of California, Berkeley's Peter E. Haas Public Service Award.

Kinaga was recognized for her nearly 30 years of pioneering work in multiple areas, including domestic violence, dispute resolution, breast cancer and disabilities advocacy.

This award is bestowed annually to a distinguished alumnus who has made significant volunteer contributions in the U.S.

Kinaga is a lawyer with the Kinaga Law Firm, a Southern California-based minority-owned law firm.

KCET, Union Bank Recognize Southern California APA Leaders

In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Union Bank partnered with KCET to honor two APAs as local heroes.

This year's honorees are: **Stewart Kwoh**, co-founder of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center since 1983, and **Bill Yoshiyuki Watanabe**, founder of the Little Tokyo Service Center.

The Local Heroes program recognizes and pays tribute to exemplary leaders who are making a difference and enriching the lives of others by improving their workplace, profession, neighborhood, community, region and the world.

Throughout the month of May, KCET aired a video profile of each honoree, highlighting how they have made a difference in their community. The on-air profiles can be viewed on the web at kcet.org.

Akaka, Murakami to Get Hawaii Honorary Degrees

The University of Hawaii has awarded honorary degrees to **Sen. Daniel Akaka** and Japanese novelist **Haruki Murakami** at their May 12 commencement ceremonies.

Akaka is retiring after representing Hawaii in the U.S. Senate for more than two decades. He also served in the U.S. House for 14 years.

Murakami has been a writer-in-residence at Manoa this school year. He was also a writer-in-residence at the university during the 2006-2007 academic year. ■

SONOMA JACL HONORS ITS GOLD MEDAL AWARDEES



PHOTO: SONOMA JACL

U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey presented replica Gold Medals to (l-r): T/Sgt. Shiro Nakano (MIS), Pfc Minobu Furuta (442nd), Capt. Frank Masuoka (MIS), and S/Sgt. Ted Ito (442nd).

By "My P.C." Contributor

SEBASTOPOL, Calif.—Although many have now passed on, four living World War II Nisei veterans were able to attend a special Congressional Gold Medal tribute in Sonoma County in their honor recently.

T/Sgt. Shiro Nakano of the Military Intelligence Service, Pfc Minobu Furuta of the 442nd Regiment, Capt. Frank Masuoka, MIS, and S/Sgt. Ted Ito, 442nd were honored at the event sponsored by the Sonoma County JACL chapter. In all, 25 Sonoma County veterans were recognized.

"Our Sonoma County community is always willing to support worthy projects. This was a special occasion for our veterans," said George Kashiwagi, a local JACL board member who organized the

ceremony. "It has been 67 years since the end of WWII when the men demonstrated their loyalty and valor. The veterans and their families were genuinely grateful. It was a joyous event to be remembered by all."

Last November, Nisei veterans were honored at a White House ceremony with presentations of the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award given by Congress. But many of the veterans, due to age and various health ailments, were unable to attend the ceremony. Thus, local tributes have been taking place throughout the country.

The combined forces of the 442nd and 100th Battalion are the most decorated for its size and length of service in U.S. military history. The MIS is credited with helping to shorten the length of the

war with their Japanese language abilities.

The Memorial Hall at the Enmanji Buddhist Temple in Sebastopol was filled with close to 250 guests as the Nisei veterans received a standing ovation for their WWII heroics.

Among the guests were U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, who presented a bronze medalion to each veteran or surviving relative. Also in attendance were Sonoma County Supervisor Efrén Carrillo, Sebastopol Mayor Guy Wilson, Santa Rosa Mayor Ernesto Olivares, and former Sebastopol Mayor Larry Robinson.

Mark Hayashi, a JACL board member and MC of the ceremony, read messages from U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye and local historian Gaye LeBaron, in honor of the veterans. ■

DEFENSE DEPT. HONORS APA KOREAN WAR VETERANS



(L-r) Minoru Tonai, Sylvain George Chin, Nick Gadia, Fang Wong and Col. David J. Clark.

The patriotism of APA Korean War veterans was the theme of a May 4 event hosted by the Department of Defense's Korean War Commemoration Committee. The event, held at Luminarias Restaurant in Monterey Park, Calif., also marked APA Heritage Month.

Korean War Veterans Minoru Tonai, Sylvain George Chin, Nick Gadia, and American Legion National Commander Fang Wong joined in the special observance. After the recognition event, representatives from the Los Angeles area veterans organizations and the Korean American community participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean Bell of Friendship and Bell Pavilion to honor the over 33,000 Americans who were killed during the war as well as the 7,993 who are still counted among the missing in action.

A second wreath-laying ceremony was held May 5 at the Japanese American Korean War Veterans' Memorial to honor the more than 500 JAs who lost their lives in the Korean War. The committee, whose mission is to honor the service and sacrifice of Korean War vets, celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. ■

COMMENTARY



THE NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

By John Kodachi

A wise person once cautioned, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." This is why each year on Feb. 19, JACL chapters hold Day of Remembrance events to remember the signing of Executive Order 9066, which led to the forced incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans, 11,000 German Americans and 3,000 Italian Americans during World War II.

All were incarcerated without due process of law — without notice of the charges, without legal counsel, and without a fair trial. With a swift stroke of the pen, President Franklin Roosevelt struck down fundamental constitutional rights.

Tragically, President Barack Obama has not learned from President Roosevelt's mistakes. Last December, President Obama signed the controversial National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) into law over the vocal objections of the JACL, other organizations, and concerned citizens. The NDAA codifies and expands the president's powers to detain U.S. citizens indefinitely without due process of law. In other words, the NDAA is the new Executive Order 9066.

To understand the NDAA, you need to first understand the joint resolution titled "Authorization for Use of Military Force," in which Congress, just days after 9/11, authorized the president to use force against the terrorists responsible for the attacks. Specifically, Congress authorized the president to use "all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001." The resolution did not expressly grant the president power of indefinite detention.

However, both President George W. Bush's and President Obama's administrations have interpreted the Authorization for Use of Military Force as allowing them to indefinitely detain, outside of the U.S. and without trial, persons suspected to be enemy combatants.

The NDAA now codifies the president's power of indefinite detention. Section 1021 states, "Congress affirms the authority of the President to use all necessary and appropriate force pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force . . . to detain covered persons . . . pending disposition under the law of war."

The NDAA defines "disposition under the law of war" as including "[d]etention under the law of war without trial until the end of hostilities authorized by the Authorization for Use of Military Force."

Supporters of the NDAA claim it is limited to "al-Qaeda terrorists." The plain language of the act, however, states otherwise. Under the NDAA, a "covered person" includes "any person" who "substantially supported al-Qaeda, the Taliban, or associated forces."

This raises a number of important and unanswered questions concerning the breadth and scope of the law. For example, who or what are "associated forces"? What constitutes "substantial support"? Is the government of Pakistan an "associated force"? Is the reported Red Cross field hospital that treated members of the Taliban an "associated force"? And if you gave money to Pakistan or the International Red Cross, have you "substantially supported" them?

Supporters of the NDAA also claim there's nothing to be concerned about because it exempts U.S. citizens. Again, the statute says otherwise. Section 1021 states that "[n]othing in this section shall be construed to affect existing law or authorities relating to the detention of United States citizens, lawful resident aliens of the United States, or any other persons who are captured or arrested in the United States." The problem

is that "existing law" is unclear. The circumstances in which a U.S. citizen or other person captured or arrested in the U.S. may be detained under the Authorization for Use of Military Force have not been definitively adjudicated.

Supporters also cite section 1022 as proof that the NDAA does not apply to U.S. citizens. Section 1022 relates to mandatory detention in that it states the military "shall" detain captured al-Qaeda members. Section 1022(b)(1), cited by supporters, only states that the "requirement to detain a person in military custody under this section does not extend to citizens of the United States." In other words, it's *optional*. Pursuant to section 1022, the military may, but is not required, to detain U.S. citizens *suspected* of being al-Qaeda members indefinitely without trial.

To address the concerns about the sweeping powers authorized by the NDAA, Sen. Dianne Feinstein proposed adding the following section to the bill to clarify that it would not apply to U.S. citizens:

(e) Applicability to Citizens — The authority described in this section for the Armed Forces of the United States to detain a person does not include the authority to detain a citizen of the United States without trial until the end of the hostilities.

Remarkably, the Senate rejected the amendment 45 to 55.

Moreover, President Obama has stated that while the NDAA authorizes him to detain U.S. citizens indefinitely without trial, he would not do so. In his signing statement he promised, "Moreover, I want to clarify that my administration will not authorize the indefinite military detention without trial of American citizens."

The president's promise, however, is not a substitute for the Constitution's guarantee of due process.

>>See KODACHI pg. 13

COMMENTARY



REFLECTIONS: WASH., D.C. LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2012

By Kelly Honda

I am incredibly grateful that I had the opportunity to attend the JACL/OCA Leadership

Summit in D.C. recently. Thank you to my chapter for supporting me in my efforts to learn more about JACL. Thank you to my district for supporting me to push horizons and personal expectations. And thank you to JACL for reaffirming that my policy work is making an impact for my nation and my community.

I came to D.C. expecting to sit in presentations and lectures all day. Instead, I experienced three days of intense networking, communication, thoughtful discussion and fun. The leadership summit was focused on several topics: anti-bullying, Chinese Exclusion Act, and the Defense Authorization Act. In discussing these main policy issues, we focused on ideas of community, shared immigration and cultural awareness/education struggles, and history.

Within this collection of issues, I was most interested in the presentation by Jasjit Singh from the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, who discussed the discrimination the Sikh community faces in America. The Sikh community in Sacramento, despite its long history in the area, has more recently experienced extreme hatred and violence. He pointed to a recent incident in which two elderly Sikh men were attacked and killed in the Sacramento area when they were mistakenly targeted as terrorists.

As a community member, I believe it is important to stand behind the Sikh community and use this atrocity as an opportunity to educate the community. I know JACL has been working with the Sikh communities to promote education as a solution, and in Sacramento, we can continue to work on cultural awareness and support. The community panel showed that many of our fellow Asian Americans continue to struggle in terms of economics, cultural awareness and respect, and recognition within the political scene.

Many issues were brought to my attention, that as a JACL leader, I feel is my responsibility to help support and get my fellow board members on board.

One of my favorite activities was the Congressional exercise: taking on the daunting role of being a freshman house member and learning to balance constituent, district, group and party interests. At times I found it hard to separate my own interests from the member's interests and really embrace the role of the

congressman. The exercise was insightful and I feel like I better understand the challenges our representatives face during the decision making process.

I am so grateful that we had the opportunity to work and network with the other participants of the summit so extensively. I found comradeship with many other participants who were like me, a recent college graduate trying to find her place and voice in the world. I know I will continue to look to my new friends and colleagues both locally and across the country for support, inspiration and help.

Throughout the summit, I heard a growing call for action: to increase our partnerships and outreach to other community groups. If JACL wants to remain relevant, we need to use our voice and power to help other people in our community.

Because I live in a more diverse community in California, I often feel like the problems of racism and hatred no longer affect my community. Speaking with others, and listening to the presentations has highlighted the new challenges that my fellow Asian Americans face in the world today.

My community is not immune to those problems; I just needed to look outside my bubble to see it. I hope that after this summit, I can return home and be more civically engaged. ■

Kelly Honda is a member of Sacramento JACL.

PRESIDENT OBAMA REACHES OUT TO APAS AT 18TH ANNUAL APAICS GALA AWARDS



JACL National Director Floyd Mori receives Community Leadership Award.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

In a last minute announcement, President Barack Obama became the main draw at the 18th Annual Gala Awards Dinner for the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) on May 8.

Stressing his Asian American family roots, the President spoke about the special place the Asian Pacific American community holds in his heart.

"When I think about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, I think about my family — my sister, Maya; my brother-in-law, Konrad ... My nieces Suhaila and Savita. I think about all the folks I grew up with in Honolulu, as part of the Hawaiian ohana," he said.

"So for me, coming here feels a little bit like home. This is a community that helped to make me who I am today. It's a commu-

nity that helped make America the country that it is today."

With a recent study indicating that Asian Americans could play a pivotal role in the upcoming presidential elections, reaching out to the AA community was an important move for the White House.

A recent, first-ever poll of Asian American voter attitudes by Lake Research Partners shows that the AA community is still untapped by political candidates. But in close elections in states with high AA voters like California, Florida, Illinois, Nevada and Virginia it "could go to the candidates who best engage Asian Americans, a demographic with increasing political clout" the study states.

In much of President Obama's speech, he praised the APA community's ability to overcome historic racism to become major leaders in various fields such as business, medicine and law. But he also noted the fallacies of the model minority myth, and spoke of the efforts to overcome current educational, economic and health disparities.

"So those are real problems, and we can't ignore them," he said.

"And if we're going to do a better job addressing them, then we first have to stop grouping everybody just in one big category. Dozens of different communities fall under the umbrella of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and we have to respect that the experiences of immigrant groups are distinct and different. And your concerns run the gamut."

Several dignitaries were on hand to hear the president's speech including Sen. Daniel Inouye, former U.S. Secretary Norman Mineta, and U.S. Reps Mike Honda and Judy Chu.

APAICS also gave out several awards including the APAICS Leadership Award which went to JACL Nat'l Director Floyd Mori, Karen Narasaki, former president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC), and the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA).

The Corporate Achievement Award was presented to C.C. Yin, the founder of API American Public Affairs Association (APAPA), a nonprofit which promotes the importance of political awareness and civic engagement. ■

HONDA

>>continued from pg. 8

last being Gen. Eric Shinseki, also of Hawaii, 35 years later.

No. 3 — Mike writes his father insisted he finish 12 years in Japanese school in Hawaii, but wound up in the infantry, basic at Camp Shelby and overseas with Co. H unit in the 442nd, and fought in the Lost Battalion campaign. Only I met him decades later when the AJA WWII Memorial Alliance was erecting its memorial listing the Nikkei KIAs at JACCC's Memorial Court. Mike had lent his time and talent as an unsung architect (to me) and happy

that he did.

Had the Army at the induction station noted his 12 years of Japanese (even half that), he was ripe for Camp Savage at Military Intelligence Service school. Of course, his refreshing stint with the 442nd would not be.

No. 4 — Reading novels never took up my time as a journalist or editor. But here was an obvious Hakuji, I thought, writing about Hotel Panama, the main building at Sixth Ave. and S. Main St., in the heart of Seattle's Japantown in the heydays where evacuating families in 1942 stored their trunks in the basement.

Ford's novel begins in 1986

when it's discovered that 37 families had not come back in 1945-46 to reclaim their belongings.

And Ford, (a fourth-generation Chinese American whose Chinese great-grandfather told the immigration officer) beautifully weaves a platonic love story between a Chinese lad (Henry) and Japanese girl (Keiko), the only Asians at this all-white Rainier Elementary School up Yesler Way. The tryst unfolds in 1942, just before Evacuation. And I read the novel practically nonstop to see how it ends.

In his reader's guide (prepared for student-teacher), the author admits the novel has to have a "redemptive ending." ■

BERKELEY CHAPTER AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS, PIONEER AWARD



(Front, l-r): Bill Fujita's family Kay, Sunny and Star. (Back, l-r) Reiko Nabeta, Yamashita's daughter; Jon Shindo, Wells Fargo rep; and scholarship winners Josue Vasquez, Andrew Kwan, Colin Wong and Ashley La Rosa.

The Berkeley JACL recognized young leaders and a stalwart pioneer at a May 6 ceremony.

At the event, the chapter awarded four scholarships to local high school seniors and honored the late Bill Fujita with the 2012 Pioneer Award.

Outstanding seniors Ashley La Rosa (Albany High School) and Josue Vasquez (Oakland High School) were awarded scholarships. Andrew Kwan (Oakland High School) and Colin Wong (Campolindo High School) received the inaugural Terry Yamashita Memorial Scholarship and the Bea Kono Memorial Scholarship, respectively. The winners were selected for being well-rounded students with diverse interests.

Fujita, a 1939 University of California, Berkeley graduate who guided the university's baseball team to a visit in Japan in the 1960s, posthumously received the chapter's 2012 Pioneer Award. Fujita was instrumental in re-establishing the Berkeley JACL after World War II. Fujita's daughter Kay and grandsons Star, 12, and Sunny, 10, accepted the award.

Some major sponsors of the scholarship program include Union Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, the Beatrice Kono Memorial Scholarship (Gary, George, and Gordon Kono), and the newly established Terry Yamashita Memorial Scholarship (Reiko Yamashita Nabeta). ■

PORTLAND HOLDS ANNUAL JAPANESE AMERICAN GRADUATION BANQUET

Portland, Oregon held its 65th annual Japanese American Graduation Banquet recently where members of the high school graduating class of 2012 were honored.

The first banquet honoring Japanese American high school seniors was held in 1948, just after the Japanese returned to the Portland community after their forced incarceration during World War II.

The Honorable Lynn Nakamura, the first Asian American appointed to the Oregon Court of Appeals, gave the banquet address.

This year the scholarship committee headed by Chip Larouche, PNW District governor, gave 13 scholarships to students who showed academic excellence as well as participated in athletic and community service activities.

This year's honorees are: Saori Erickson, Christopher Funaki, Rai-ko Green, Karyl Kanada, Maria Kojima.

Emi Lee, Amy Li, Tyler Nagae, Stephanie Nakamine, Sean Sakaguchi, Ross Seeman, Jordan Shellmire and Corey Suyematsu. ■

KODACHI

>>continued from pg. 12

Make no mistake about it, the future of our democracy is gravely threatened when Congress passes a bill, which the president signs, that effectively makes him, and all future presidents, the judge, jury, and executioner of Americans. Regrettably, the survivors of Minidoka, Tule Lake, and the other incarceration camps know only too well of the resulting injustices.

Yes, President Obama and Congress must keep America safe, but they must not abandon the core rights enshrined in our Constitution and Bill of Rights. They swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution. This is precisely what distinguishes Americans from the terrorists — we follow and uphold the rule of law, or at least we did. ■

John Kodachi is a Portland JACL member.

CALENDAR

PHOTO: KEVIN MIYAZAKI

The 2012 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage POWELL, WY Aug. 10 & 11 Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation 1539 Road 19

Plans are underway for the 2012 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage with a focus on bringing in the younger generations to help preserve the efforts of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. The reservation deadline is July 1.

Info: www.heartmountain.org

>>NATIONAL

The 43rd Annual JACL National Convention BELLEVUE, WA

July 5-8
Hyatt Regency
900 Bellevue Way NE
Workshop topics include Power of Words, preserving community treasures and environmental justice. The Youth Council is hosting a workshop with The Jubilee Project.
Info: <http://jacl.org/2012>

>>EAST

Isamu Noguchi Museum Tour LONG ISLAND CITY, NY June 2, 11:30 a.m. Isamu Noguchi Museum 9-01 33rd Road

The New England JACL chapter is planning a trip to New York and a tour of the Isamu

Noguchi Museum. Noguchi was one of the 20th century's most important and critically acclaimed sculptors.
Info: Visit www.nejacl.org

JACL 2012 National Gala Awards Dinner WASHINGTON, D.C. Sept. 27, 6 p.m. J.W. Marriott Hotel 1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Cost: \$200/Per person; \$150/Per person (non-profits)

The JACL is accepting sponsors for its 2012 national Gala Awards Dinner, "A Salute to Champions." Ad space is available in the JACL program booklet. Proceeds will benefit the national JACL.

Info: Visit www.jacl.org, call 202/223-1240.

>>NCWNP

The Contra Costa JACL Annual Baseball Game OAKLAND, CA July 8, 1 p.m. Oracle Arena 7000 Coliseum Way

Cost: \$10/Per person
The Contra Costa JACL is hosting its annual baseball game. The Oakland A's will play against the Seattle Mariners. The first 10,000 fans will receive a free 1955 Oakland Oaks cap. RSVP by June 15. Send checks to Judy Nakaso at 1632 Cedar St., Berkeley, CA 94703.

Info: Call 510/528-6564 or email contracostajacl@gmail.com

The 2nd Annual Northern California Soy and Tofu Festival SAN FRANCISCO, CA June 2, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Japantown Peace Plaza

The 2nd Annual Northern California Soy and Tofu Festival will feature various soy-related vendors, an educational forum highlighting the uses of soy, live performances and more. Proceeds will help Nichi Bei Foundation.

Info: Visit, www.soyandtofu.org

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Community Picnic SANTA CRUZ, CA June 23, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Aptos Village Plaza 100 Aptos Creek Road

The annual event features bingo, raffles and the presentation of the Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship. The featured entertainment will be Watsonville Taiko.

Info: wsc.jacl@gmail.com or www.watsonvillesantacruz-jacl.org

The Eden Township Annual Bazaar Fundraiser SAN LORENZO, CA June 9-10, 3-8 p.m. and 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Eden Japanese Community Center 710 Elgin Street

The Eden Township Annual Bazaar Fundraiser will feature Eden Aoba Taiko on both days. A raffle drawing to be held at 7 on June 10. Chicken and rib combination dinners, chicken dinners and other items will be sold. There will be games for children, bingo for adults, and a silent auction benefitting the Eden Athletic Club.

Info: Contact Ron Sakaue at 510/276-0752

The 2012 Tule Lake Pilgrimage TULELAKE, CA June 30 thru July 3

The 2012 Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee has announced that registration for this year is now closed. This year's pilgrimage theme is "Understanding No-No and Renunciation." The next Tule Lake pilgrimage is 2014.

Info: Visit www.tulelake.org

The Chinese for Affirmative Action's Celebration of Justice SAN FRANCISCO, CA June 7, 6 p.m. Empress of China 838 Grant Ave.

The Chinese for Affirmative Action's 2012 Celebration of Justice Awards will honor: Kiran Ahuja, Don Griffin, Linda Wang and the National Domestic Workers Alliance. The keynote speaker is Jeff Yang.
Info: Call Phuong Quach at 415/274-6760 ext. 319

>>PNW

Roger Shimomura's 'Shadows of Minidoka' Art Exhibit PORTLAND, OR June 1 thru Sept. 2 Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center 121 NW 2nd Ave.

Roger Shimomura's "Shadows of Minidoka" exhibit touches on the artist's experience as a child and his reflection on his

time at Minidoka. Paintings will be for sale with a portion of the proceeds being donated to the Oregon Nikkei Endowment.

Info: Visit www.oregonnikkei.org or call 503/224-1458.

>>PSW

CBFSocal Camp Stories Awards ARCADIA, CA June 2, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Santa Anita Park 285 W. Huntington Drive

Honorees include Esther Takei Nishio, who was taken out of camp to attend Pasadena City College in 1944. There she experienced prejudice, but with the support of Quakers, fellow students and college administrators, Nishio went on to excel in her studies.

Info: www.cherryblossomfestivalsocal.org

The PSW 16th Annual Awards Dinner LOS ANGELES, CA

Oct. 6, 6 to 9 p.m.
Cathedral Plaza, The Center
555 W. Temple St.
Cost: \$125/Per person

The JACL PSW District's 16th Annual Awards Dinner theme is "Living Legends of JACL." *Pacific Citizen* editor emeritus Harry Honda is one of the confirmed community honorees at the event.

Info: Call 213/626-4282 or visit www.jaclpsw.org.

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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
Nov. 01 - Nov. 12	The Best of Kyushu
Nov. 29 - Dec. 01	Holiday in Las Vegas: Show: TBA

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In Memoriam

Kuwahara, Takao 'Tak', 90, Vale, Oregon; he was interned at Heart Mountain, Wyo. during WWII; he began his farming career in Brogan, Ore., under the sponsorship of Toyo Imada; he was an active in the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple and JACL; survived by daughters, Diane (Alan) Yamasaki, Shirley (Mike) McNeill, Suzie (Dave) Uchida, Carrie (Jeff) Davis, Janis (Kelly) Sutton; and sons Ron and Glenn; two sisters, Mary Kameshige and Joanne Yutani and a brother, Fred Kuwahara; 12 gc.

Matsui, Victor M., 88, March



26; Williamsburg, VA; his UCLA education was interrupted when his family was interned in Arkansas; in 1945 he was drafted in the Army; he received the Congressional Gold Medal; he was married to the late Teru Kamikawa Matsui; Victor will be deeply missed by his

siblings, Mitty Taniguchi, Walter Matsui, Sumi Masuda, Edward Matsui, and Nakako Takata; his children and their spouses, Mary Stone, Christine Van, Craig Colodny and Akira Tanabe; 8 gc.

Mochizuki, Yukio, 85,



Seattle, WA-born Nisei resident of Torrance; former internee of Minidoka and U.S. Army veteran; he was predeceased by wife Toshiko; he is survived by children, Mike Masato (Clare) of MD, and Shirley Rie (Blane) Yamamoto; grandchildren Miles Noboru and Ella Haru Mochizuki of MD, and Jason Joo-Sung Yamamoto; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakashima, Jerry Takashi, 88, California; May 9; predeceased by wife Phoebe Aiko; survived by son Mark (Linda);

daughter San Dee (Eric) Koyanagi; grandsons Michael and Brandon, Nakashima and Cole Koyanagi; brothers Kenneth (Ruby), Herbert of Hawaii; sister Grace Miyatake of Hawaii; also survived by many nieces nephews and other relatives.

Nakawaki, Kimiko, 87,



May 5. Mother of Beverly K., Glenn K. (Sharon), Donna S. (Jean Paul Vautrin) and Art K. Nakawaki; grandmother of Brandon M., Bryan D. and Trevor J. Nakawaki; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Ogata, Kenje, 92, Sterling, IL; Jan. 18; he was a dentist in the Sterling-Rock Falls area for 42 years, prior to retirement; he served in the U.S. Army and Army Air Corps; in 1941 he met Wilma

Arlene Reiff; they married in 1943; in 1953, Kenje graduated from the University of Illinois College of Dentistry; survived by his wife, Wilma; one daughter, Kenjalin Ogata; two nieces, Carole Ogata (Wally) King of Anna and Jayne (Matt Bernstein); a nephew, K.C. (Priscilla); and cousins; he was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Kent M. Ogata.

Okino, Katsumi "Kats", 83,



May 5; Utah born resident of Torrance; predeceased by parents Chiyotaro and Ayame and brothers Chisumi and Masaki; survived by Misao Okino; children Cheryl (Alan) Masukawa, David (Linda) and Jon (Angela) Okino; grandchildren Eric Masukawa, and Darren and Kristin Okino; siblings Fumiye Kagawa and Sachiye (Bob) Takamoto; he is also survived by nieces, nephews.

Ukita, Alys Ayako, 92, May 12; Santa Monica, CA; California-born Nisei and former internee of Manzanar Relocation Camp; beloved mother of Russel Tad (Miyo) Ukita and Charlene Ukita Ballesteros; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 6 gc; 6 ggc; a memorial service will be held on June 2, 11 a.m. at Evergreen Baptist Church.

Wakagawa, Michiko, 93, survived by husband James, children Dale (Joyce) of Englewood, Colo. and Hilo Hawaii; David (Sherri) of Boise, Idaho; Sandy Domres of McCall, Idaho; and Suzanne (Ray) Hart of Weiser, Idaho; several grandchildren, nieces and nephews and sister K. Yasunaga Guinto of Hudson, Ohio.

Arita, Yoshi, 90, Los Angeles, CA; May 22; was the secretary to the U.S. attorney for 17 years; predeceased by her husband, John Arita, and her son, Edwin Arita; survived by her children, Gordon (Linda) Arita, Luanne (Robert) Niimi, and Nadine (Robert) Courtney; daughter-in-law, Karen Arita; 4gc. ■

JAMES HIRABAYASHI DIES AT 85



SFSU President Robert Corrigan (pictured left) awarded James Hirabayashi (pictured right) with the President's Medal in 2009.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Four months after his brother Gordon Hirabayashi's death, Japanese American community leader James Akira Hirabayashi died in San Francisco.

Hirabayashi was an emeritus professor of ethnic and Asian American studies and anthropology at San Francisco State University. He died on May 23 at the age of 85.

His brother Gordon was a civil rights leader who defied the evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Gordon died Jan. 2 at the age of 93.

Hirabayashi is perhaps best known for the integral role he played in creating the first ethnic studies program in 1969 at SFSU. His son, Lane, is an Asian American studies professor at UCLA.

In 1968 Hirabayashi and other SFSU professors went on strike, risking their jobs. Their efforts resulted in the creation of the ethnic studies school at SFSU. Hirabayashi later became the AA studies chair and the first dean of AA studies.

'When I got older I eventually came to understand Jim's ramen as a serious token of how of he felt about me, and I've never forgotten those special meals.'

Hirabayashi was born in 1926 in Thomas, Wash. The family was incarcerated in Tule Lake. After WWII, the Hirabayashi family returned to Seattle. Hirabayashi earned his bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Washington.

"On occasion my dad would take the time to make me his custom ramen soup," Lane said, in a 2011 8 Asians article. "So I don't remember my dad saying 'I love you' straight up. I don't think Nisei dads do that. But I remember him handing me that steaming bowl of delectable noodles. When I got older I eventually came to understand Jim's ramen as a serious token of how he felt about me, and I've never forgotten those special meals."

Hirabayashi is survived by his children, Lane (Marilyn Alquizola) Hirabayashi, Tai-Lan and Jan (Steve Rice). Hirabayashi is also survived by his sister, Esther Toshiko Furugori. He was predeceased by his first wife, Joanne, and last wife, Christine.

Planning for a memorial is underway and details will be announced soon. ■

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BARTON

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to complete that list. One of the items is joining JACL, which I was most happy to check off last year.

As soon as I read my first issue of *Pacific Citizen*, I asked myself why it had taken so long to find my way back. *Pacific Citizen* is a lifeline to everything that represents my identity as a Japanese American Sansei, the daughter of an internee, and the mother of a Yonsei son. *Pacific Citizen* reflects so much of my own journey of rediscovery, reconnection and renewal. These are my stories, my mother's stories, and my son's stories too.

Last year, I fulfilled a dream (and checked off another "bucket list" item) to visit Japan. It was the first-ever visit for both me and my son; a special and unforgettable mother-son bonding experience in the country of our roots. Before leaving the U.S., I did the usual research into the culture, food and history of my destination.

I asked my Japanese and Japanese American friends for recommendations on the best sights to see and best places to explore. One friend described Japan as magical. "I could feel the country calling to me," he said. His comment stayed with me, and when I returned to the U.S. I felt that same tugging at my heart. *Pacific Citizen* is like that too. It calls out to me and keeps me connected.

That deep connection is one of the most critical reasons to support the Spring

Campaign. Yes, the short-term picture is unfortunately about finances. Sure, the economy is forcing every organization to reexamine its budget. But the bigger picture is painted in so much more than dollars and cents.

It's about how we value the legacies our Issei and Nisei parents left us, how we leave legacies for our children, and how we inspire our sons and daughters to build their own legacies. *Pacific Citizen* ensures that these legacies continue and that the still-relevant civil rights lessons reach beyond the Japanese American community.

My "bucket list" grew from a sense of regret. Disappointment that I hadn't talked more with mom about her camp experience before she passed six months ahead of the redress legislation, disappointment that I strayed from my cultural roots so soon, disappointment that my son missed out on opportunities to grow up immersed in our culture. I would hate to face yet another disappointment if my *Pacific Citizen* lifeline was severed because of lack of funding.

It has taken far too many years to return to my cultural home. There must be others out there, some older and many younger than me, searching for their own Japanese American roots. Better late than never, I keep telling myself. Let's not wait until it's too late to support the *Pacific Citizen*. ■

Roberta Barton is the Pacific Citizen representative from the Central California District.



National Director Priscilla Ouchida attends the Wakamatsu Colony Festival in May.

OUCHIDA

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provide you with a commentary of what is happening at the national level. I've borrowed a concept from AT&T to create a "Reach Out and Touch Someone" initiative to keep in communication with the national board, districts, chapters and you.

We are all a part of this extraordinary association that was started in 1929 by a forward-thinking group of Nikkei. To paraphrase Mike Masaoka, I want to continue a tradition of a strong organization that stands up for what it means to be "a better American in a greater America".

May was APA Heritage Month in D.C., and I attended a number of workshops, meetings and conferences. The highlight was the attendance of President Barack Obama at the APAICS Gala that honored Mori.

The president announced that he is posthumously awarding the Presidential Medal of

Freedom, the highest civilian award America has to offer, to Gordon Hirabayashi. He also re-established the White House Initiative on Asian Pacific Islanders to better identify specific issues in specific API communities.

The president reported that he had doubled the number of AA appointments to the federal bench with the latest appointment of Jacqueline Nguyen, the first AA woman to be confirmed as an appellate judge.

At the gala, Norman Y. Mineta fellow Hillary Nakano got to shake the hand of the president. In addition to obtaining staff-level experience on congressional issues, JACL fellows have a broad range of memorable experiences.

The D.C. office will again be soliciting applications for the fellowships that are open to college graduates. I urge districts and chapters to encourage local young adults to apply for the program.

Tomorrow I am flying to Seattle to meet with the convention committee. I look forward to seeing many of you there. ■



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