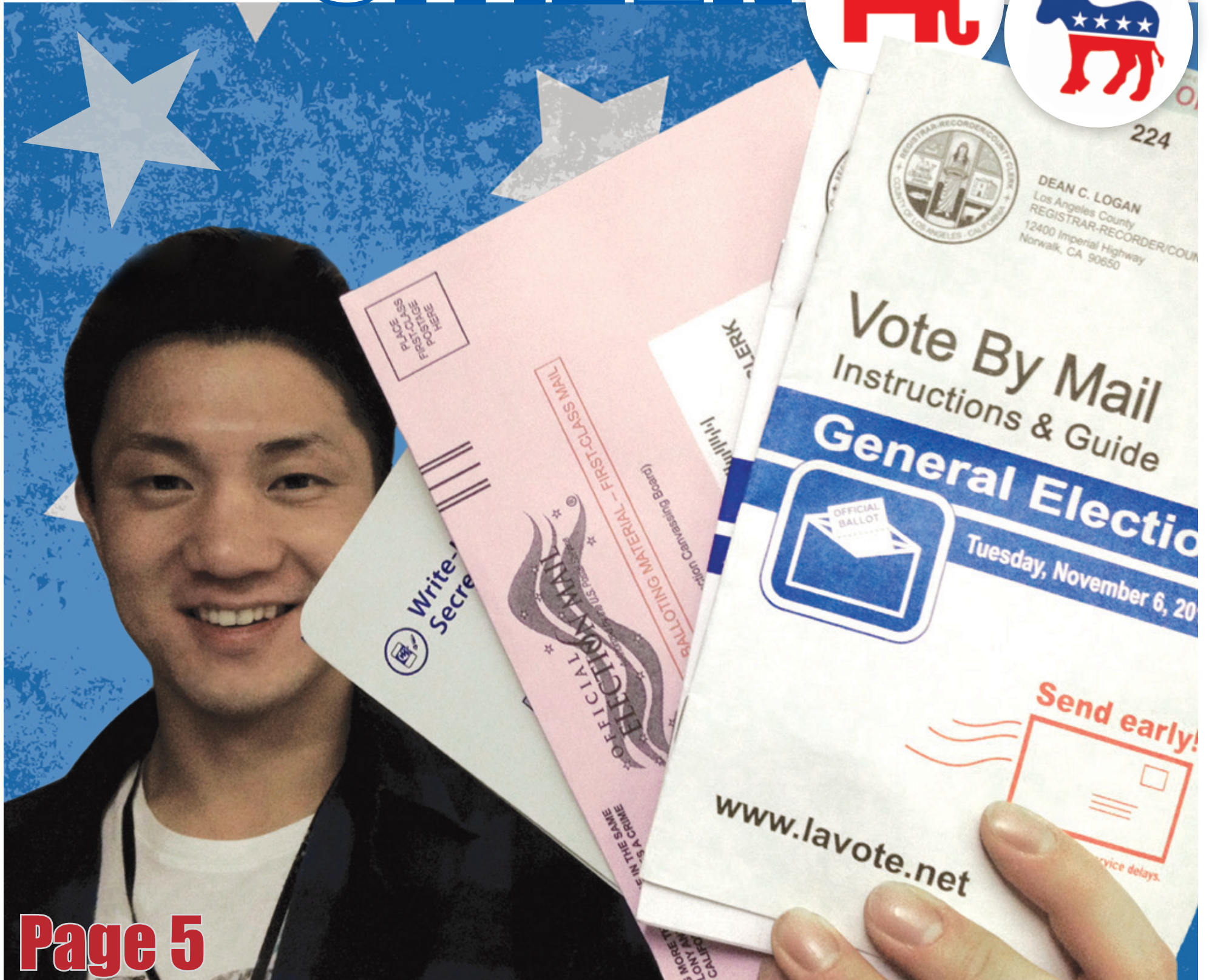
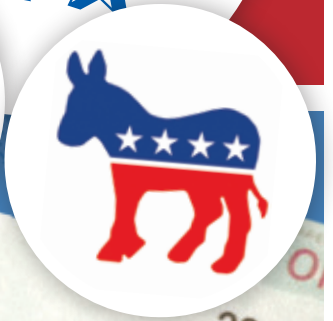


THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JA CL



PACIFIC CITIZEN

★★★
UNDECIDED
★★★



Page 5

OBAMA
or
ROMNEY

Page 4

WWII veteran casts
final vote.

Page 5

AAPIs vie for key
government offices.

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



PHOTO: MARISSA KITAZAWA

Participants in last year's Bridging Communities Program viewed Japanese American history firsthand at Manzanar.

LOS ANGELES — The Japanese American Citizens League in partnership with Kizuna, the Greater Los Angeles Area chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCRR) is kicking off the fifth annual Bridging Communities Program.

The Bridging Communities Program seeks to educate, inform and connect Japanese American and American Muslim youths by synthesizing their differences and commonalities through interactive workshops and discussions on topics including identity, culture, religion, civil rights, community history, advocacy and community service.

Open to high school students of all ethnicities, the program was established in 2008 by JACL, CAIR and NCRR in response to numerous incidents involving the discrimination of the Muslim American community in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. Recognizing the similarities that Japanese Americans faced in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, Bridging Communities was created to build solidarity and partnership between these two cultures.

Participants will meet on six Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. beginning in February and concluding in June. Sessions will be held at CAIR's office in Anaheim, the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles and the Islamic Society of Orange County in Garden Grove. Students will engage in workshops and activities that enhance their understanding of identity, culture, religious affiliation and Asian American and American Muslim history. An overnight pilgrimage to Manzanar National Historic Site near Lone Pine, Calif., also is planned.

The program's goal is to empower participants with an increased understanding of their own identity and help them gain the leadership skills, cultural and religious sensitivity that will propel them forward as mindful civic leaders in their communities.

For more information or to register online, please contact Emily Nishida, Bridging Communities intern, at (213) 973-4465 or email emily@kizuna-la.org.

COLLEGIATE JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNSHIP ANNOUNCES ONE-DAY CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER

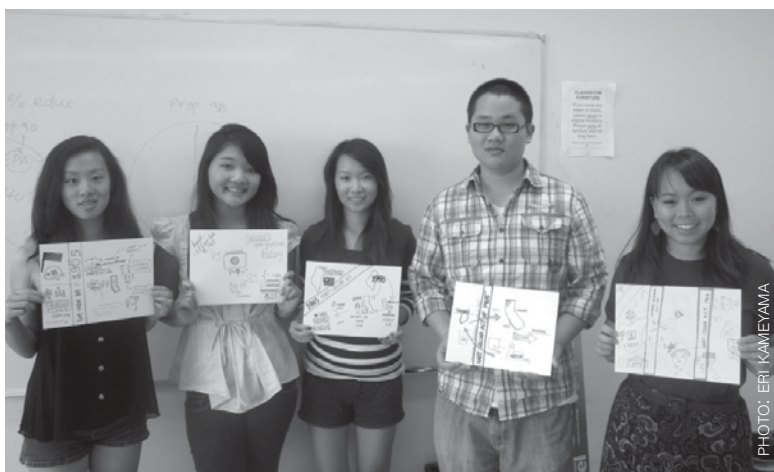


PHOTO: ERI KAMEYAMA

(From left) Collegiate Japanese American interns Cathy He, Sakura Kato, Vivian Shih, Lawrence Lan and Lisa Lei

The Collegiate Japanese American Internship, a youth program sponsored by the JACL Pacific Southwest District, is gearing up for its one-day conference "(Re)claiming Our Communities: Identity Politics, Youth Engagement and Building Contemporary Asian Pacific America," which will be held on Nov. 17 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles.

The conference, which is for ambitious high school and college students as well as recent alums, will be presented by the program's five interns, Cathy He, Sakura Kato, Lawrence Lan, Lisa Lei and Vivian Shih. Their goal is to educate others on advocating for their respective Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Through a series of workshops and panels, participants will gain better insight into their own identity, learn about relevant issues in the AAPI community and become knowledgeable on ways to become activists in their own professions.

Glenn Omatsu, a lecturer in Asian American Studies and the Educational Opportunity Program at California State University, Northridge, will serve as the conference's keynote speaker, and panelists will include Kathy Masaoka of Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress, Diane Ujiye of APIs CAN and Gary Mayeda of JACL PSW.

For more information, contact Eri Kameyama, program associate, at programs@jaclpsw.org or call (213) 626-4471. For an online registration form, visit www.jaclpsw.org.



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NATIONAL JACL CONVENTION WILL CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT; NATIONAL ARCHIVES SET TO DISPLAY EO 9066

Washington, D.C. — Plans are currently underway for the 2013 National JACL Convention in Washington, D.C. The convention, set for July 24-26, will be held in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (The Redress Bill), which allowed for a Presidential apology and reparations for 110,000 Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed from their West Coast homes and unjustly incarcerated during World War II.

At the request of JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida, the National Archives is releasing Executive Order 9066 and the Civil Liberties Act for a private viewing reception on July 25.

The reception, which will be open to convention attendees and invited guests, will bring together the two documents for the first time. Guests also will have private access to the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights and exhibits in the Public Vault.

In order to encourage the attendance and participation of as many individuals as possible, convention registration fees will be kept to a minimum. This schedule should also allow for the participation of Congressional members and key personnel in the U.S. government.

The 2013 National JACL Convention will take place at the Renaissance Hotel. Additional convention information will be released in the next few months. ■

JASON HATA IS AWARDED JACL NORMAN Y. MINETA FELLOWSHIP

By P.C. Staff

Jason Hata was selected by JACL as the American Association of Retired Persons Norman Y. Mineta Fellow.

Hata, who graduated from the University of Southern California with a bachelor's degree in business, also won this year's JACL Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition.

"Being selected as the Norman Y. Mineta Fellow means a great deal to me because it's an opportunity to continue working within the Japanese American and Asian American communities," Hata said. "Throughout college, I was involved in community work through various programs and organizations, and this fellowship is a way to build on work that I've already done."

While in college, Hata was president of the USC Nikkei Assn. and the finance chair of the Intercollegiate Nikkei Council. As the external vp of the Southern California Nikkei Assn., Hata also sat on the Little Tokyo Community Council.



Jason Hata won JACL's 2012 Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition.

The fellowship, which is funded by AARP and Southwest Airlines, is named in honor of Norman Y. Mineta, former U.S. secretary of transportation. Hata has been working out of the JACL's Washington, D.C., office on leadership programming and public policy initiatives.

"On a more personal note, earlier in the summer, my grandmother

told me that my grandfather devoted a great of his time to working with the JACL in Chicago," Hata said. "He passed away before I was born, so this fellowship means a great deal to me because it allows me to feel connected to him."

In the future, Hata says he's interested in pursuing a career in corporate sponsorship and multicultural marketing. ■



*Florin JACL
congratulates
scholarship
recipient*

*John
Kanemoto*



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Apr. 19 ~ Apr. 28	Holland & Luxembourg & Belgium
May 12 ~ May 22	Along the Japan Sea Coast: "Sado Island to Fukuoka"
May 17 ~ May 28	Northern Spain
May 18 ~ Jun. 02	Ireland & Scotland
Mar. or Apr. or May	Summer Las Vegas: Show: TBA
Jun. 21 ~ Jun. 29	Cape Cod & The Islands: "Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Newport"
Jul. 03 ~ Jul. 12	Japan By Train: Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo
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Sep. 20 ~ Oct. 02	England & Wales & Scotland
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Oct. 09 ~ Oct. 18	Treasures of Tuscany & Provence: "France & Italy, Plus Monaco"
Oct. 19 ~ Oct. 31	Chilean Fjords & Patagonia & Easter Island
Oct. 21 ~ Oct. 30	Autumn Japan: "Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Tokyo"
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FOR THE RECORD

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

By John Tateishi



What is it, I wonder, that in some quarters of the JA community there is so much animosity against the JACL? If it's based on World War II and everything that happened then, I get it. After all, I grew up with some of the residual anger that the *kibei* felt (and some for good reason), but that was such a long time ago. That's a continual flogging of a dead horse that has been dead for more than 60 years!

Maybe it's the age-old feeling that the JACL is an elitist organization, an impression that seems to have come from so many of its members being college graduates and career professionals. There are mumbling and grumbings in the community, but most of our outspoken critics are themselves professionals of one sort or another. Therefore, that can't be it.

Or, maybe it's that our critics see the JACL as so big and connected that it has lost touch with the community — that we don't have a pulse in the community. There might be some truth to that among some chapters in places such as Los Angeles and San Francisco where the communities are so large, but there are a lot of chapters in those areas and many are tied closely to the community. And outside of California, the JACL often *is* the community.

So, where's the beef?

Is it the fact that in its early days, the JACL took on city and state governments to eradicate discriminatory laws aimed at Japanese Americans and other Asian groups, and in its success in doing so, maybe reveled a bit too much in its achievements? These were 18- to 21 year olds with no experience in politics having the courage to take on laws that were not unlike Jim Crow laws in the South. So, of course they were going to boast of their victories, but lest you forget, those victories were precisely what gave JAs a stronger foothold in this country and gave them their given rights as citizens.

>> See BEEF on page 8

Photo of WWII Veteran Casting Vote Captures Hearts



World War II veteran Frank Tanabe receives help from his daughter, Barbara, to complete his absentee ballot while his wife, Setsuko, sits in the foreground.

Sadly, Tanabe passed away on Oct. 24.

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

HONOLULU — A photograph of a 93-year-old World War II veteran casting his last ballot has captured the hearts of tens of thousands of Internet users.

The photo shows Frank Tanabe lying in a hospital bed at home as his daughter, Barbara Tanabe, helps him fill out his absentee ballot. A half-million people saw the picture on the website Reddit after his grandson posted it there on Oct. 18, making it one of the most popular items on the social media network for a day after.

"True Patriotism," was the top-rated comment on the post. "This is America. Amen," was next, followed by "Thank you, Citizen."

Doctors diagnosed Tanabe with an inoperable cancer tumor in his liver two months ago. He's been in hospice care for the past three weeks at his daughter's home. His condition has been deteriorating, and he's been speaking little lately.

Tanabe had been determined to vote regardless, eagerly asking when the ballot would be arriving in the mail, his daughter said. She kept telling him, "Don't worry, it's coming." He filled it out immediately when it landed in the mailbox on Oct. 17.

>> See VETERAN on page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

Poston Elementary School Named National Landmark

Washington, D.C. — Poston Elementary School Unit 1 at the Colorado River Relocation Center in Arizona was named a national historic landmark by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on Oct. 17.

The Poston Elementary School Unit 1 was nominated by the National Park Service on the grounds that "the property is significant in the areas of politics and government (The Relocation Decision), ethnic heritage (Japanese American history) and social history (History of Minorities in the U.S.)."

Poston was the second of 10 concentration camps established for the confinement of Japanese Americans during World War II, and it is the only camp that retains an above-ground complex of elementary school buildings.

This year, 26 national historic landmarks and one national natural landmark were designated as places that possess exceptional value and quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. There are only 2,527 national historic landmark sites across the country that bear this national distinction.

The National Historic Landmarks Program, established in 1935, is administered by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior.

Sen. Daniel K. Akaka Receives JAVA's Lifetime Achievement Award



JAVA President Gerald Yamada and Lt. Janelle Kuroda, USN, flank Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Sen. Daniel K. Akaka.

Washington, D.C. — Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii) was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his major accomplishments on behalf of veterans by the Japanese American Veterans Assn.

Sen. Akaka, America's first senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry and the only Chinese American member of the U.S. Senate, received a framed citation, an inscribed desk clock and a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal that was bestowed last year upon the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service.

"When I became a U.S. senator, I was determined to correct the injustice done to persons of Japanese ancestry, particularly those who served in the uniform of our country," Akaka said. In addition, Akaka commended JAVA and other Japanese American veterans organizations and museums for publicizing the Japanese American World War II experience to the American people.

"You have championed issues that are important to veterans. You are a true friend and supporter of veterans and their families," said JAVA President Gerald Yamada of Akaka.



Floyd Mori Named Interim CEO of APAICS

Washington, D.C. — JACL National Executive Director Emeritus S. Floyd Mori has agreed to serve as interim president and CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies. Mori will replace outgoing CEO Gloria Chan while a search committee is formed to find a permanent leader for APAICS. Chan will remain president and CEO through November.

Mori, who retired in June from the JACL after serving as executive director for seven years, will continue APAICS's mission to promote Asian American and Pacific Islander participation and representation at all levels of the political process.

"APAICS continues to play a critical role in developing new leadership in the AAPI community," Mori said. "I appreciate the opportunity to work with members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and the AAPI community in this new role as interim CEO."

— Compiled by P.C. Staff and JACL

PHOTO COURTESY OF APIA VOTE

ARE ASIAN AMERICAN VOTERS UNDECIDED BETWEEN OBAMA AND ROMNEY?

A recent survey shows that many Asian Americans are undecided about which presidential candidate to support in the upcoming election.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

The 2012 presidential election is less than a week away, but a recent survey indicates that nearly one-third of Asian Americans polled are undecided between President Barack Obama and Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

Officials with the National Asian American Survey interviewed 3,376 Asian Americans and found that 43 percent are in favor of Obama and 24 percent support Romney. But 32 percent of Asian Americans are undecided about which candidate to cast their vote for.

The ethnic group with the strongest support for Obama, according to the survey released on Sept. 25, is the Indian American community. Romney supporters are comprised mostly of Filipino Americans, according to the survey. About 49 percent of the Japanese American community polled favor Obama; twenty-nine percent support Romney. The rest remain undecided.

But some Asian American voters say they are confident about which presidential candidate to support on Nov. 6.

"Most of my family is military and the other part is law enforcement, and so traditionally military and law enforcement, we vote conservative," said Julio DeGuzman, 52, chair of the Asian American Republican Coalition, who is Filipino and Mexican American. "All of our family is Catholic, and so that's probably why none of us are voting for Obama."

Some 38 percent of Filipino Americans support Romney, according to the National Asian American Survey. In the 2008 election, the survey indicates that Filipino Americans favored Obama over Sen. John McCain.

As a son of two Chinese American immigrant parents, Kevin Huang, 20, says he's casting his ballot for Obama because of "tax cuts for middle-class Americans."

"For me, the choice is really clear in this election," said Huang, a student studying politics at the University of California, Santa Cruz. "He talked about 'hope' four years ago, and I still believe there's still hope for another four years for Obama."

The Asian American community is the fastest-growing

ethnic group in key states, according to a survey released in June by the Pew Research Center. Some 36 percent of immigrants arriving to the United States as of 2012 are Asian, according to the U.S. Census data.

Asian American community leaders say it is crucial that political parties engage the Asian American voting bloc in the 2012 election.

"Taking these voters for granted in the short-run will have a big impact in the long-run because they're on a fast rise and they're very loyal," Asian American Justice Center President and Executive Director Mee Moua said in a press release. "They're looking for leaders who will stand up for them and address their issues."

The Lake Research Partners in another recent poll found that the Asian American community is untapped by political parties in states such as California, Florida, Illinois, Nevada and Virginia. The poll, which was conducted in partnership with APIA Vote and AAJC, surveyed 713 registered Asian American voters from April 5-15. The findings show that only 23 percent "say they have been contacted by the Democratic Party in the past two years and 17 percent by the Republican Party."

"Every vote counts, especially in a tight election. If AAPIs vote at the same level as they did in 2008, it could mean increasing margins for the party they prefer," said Christine Chen, APIA Vote executive director, in a press release. "Political leaders must engage this rapidly growing voting bloc in the conversation. We're working with dozens of community-based groups to get AAPIs more civically engaged, but locally we've barely been contacted."

The economy and employment — followed by health care and education — are the top priority issues for the Asian American community, according to the poll conducted by the National Asian American Survey.

AAPIs Running for Congress at Record Numbers

The 25 AAPI challenger candidates running in the 2012 Congressional elections comprise a diverse contingent of the AAPI community. At least eight candidates are Indian American, four are Chinese American, three are Japanese American, two are Korean American and there is one each of Hmong American, Taiwanese American and Native Hawaiian descent. Another three are mixed race.

2012 AAPI Congressional Candidates

Mazie Hirono (D), U.S. Senate HI

Dr. Ami Bera (D), CA-07

Ranjit "Ricky" Gill (R), CA-09

Blong Xiong (D), CA-21

Otto Lee (D), CA-22

Justin Kim (D), CA-31

Jay Chen (D), CA-39

Mark Takano (D), CA-41

Sukhee Kang (D), CA-45

Vipin Verma (D), FL-06

Charles Djou (R), HI-01

Muliufi Francis

Hannemann (D), HI-02

Tulsi Gabbard (D), HI-02

Esther Kia'aina (D), HI-02

Tammy Duckworth (D), IL-08

Dr. Syed Taj (D), MI-11

Upendra Chivukula (D), NJ-07

Grace Meng (D), NY-06

Nathan Shinagawa (D), NY-23

Dr. Manan Trivedi (D), PA-06

Ron Bhalia (R), TN-3

Joe Chow (R), TX-06

KP George (D), TX-22

Steve Hobbs (D), WA-01

Darshan Rauniyar (D), WA-01

Source: Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies

"Why is he attractive to our community? Well, No. 1 we have a lot of Asian business owners and besides business, we own a lot of restaurants here," said DeGuzman, who lives in La Jolla, Calif., about why he's voting for Romney. "The No. 1 fear is we don't know what's going to happen tax-wise, employee-wise and health care-wise. People don't want to hire because they don't want to shell out the extra money if they're forced to buy health care."

Other Asian American voters say they identify more with Obama because of his background growing up in Hawaii and Indonesia (where he lived for four years). But some voters say that the presidential candidate who successfully engages the Asian American voting bloc could swing the election.

"We might seem like a small portion of the population, but we're still a margin of victory that politicians can still win in the election," Huang said. "I think Obama has done really well with the Asian American vote because he understands the Asian American population, coming from Indonesia where he was living and having an Asian American sister."

"I think that other politicians need to acknowledge that Asian Americans are a really big and powerful voting bloc in the American election."

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*

PHOTO: LYDIA MIYASHIRO

CALENDAR

Daniel Ho Hosts a Free Mini Guitar Workshop

SAN MATEO, CA

Nov. 5, 7 p.m.

Guitar Center

53 W. Hillsdale Blvd.

Hawaii musician Daniel Ho and the Guitar Center invite the public to attend a free guitar clinic and live performance, followed by a Q & A session.

Info: Call (650) 312-8270

>>EAST

A Community Briefing on Tule Lake Pilgrimage

BOSTON, MA

Nov. 13, 6-9 p.m.

Tufts Medical Center,
Wolff Auditorium

800 Washington Center

Members of Genki Spark will present a report on their experiences during the recent four-day pilgrimage to Tule Lake in California.

Info: www.thegenkispark.org

>>PNW

Densho Teacher Training Workshops

SEATTLE, WA

Nov. 15, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Wing Luke Museum of the
Asian American Experience
719 S. King St.

Densho workshop co-facilitators Tom Ikeda and Janet Hayakawa will teach participants how to use materials to develop analysis and reasoning skills. This workshop is for educators and preservice teachers only. Teachers who complete the workshop, create a lesson plan and complete a post-workshop survey will receive a \$100 stipend.

Info: Call (206) 623-5124

>>NCWNP

Asian Pacific Community

Counseling's Dragon

Multicultural Faire

SACRAMENTO, CA

Nov. 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Riverside Elks Lodge No. 6
6446 Riverside Blvd.

The Asian Pacific Community Counseling's annual Dragon Multicultural Arts and Crafts Faire will feature local and Hawaiian artists' wares such as T-shirts, quilts, artwork and more. All of the proceeds will benefit APCC.

Info: Call (916) 383-6783

Contra Costa JACL Food

Demonstration

EL CERRITO, CA

Nov. 17, 1-3:30 p.m.

East Bay Free Methodist Church
5395 Potrero Ave.

The Contra Costa JACL Food Demo will be led by Yoko Olsgaard and her dad.

**Info: Call (510) 232-5410 or
visit www.ebfmc.org**

Jan Ken Po Cultural Assn.'s

Japanese Film Forum

SACRAMENTO, CA

Dec. 8, 2-4 p.m.

Asian Community Center

7275 Park City Drive

Cost: \$5/General admission

Rev. Bob Oshita of Sacramento Buddhist Church will discuss Japanese and American rituals related to death by

using clips from the 2008 film "Departures." The event is sponsored by the Jan Ken Po Cultural Assn.

**Info: Call (916) 427-2841 or
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In Memoriam

Codina, Josephine, 77, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 20; she is survived by her husband, Frank; children, Carlos (Nancy), Yolanda (Renato) Salazar, Martin (Valetta), Mary (Robert) Cosbie and Diane (Benjamin) Marquez; two sisters, one brother; 15 gc; 6 ggc.

Hatanaka, Isao "Jim," 76, Torrance, CA; Sept. 16; he is survived by his wife, Tomiye Hatanaka; brother, Masakazu (Reiko) Hatanaka; sisters-in-law, Toy Hatanaka, Anna Taka, Hana-ko Kishiyama, Tsuyeko Shishido; brothers-in-law, Yoshio (Kay) Shishido and Kei Wada.

Inaba, Mitsuru, 77, Riverside, CA; Aug. 14; he served in the U.S. Army for two years; during WWII his family was interned at Manzanar; he is survived by his wife, Meiko; son, Douglas (Resa); daughter, Laurie Oshiro (Gary); sisters, Midori Fujii, Haru Kuromiya, Setsu Hata and Lola Inaba; brothers, Akira Inaba and Anthony Inaba; 5 gc.

Ito, James Osamu, 97, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 17; Jim s a veteran of the MIS; he is survived by his wife, Toshi; daughter, Chrislyn Kodama; son, Lance Ito; 2 gc.

Jinde, Peggy, Aiko, 88, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 2; she is survived by her husband, Seichi; children, Bonnie (Glenn) Watje, Iris (Wilbur) Takashima and Joyce (Kirk) Edson; sisters-in-law, Jeanne (Ben) Chomori and Emi; 8 gc; 9 ggc.

Kimura, May Ayame, 96,



Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 13; she was predeceased by her beloved husband, George, and her son, Ronald; she is survived by her sons, Gary K. (Elaine) Saito and Bradley (Debbie); brother-in-law, Ken (Mary); daughter-in-law Doreen Saito; sisters, Clara Aoki, Alice Nakanishi, Isabel Ishihara, Florance (Leo) Uchida, Amy (Max) Muggli, Frances Yonemori, Helen (Don) Sorayama and Gledine (Don) Ishimaru; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 5 gc; 2 ggc.

Kishaba, Otome, 92, Baldwin Park, CA; Oct. 12; she is survived by her husband, Seiichi Kishaba; children, Frances Miyake, Marion (Allen) Tesoro, Raymond (Terri) Kishaba, Linda (Orlando) Montoya, Milton (Sharon) Kishaba;

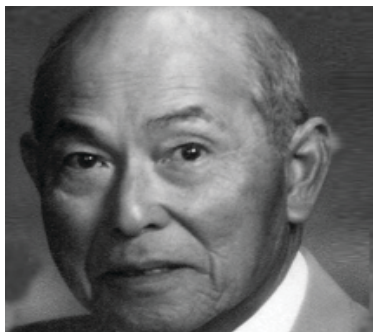
also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 9 gc; 17 ggc.

Koyama Kubo, Emiko "Emmy,"



91, Hardin, MT; Sept. 22; Emmy was predeceased by her parents, Shiro and Yoshiko Fujita Kubo; brother, Ben; husband, Tom; her son, Thomas; great-granddaughter, Samantha MacDiarmid; and son-in-law David MacDiarmid; she is survived by her daughters, Carol MacDiarmid, Kathryn (Clarance) Wandler, Bernice (Gayl) Cook, Marion (David) Robinson and Elaine (Scot Zimmerman); daughter-in-law, Mary; sons Harry (Sheri), Robert (Nadine); 20 gc; 33 ggc.

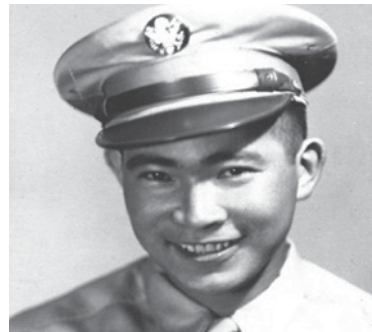
Saito, Larry Y., 92, Portland, OR;



Sept. 26; formerly of Nyssa, OR; WWII MIS veteran; recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal; predeceased by his wife, Mary; survived by daughters, Pamela Saito, Jeanine Saito Atebara, Sonia (John) Kreag and Lori (Steve) Abbott; sister, Chiyo Kato; sisters-in-law, Kae Saito, Massie Saito; nieces and nephews; 4 gc.

Shibuya, Isabel Tsuneko, 91, Los Angeles; Sept. 20; she is survived by her sister, Laura Yaeko Shibuya; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Takasugi, Michio "Mich," 90,



Wilder, ID; Sept. 15; he joined the U.S. Army during WWII; he is survived by his wife, Ayako; daughter, Colleen (Andy) Iwano; daughter-in-law, Suzanne; two brothers, Max and Shoji; sisters, Yoshiko Weber, Matsue (Manny) Nakamura and Helen; and numerous nieces and nephews; 4 gc.

Tamura, Haruko, 77, Fallbrook, CA; Oct. 20; she is survived by her loving family: husband, Ed Tamura; sons, Kevin (Cathy) and Ryan (Elena) Tamura; brothers, Bob (Nancy) and Takeo (Hatsue) Toguchi; sister-in-law, Merry Toguchi; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 7 gc; 1 ggc.

Tucker, Sandra S., 61, Payette,



ID; Oct. 9; she was born to Roy and Ruth Sasaki; she is survived by her husband, Buzz, her children, Kara (Chris) and Kevin, her

John Jiro Saito
July 4, 1928-Oct. 16 2012



Born and raised in Los Angeles, John Saito was interned at Poston before serving in the U.S. Army; he worked with the Los Angeles County Probation Department and Human Relations Commission and served as regional director during the redress campaign with JACL; he is survived by his wife, Carol Ann; children, John, Mark and Jennifer (Brian); grandchildren, Hayley Ann and Joey Fukai; brother, Shinobu "Doc" (Yoko) Saito; sister-in-law, Winifred (Arthur) Uyesato; and nephews, Michael, Gerald, Ronald, Phillip and Robert Uyesato.

Elaine Reiko Akagi
Aug. 23, 1945-Oct. 18, 2012



Seattle JACL co-president Elaine Reiko Akagi passed away on Oct. 18 in Silver Spring, Md. Born in Detroit, Mich., she began her work with JACL when she joined the youth council of the Detroit Chapter. In 1987, she moved to Seattle. She was presented the JACLer of the Biennium Award at this year's National Convention. A celebration of her life will be held on Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. at the Nisei Veterans Committee Hall. Remembrances can be made to the Seattle JACL Elaine Akagi Scholarship Fund, the King County Animal Humane Society, the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington or the Seattle NVC/NVC Foundation.

mother, Ruth, her brothers and sisters, Mike (Sue), Cathy, Patti (Chuck), Leland (Julie) and Ellen (Randy); also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Watanabe, James R. "Sonny,"



64, Nampa, ID; Oct. 13; he was a Life Member JACL; Sonny was predeceased by his parents, James and Bobbie; he is survived by his sister, Sharon Hicks Crofts (Terry); his nephew, Kimber Hicks; and his nieces, Michelle Hicks (Anthony), TaMia Campbell and Tianna Campbell.

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VETERAN >> continued from page 4



Veterans of the MIS, along with the 442nd RCT and 100th Infantry Battalion, received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011.

Barbara Tanabe read aloud the names of the candidates to her dad. He either nodded “yes” to the names or shook his head “no.”

He knew what he was doing. He’s kept up on the issues, reading newspapers regularly until only recently, she said.

Tanabe volunteered to join the Army from behind barbed wire at Tule Lake. He was pulled out of the University of Washington and taken to the camp.

The Army assigned Tanabe to the Military Intelligence Service, a classified unit.

Noah Tanabe, the grandson who posted the photo online, said he thinks about his grandfather every time he votes.

“It’s hard to imagine — after his family business is torched, his family imprisoned and he’s denied the opportunity to finish his college education — he volunteered to serve,” Noah Tanabe said.

The family has been surprised and

gratified by the online comments on the photo, Barbara Tanabe said.

Several Reddit commentators asked whether Tanabe’s vote would be counted if he passed away before Election Day.

Glenn Takahashi, Honolulu election administrator, said absentee ballots cast by voters who later die become invalid if the state Department of Health notifies election officials of the death before Election Day.

A similar situation arose four years ago when President Barack Obama’s grandmother died two nights before the election but after she mailed her absentee ballot. Hawaii counted her vote.

Barbara Tanabe said her father, a quiet, unassuming man, would wonder what all the fuss over the photo was about. But he’d be thrilled it encouraged others to vote, she said. “That would be the ultimate honor for him.” ■

BEEF >> continued from page 4

Is it the WWII JACL decisions and actions? If it is, all I can say is, get over it. It’s been 60 years! It’s easy to make a big deal of it now, but keep in mind, *nobody had to go along with the JACL*. I’ve said it before that the JACL was hardly held in high esteem in the community at the time, so why in the world did everyone agree to do what the JACL suggested? It’s nuts. If you’re a young or middle-aged man with a family and, in either case, not part of the JACL network, why would you go along with the JACL when you didn’t necessarily like or trust the people who ran the organization in the first place? Now who’s the idiot?

I repeat: No one *had* to do what the JACL advised.

If there’s a beef, it seems to spring from an on-going, never-let-go obsession with WWII and everything that happened then.

There are legitimate complaints. Title II, when the JACL stood back and only threw in its support once the campaign looked like it had legs; the Iva Toguri campaign, when the JACL finally agreed to support it once it was almost over; the 1970s redevelopment fight for *nihonmachi* in San Francisco, when the question was raised whether the JACL had cut a deal with the city; and there are probably a few others about which most of us are unaware.

Those are all legitimate gripes. I was involved in some (not as a JACLer), others I observed, but I thought the JACL made

some bad decisions along the way. As the national director, I never made excuses for any of those decisions because they were in the past, and I could do nothing about them.

The one issue we attempted to resolve was the apology to the WWII draft resisters. Floyd Mori was president at the time, I the director, and we carried out the National Council mandate and held a public ceremony offering the JACL’s apology.

And you know how well that went over with veterans.

Part of the problem is that the JACL is not very good at tooting its own horn. As an organization, we’ve accomplished an astonishing amount over the years, but most of it goes unnoticed. That’s fine, because we happen to be very Japanese in that way. It’s O.K. but only up to a point. If you read the histories of the redress campaign, for example, you’d think the JACL was only one of many organizations responsible for the success of the campaign, according to most community historians. I’ve said it often because it’s important to state: Without the JACL spearheading the campaign, it never would have happened.

Here’s a deal: For those obsessed with the JACL’s failings during WWII, go right ahead and continue to criticize us, but do so by also talking about all the stuff the JACL has done to benefit the community. No? O.K., then talk about camp but also include redress. That’s a fair exchange. ■

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