

PACIFIC CITIZEN

SUPPORT

LOVE CIVIL UNIONS

Love and liberty in the
Aloha State. **PAGE 3**



PHOTO: VALERIE SMITH



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Ben Kuroki's lucky ears.



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Robert Iso's
Gold Medal.



'Guitar
Hero'
legend
Annie
Leung.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remembering JACL's Non-partisan Mission

Over the last year, the JACL has issued a series of press releases that have explicitly criticized various Republican, conservative or Libertarian figures while ignoring racist, provocative or inappropriate comments from the likes of Harry Reid, D-NV, Chris Matthews, Keith Olbermann and Alan Grayson, D-FL.

The organization endorsed the October March on Washington (One Nation Working Together), sponsored by left-wing labor unions, Democratic Socialists of America, Communist Party USA, and ideologues such as Ed Schultz and Al Sharpton.

The JACL endorsed the Democratic Congress' health reform bill with commentary that mirrored White House talking points, despite the apparent lack of debate or analysis within the organization as to the "civil rights" nature or community impact of the legislation. Could it be that Asian Americans, whose average incomes exceed the national average, will be disproportionately impacted by wealth transfers to others in order to achieve a long-standing Democratic Party policy objective?

During this time of languishing membership, it may be reasonable to evaluate whether or not conservative, Libertarian or even moderate Japanese Americans feel marginalized or unwanted due to the clear ideological expressions of the JACL on various issues tangential to the organization's mission.

In that spirit, I would ask that the JACL celebrate the centennial of Ronald Reagan's birth this year. He was born into a poor family, led the Screen Actors Guild for many years, restored national pride as president, strengthened alliances, secured bipartisan legislation to strengthen Social Security, won the Cold War, and unleashed the longest peacetime economic expansion in U.S. history.

Of course, in 1988, President Reagan listened to the advice of Vice President George H. W. Bush and signed into law the Redress bill that apologized to JAs for the forced incarceration imposed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt during World War II. The legislation passed with

the votes of a lot of Democrats, but also Republicans such as Dick Cheney, Bob Dole, Newt Gingrich, Pat Saiki and others. Without the support of President Reagan and Vice President Bush, this legislation may well have languished.

This token statement of recognition and gratitude for Ronald Reagan's efforts would go a long way to tempering the inordinately one-sided public statements of the past two years.

James Kumpel
New York JACL

* * *

Keep JACL

I write to join the opinions expressed by Ken Yamamoto of Silicon Valley JACL, Edwin Mitoma of South Bay JACL and T. Ted Yoneda of Stockton, California — whose letters were published in the Feb. 4-17 issue of the *Pacific Citizen*.

They want to KEEP JACL and oppose any name change previously suggested by National Director Floyd Mori. Changing the

name of JACL will not resolve the problem of our decreasing membership; in fact, I fear that a name change may cause our organization built upon "security through unity" to segue into an organization of "competing interests."

I thank my good friend Horse Yoshinaga for his negative comments in the *Rafu Shimpo* last year that raised the consciousness of many members regarding this name change issue. "Wake Up JACLers" — you need to know what is happening in our JACL organization."

Helen Kawagoe
Former Nat'l JACL President
Carson City Clerk

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PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

TOYO MIYATAKE WAY

Little Tokyo Street Named After Toyo

Toyo Miyatake, a Japanese American photographer, had a street in Los Angeles, Calif. named in his honor. A group of about 50 gathered on Feb. 10 at Toyo Miyatake Way located at Sakura Crossing, a luxury apartment complex in Little Tokyo.

During World War II, Miyatake was interned in Manzanar. Smuggling a camera lens into camp, he constructed a makeshift camera and documented the experiences of Japanese American detainees.

A bronze relief of Miyatake was installed at Sakura Crossing nearby a sign bearing his name.

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Hawaii Civil Unions Passes in Senate, Moves to Governor



Gary Okabayashi and Lenny Zimmerman (*pictured left*), both JACL members, have been active participants in advocating for the passage of civil unions legislation in Hawaii.

Proponents of the civil unions bill (*pictured above*) like those with Pride Alliance Hawaii took to the streets to voice their support.

The passage of a same-sex civil unions bill in the Senate, supporters say, is a step toward a more equal Hawaii.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Hawaii civil union supporters are optimistic that a bill providing many marriage rights to same sex couples will be signed into law by the governor.

With a 18-5 vote, the Senate approved the civil unions bill Feb. 16.

The Senate was expected to consider the civil unions bill Feb. 15, but Sen. Clayton Hee proposed delaying a decision because of procedural concerns.

Many civil unions supporters hailed the passage of the bill in the state Senate as a step toward equality.

For Japanese American Gary Okabayashi, 65, the absence of a civil unions law in the state makes him feel, he says, like a second-class citizen.

"I have a partner and we've been together for over 33 years," Okabayashi explained. "We think civil unions is a matter of civil rights."

The Hawaii couple has been following civil union legislation in Hawaii for years, Okabayashi said, who is a JACL member. Last year, a similar same-sex civil unions bill went to then-Gov. Linda Lingle's desk.

Opponents to same-sex civil unions appealed to the governor by the thousands, flooding the governor's office with e-mails, letters and phone calls. Russell Pang, chief of media relations, explained then that the majority of the correspondence at the time was in opposition to same-sex civil unions.

It was rumored that the then-governor would not sign the civil unions bill, but allow it to become law without her signature.

However on the last day she had to make a decision, July 6, Lingle vetoed the bill.

"It was just a slap in the face," said 68-year-old Lenny

Zimmerman, who is Okabayashi's partner. "We thought she was a person of fairness and then at the last minute, after sort of hinting that she might actually let the bill become law without her signature, she vetoes it."

Many civil unions supporters are confident that this year the civil unions bill, SB 232, will become law with a new governor now in office. Gov. Neil Abercrombie, who took office in December, has said he will sign a civil unions bill into law within 10 days. The law would take effect in 2012.

"We have been working with the governor's policy team and have considered amendments recommended by the attorney general," said Rep. Blake Oshiro. "So I am optimistic that if the bill passes the Legislature, Gov. Abercrombie will sign it into law, marking another important day in our history and advancement to an equal society."

The passage of the civil unions bill would make Hawaii the seventh state to give same-sex couples many marriage rights through civil unions.

Same-sex marriage is legal in five states, including the District of Columbia.

But many opponents to the bill believe legislation granting civil unions rights to same-sex couples will eventually lead to legalizing same-sex marriage in the state.

Hawaii Rep. Gene Ward told the House committee Feb. 10 that he believes the civil unions bill is a legal strategy to put same sex marriage into motion. Same sex marriage is coming and it's coming soon, he said.

Ward is not the only legislator who has expressed reservations about the civil unions bill.

"Having dealt with this issue intimately over the last 20 years, believe me there is nothing more important to people in Hawaii than trying to change the sacred institutions of marriage and the family," said Sen. Mike Gabbard on Jan. 28 on the Senate floor. The Senate voted 19-6 on Jan. 28 to send the bill to the House for consideration.

The lack of a civil unions law in Hawaii, supporters say, is a civil rights issue.

"The bill is not about marriage or about religion, but about how the government treats its citizens, how we treat one

another and the elimination of discrimination, regardless of gender or sexual orientation," Oshiro explained.

Others echo Oshiro's sentiments.

"By not passing the civil unions bill, lawmakers are dividing Hawaii," said Jade Le, with the management of eXpression! Magazine, an LGBT publication. "As a community that is divided, why would we work together to enhance everyone else's lives while our own basic rights are not being met?"

This is not the first time Hawaii has contemplated expanding the rights of same-sex couples.

Hawaii Supreme Court questioned the constitutionality of preventing same-sex marriage in 1993. The Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as a union between a man and woman, was enacted three years later.

Legalizing same-sex marriage in the Aloha State is something some cannot see happening in the near future.

"I don't think people in Hawaii, in my opinion, they're not ready for same sex marriage," Okabayashi explained. "But I think as far as Hawaii, I think for right now this is as far as we can go."

Some opponents to the civil unions bill say same-sex couples already receive benefits under the Reciprocal Beneficiary Act, which passed in 1997. The law essentially extended inheritance and hospital visitation rights to same-sex couples, among other things.

But same-sex couples say Hawaii's reciprocal beneficiary registration provides only the "bare minimum" rights.

"It's more like visitation rights if someone's ill or you could now buy property together. But it does not have anything to do with our tax laws," Okabayashi explained, who registered in 2000. "That's the two major areas that are lagging is the family relationships and the taxation benefits. That's what the opposition does not want: recognition for families."

Although optimistic that the governor will sign civil unions into law, supporters say in the interim they will not stop fighting for equality.

"Nothing is over until it's over," Zimmerman said. ■

Japanese American Vet Receives Congressional Gold Medal



Lawson Sakai, who is also a World War II veteran, presented Robert Masami Iso with a framed copy of the Congressional Gold Medal legislation (pictured left).

Robert Masami Iso snapped a photo (above) with Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki years before he was honored.

What was intended to be a bedside ceremony for a World War II Nisei veteran became a Congressional Gold Medal ceremony with about 100 attendees at the VA Menlo Park division's Community Living Center in California.

**By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter**

Both veterans of World War II, the Iso brothers were slated to receive the Congressional Gold Medal at a Washington, D.C. ceremony later this year, but their plans were interrupted when the eldest brother's health began to decline.

Ninety-two-year-old Robert Masami Iso, who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's. James Iso, a former soldier with the Military Intelligence Service, realized that his brother would be unable to attend the ceremony because of his failing health.

Plans were quickly made Feb. 3 to hold a bedside ceremony to honor the eldest Iso brother with the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian award.

"I'm glad we made it. I was a little afraid we weren't going to be able to make it because he was going fast," said James Iso, 86, after the ceremony. "He's been three weeks without food. He's on intravenous [fluids]. As you can see he's wasting away."

The ceremony was arranged just days before Robert Iso's death on Feb. 6.

The event was initially intended to be a bedside ceremony for the Nisei veteran, but it soon grew. About 100 people gathered at California's VA Menlo Park division's Community Living Center to honor Robert Iso.

"We were kind of thinking it might have to be at the bedside. But he was able to get into a wheelchair and we wheeled him into the day room," said VA spokeswoman Kerri Childress. "We just brought in more chairs and people stood in the back."

Robert Iso donned his military garb for the ceremony. It would be the last time the former 442nd RCT soldier would be in uniform.

The Japanese American first wore the U.S. Army uniform

when he was drafted before the war. His family, including James Iso, was interned at Heart Mountain.

A week before the war ended Robert Iso was injured in Italy by a German machine gunner while attempting to save a fallen comrade, said his brother. Robert Iso was confined to a wheelchair at the age of 24.

"His one foot is six inches shorter than the other since he was very badly injured by the German machine gun," said Brian Iso, James Iso's son. "They made fun of him that the cops had a hard time catching up with his wheelchair, how he was a terror on the sidewalk."

James Iso says there is another hero in the Iso family who should also be recognized.

"His wife of 60 years was with him all those years, taking care of him," James Iso said of his sister-in-law. "I think she's a hero herself taking care of a wounded, wheelchair-bound soldier through his life."

Rose Iso was on-hand for the special ceremony honoring her husband.

"There were quite a few people there. I was surprised," she said of the turnout at the ceremony. In addition to the Congressional Gold Medal, Robert Iso also earned two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for Valor.

Fellow WWII veteran Lawson Sakai presented Robert Iso with a framed copy of the Congressional Gold Medal bill signed by President Barack Obama, Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Daniel Inouye.

"I understand that other states have given out the certification. But we might consider giving it out to some of the terminally ill veterans," explained Lawson Sakai, president of Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans, or FFNV.

Sakai, however, suggested that families requesting a private service should absorb any costs associated with future ceremonies.

The president signed the Congressional Gold Medal bill into law Oct. 5, honoring those who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd RCT and MIS.

During WWII, soldiers in the 100th battalion and 442nd RCT served in Europe. Those in the MIS translated and interpreted Japanese military communications in the Pacific. Despite being classified as "enemy alien," some 30,000 JAs served during the war.

The National Veterans Network (NVN), a coalition of 23 JA veterans and civic organizations, is fundraising to pay

for the two-day long Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Washington, D.C., said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, NVN chair. One Congressional Gold Medal will be presented to the veterans. Bronze replicas of the medal may be purchased with a case for \$50.

Many people and organizations were involved in honoring Robert Iso. The planning for the ceremony started, James Iso said, when he called the Japanese American Veterans Association to inform them that his brother would not attend the formal Congressional Gold Medal ceremony.

"We regret that he will not be there in person to witness his unit receiving this award, so we hope that this bill presentation helps to serve as a recognition for his extraordinary service during World War II," Sato-Yamazaki explained.

Other copies of the Congressional Gold Medal bill have been distributed to some veterans, said Brian Shiroyama, vice president of FFNV. "But this is definitely the first to be given out in this manner," he said.

Friends and family of Robert Iso say he was unable to speak at the ceremony because of his failing health. But most said it was clear Robert Iso knew he was being honored.

"It was very obvious he really appreciated it from the expression on his face and what he was trying to say," Shiroyama said, who was also the master of ceremonies at the event. "Every time we presented something he looked at you and responded with grateful eyes. I knew Bob, so I knew exactly what he was saying."

James Iso said his brother has not been able to speak since being admitted to the community living center. They had been using hand signals to communicate.

"I said, 'You were really the hero of the frontline,'" James Iso said about congratulating his brother. "He can't talk, so we use hand signals. He gave me a thumbs up, which is enough."

Funeral arrangements are now being made for Robert Iso. But James Iso says he is also planning to undergo angioplasty surgery in the next week.

Robert Iso did not have any children. But James Iso's son had been visiting his uncle every night.

Now Brian Iso will make another visit in honor of his uncle, delivering his uncle's signed copy of the Congressional Gold Medal to his home.

"I'm going to bring it over to my aunt and she'll keep it there," Brian Iso explained. ■

Ariz. Gov. Countersues Federal Government on Immigration Law

APA groups call the countersuit ‘a political stunt’ designed to distract from the severity of SB 1070.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer is suing the federal government for failing to control Arizona’s border with Mexico and enforce immigration laws, and for sticking the state with huge costs associated with jailing illegal immigrants who commit crimes.

The lawsuit claims the federal government has failed to protect Arizona from an “invasion” of undocumented immigrants. It seeks increased reimbursements and extra safeguards, such as additional border fences.

Brewer’s court filing serves as a countersuit in the federal government’s legal challenge to Arizona’s new enforcement immigration law. The U.S. Justice Department is seeking to invalidate the law.

“Because the federal government has failed to protect the citizens of Arizona, I am left with no other choice,” Brewer said.

Justice Department spokeswoman Tracy Schmalzer declined to comment on the filing. But a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which is in charge of policing the country’s borders, called Brewer’s lawsuit a meritless action and said Border Patrol staffing is higher than ever.

Asian Pacific American groups are denouncing the countersuit as diversionary.

“Arizona’s counterclaim against the United States is a political stunt designed to distract from the reality that SB 1070’s attempt to mandate racial profiling is unconstitutional,” said the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in a Feb. 10 statement. “Governor



Governor Jan Brewer gave her Jan. 3 inaugural speech in front of the Arizona State Capitol.

Brewer and the attorney general are simply creating a legal sideshow that will do nothing to increase border security.”

Brewer’s lawsuit seeks a court order that would require the federal government to take extra steps to protect Arizona — such as more border fences — until the border is controlled. Brewer also asks for additional border agents and technology along the state’s border with Mexico.

The governor isn’t seeking a lump-sum award, but rather asks for policy changes in the way the federal government reimburses states for the costs of jailing illegal immigrants who are convicted of state crimes. Such changes would give the state more reimbursement.

Arizona’s enforcement law was passed amid years of complaints that the federal government hasn’t done enough to lessen the state’s role as the nation’s busiest illegal entry point. Its passage ignited protests over whether the law would lead to racial profiling,

and prompted lawsuits by the Justice Department, civil rights groups and other opponents seeking to have it thrown out.

Last summer, the JACL national council passed a resolution to join future legal efforts to repeal the law.

The law would have required police, while enforcing other laws, to question a person’s immigration status if officers had reasonable suspicion the person was in the country

illegally. That requirement was put on hold by U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton, along with a mandate that immigrants obtain or carry immigration registration papers.

The judge, however, let other parts of the law take effect, such as a provision that bans people from blocking traffic while seeking or offering day-labor services on streets.

Brewer challenged Bolton’s decision in an appeals court in San Francisco. She argued the judge erred by accepting speculation by the federal government that the law might burden legal immigrants, and by concluding the federal government likely would prevail.

Brewer’s appeal is still pending.

Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne, one of the lawyers defending the law on behalf of the state, said Arizona bears staggering costs from illegal immigration, yet the federal government maintains the state is prevented from assisting in the enforcement of federal immigration law.

Horne said Washington has failed to protect the state against an invasion by illegal immigrants.

“The word ‘invasion’ does not necessarily mean invasion of one country by another country,” Horne said. “It can mean large numbers of illegal immigrants from various countries.”

Brewer’s predecessor, Janet Napolitano, who is now the Homeland Security secretary, regularly sent the Justice Department invoices seeking such reimbursement when she was governor.

The lawsuit doesn’t say exactly how much reimbursement money the state is seeking. Instead, it asks the court to interpret the criteria on which the reimbursements are based, which the state believes will ensure it gets more funding. ■

Panel Backs Indiana Immigration Crackdown Bill

Many of the bill’s measures echo Arizona’s SB 1070.

By Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS—An Indiana Senate committee approved a bill Feb. 9 that its sponsor says would lead to an Arizona-style crackdown on illegal immigration in the state.

The Senate Pensions and Labor Committee voted 8-1 to advance the proposal, which opponents attacked during a four-hour public hearing as opening the door for legitimizing racial profiling.

Dozens of people lined up to testify on the bill, just hours after Indiana’s Republican attorney general said he had reservations about the state inserting itself into what is a federal responsibility.

The bill proposed by Sen. Mike Delph, R-Carmel, would require police to ask for proof of citizenship or immigration status if they had a reasonable suspicion that a person is illegally in the country.

Delph told the committee that the bill was aimed at putting teeth into existing laws.

“We say ‘no more’ to illegal immigration,”

he said. “We want the rule of law restored, period.”

Sen. Mike Young, R-Indianapolis, said he didn’t believe any committee members wanted to harm anyone’s rights, but that legislators had a duty to uphold the laws that are in place and protect residents.

“I just think it is the right thing to do at this time,” he said.

The only committee member to vote against the bill — Democratic Sen. Karen Tallian of Portage — said its proposals go to “ridiculous lengths” and were a “bazillion lawsuits waiting to happen.”

Opponents outside the Senate chamber during the hearing held signs such as “Welcome to Indiana ... where you will be racially profiled.”

Jose Salinas, a Marion County criminal court judge, challenged legislators who support the bill on whether they could understand being forced to prove their nationality.

Salinas said he feared police officers would rely on race, English fluency and last names to determine whom to question.

“Whether we want to believe it or not, human nature is what it is and the envelope is pushed all the time,” Salinas said. “That

always happens when these kind of laws are put forth.”

Delph’s original bill included a proposal that could have stripped companies who knowingly hire illegal immigrants of their business licenses after a third offense. That penalty had drawn opposition from business groups and the committee amended the bill to, instead, strip from offending companies whatever tax deductions were associated with each illegal immigrant.

Kevin Brinegar, president of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, told the committee that the organization doesn’t condone any improper hiring and that the revised penalty was far superior in that it wouldn’t shut down businesses. He was still concerned an immigration crackdown could hurt the state’s business climate.

“We have concerns in terms of economic development and the projection of an air of intolerance,” Brinegar said.

Earlier on Feb. 9, state Attorney General Greg Zoeller joined business, religious and other leaders at a Statehouse event announcing support for what they called rational immigration reform principles.

That group’s statement said immigration is a matter for the federal government. It

calls for border security and respect for laws, but said that “law enforcement should focus on criminal activities, not civil violations of federal code.”

Zoeller said taking on immigration enforcement might be “constitutionally suspect or fiscally impractical.”

“It is a federal responsibility,” he said. “It does us no good to try to assume the federal authority.”

Bob Schrameyer, a leader of the Goshen group Citizens for Immigration Law Enforcement, told the Senate committee that illegal immigration was at least partly to blame for Elkhart County’s double-digit unemployment rate.

“Employers have found it far too easy to hire illegal workers, which not only drives down wages to improve their bottom line, but take unfair advantage of a minority group,” Schrameyer said.

“We are tired of the lawbreakers thumbing their proverbial noses at our system and we tire of the opponents of state immigration legislation continuing their lame claim that it’s a federal problem.”

The bill now goes to the Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration of its financial costs. ■

Ben Kuroki: The WWII Hero With ‘Lucky Ears’

A new children’s book tells the story of a boy from Nebraska who became a WWII Army Air Force hero.

By Christine McFadden
Correspondent

Sergeant Ben Kuroki has led a lucky life. From serving and surviving 58 combat missions in two tours of duty in multiple theaters during World War II, to being the only Japanese American allowed in the U.S. Army Air Forces to serve in combat operations in the Pacific, Kuroki is an American hero.

The recipient of numerous awards including the Distinguished Service Medal in 2005 and the feature of Public Broadcasting Service’s documentary “Most Honorable Son: Ben Kuroki’s Amazing War Story,” he is additionally the feature of a recent biography geared toward younger audiences entitled “Lucky Ears” by award-winning author, Dr. Jean Lukesh.

After including Kuroki in part of a Nebraska studies textbook, Lukesh came into contact with Kuroki and requested to interview him in person. Wanting to do a series of biographies on famous Nebraskans who have had major impacts in the world, Lukesh knew immediately that Kuroki was perfect for her series.

“I told him that I often worked with students of various ethnic backgrounds and that they — and we — all needed good heroes and role models, especially ones that had some commonality with themselves, such as ethnic diversity, heritage, adversity-to-overcome, or just living in the same state,” said Lukesh.

Kuroki agreed.

Released this October, “Lucky Ears” has since received positive feedback from a variety of audiences and sales have traveled as far as the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Germany, South Africa, India, and many more locations. She is currently working on an adult version of the biography.

“There is an interest in it being Asian American, Japanese American, being a war story, a military story; it’s multi-layered,” she said. “It’s a story about a hero. He’s just a universal hero.”

Lucky Ears

In interviewing Kuroki for “Lucky Ears” in 2007, Dr. Lukesh uncovered a multitude of stories that, to her knowledge, had never before been brought up in any other resource — including the story of his lucky ears.

“That is a family legend,” said Kuroki in an interview with the *Pacific Citizen*. “He [my father] said that a son would be born with two little holes in the ears and that he would be a very lucky person and also famous.”

“And Ben has been,” said Lukesh. “It makes perfect sense — all the way through, he has had a miraculous life.” The only one in his family to have the distinguished marking, Kuroki did not think much about his ears and even used to laugh about the two natural holes at the tops of his cartilage.

But at 93, one of two surviving siblings out of the ten Kuroki children, and after what he calls “many miracles” during WWII, Kuroki has come to appreciate his lucky ears.

“A lot of things happened that should’ve killed him along the way,” said Lukesh.

Kuroki participated as a gunman in 58 missions despite many gunmen not surviving more than a few missions.

Most Honorable Son

The son of an immigrant father from Japan who settled in Hershey Valley, west of North Platte, Nebraska, Kuroki grew up on a farm with four brothers and five sisters. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Kuroki volunteered for the Army the next day with his brother, Fred, but was never called back.

He then headed in the direction of the Air Corps after



hearing a radio broadcast that they were taking enlistments. He called to double-check that nationality was not a hindrance.

Kuroki nevertheless faced racial prejudice once in the Air Corps. He spent 21 straight days in Arkansas peeling potatoes. After begging for the chance to go overseas, Kuroki joined the 93rd bomb group in England as a clerk typist.

When the danger of the missions increased the need for additional gunmen, Kuroki was allowed to become a member of the crew and earned the nickname “Most Honorable Son.” He participated in missions in the European theater and in Africa, completing 30 missions and earning two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

Despite his many awards and accolades earned overseas, Kuroki still faced racial discrimination once he returned home to the U.S.

“I tried to share a taxi cab with a civilian in Denver,” recalled Kuroki. “He slammed the door in my face and said, ‘I won’t ride with no damn Jap.’”

“There were things like that after I had finished 30 missions,” he said. “After I had risked life and limb flying missions. And so I decided then I still hadn’t proved myself enough and that I wanted to do even more.”

To the disbelief of many fellow servicemen, Kuroki volunteered for another round of duty, this time in the Pacific.

“I wanted to prove myself a little bit more. That was my motivation,” he said.

However, Kuroki faced a seemingly insurmountable barrier after finally being assigned to a B-29 crew. After months of training, the War Department barred Kuroki from flying against the Japanese.

“That made me angry and all the more determined,” Kuroki recalled. “I wanted to try to get into Pacific combat.”

Luckily, others also wanted to see Kuroki have the right to return to combat; after prominent Californians sent telegrams to Secretary of War Henry Stimson, Kuroki was granted an exception to the War Department’s discriminatory policy and became both the first and the only JA allowed to enter active combat with the Air Force in the Pacific.

Once in Japan, Kuroki — given the new nickname of “Sad Saki” — made sure that somebody walked in front and in back of him in fear that he would be mistaken for the enemy and shot, even while in uniform. Not being able to go to the latrine at night, Kuroki joked in the documentary that he should have been given a Purple Heart for bladder damage.

Regardless of these restrictions and the fact that he was

the only JA to contribute to the air raid bombing of mainland Japan, Kuroki felt similar to his fellow servicemen.

“I didn’t feel any different than any other American,” he said.

Painful Paradoxes in the States

Kuroki additionally served as a spokesperson for the government, visiting three Japanese incarceration camps: Heart Mountain in Wyoming, Minidoka in Idaho, and Topaz in Utah.

Sent to the camps by the War Department in their efforts to recruit Nisei for the 442nd and Military Intelligence Service, he faced a painful paradox.

“You go to the entrance and the guards with bayonets and rifles were wearing the same uniform I’m wearing and inside are all my people,” he said. To many, Kuroki was perceived as a war hero and was surrounded in the camps by people wanting autographs — conversely, many had opposite sentiments.

“The kids thought he was a hero,” said Lukesh. “To some of the older people, he was not a hero. They hated him. They wanted to kill him ... They felt like they were being betrayed by their adopted country and all of a sudden, here’s Ben who looks like them, who is dressed like an American soldier, who is wanting to come in and take their adult males to join the American Army. He felt like he was a Judas at times.”

In “Lucky Ears,” Kuroki demanded that Dr. Lukesh include a picture of the honor roll list from Minidoka displaying all of the casualties of volunteers in the 442nd from the camp.

“At Minidoka, where I visited, they had the biggest casualty of all of the ten internment centers. There are 65 names on that honor roll ... I felt some remorse because I probably encouraged some to volunteer,” he said, commenting that they made the “supreme sacrifice.”

For Lukesh, explaining the JA incarceration in “Lucky Ears” was a challenge to adapt amongst younger readers.

“The internment camps are very hard to explain ... I couldn’t bring that in as much as I wanted to in the children’s version; they really can’t quite understand that,” Lukesh said. She hopes to go into more depth about the camps in the adult version of the biography.

Lukesh, whose father was a German American Army officer, interpreter, and Dachau liberator, both drew on experiences told by her father and followed middle school curriculum for teaching the Holocaust.

“Along the way, Ben and I also had to agree to what we could share with the children,” she continued. “There were times during the writing of the book when Ben wanted something to be more in-depth, traumatic, or hard-hitting, and I had to keep reminding him that this book was for younger readers who did not yet have the background knowledge or experience for some of that.”

His 59th Mission

After completing 58 combat missions, Kuroki has called his fight against racial prejudice his 59th mission. After the war, he traveled the country speaking about racial equality and tolerance funded in part by a 1946 biography by Ralph G. Martin entitled “Boy From Nebraska: The Story of Ben Kuroki.”

On Nov. 6, Kuroki flew to Washington, D.C. for the American Veterans Center’s 13th annual conference during which he received the prestigious Audie Murphy Award. Kuroki spoke twice at the conference and received a standing ovation each time.

Lukesh and her husband were invited to the conference, where “Lucky Ears” was unveiled during the first of Kuroki’s speeches. Lukesh’s husband, standing in the back of the Navy Memorial amphitheater, noticed that Kuroki’s speech brought some to tears.

Kuroki’s message was about “being an American — a patriotic American no matter what your ethnic background, no matter what branch of service, no matter what: you’re American first,” said Lukesh. ■



Sculpture artist Dale Smith with Mia Furichi Fong, the sculpture's model, at the memorial dedication.

DOR Gala Marks Merced Assembly Center's First Anniversary

By Pacific Citizen Staff

At its Feb. 19 Day of Remembrance gala dinner, the Livingston-Merced and Cortez JACL chapters will mark the first anniversary of the Merced Assembly Center Memorial's dedication.

The memorial, located in the Merced County Fairgrounds, marks the site where during World War II over 250 buildings were set up to imprison local Japanese Americans from Merced, Livingston, Turlock and other surrounding areas.

For two years, the Livingston-Merced and Cortez JACL chapters fundraised and worked with the community to build the memorial, which was unveiled last February. Now the chapters are working to raise an additional \$10,000-\$15,000 to complete a documentary on the memorial.

The documentary "A Journey of Injustice, the Merced Assembly Center", produced by METV of the Merced County Office of Education, features footage of the monument being built, installed and unveiled. Over 30 interviews were conducted for the 45-minute documentary, which will be available as an educational tool for schools.

Since it's unveiling, the memorial has touched many people, said Bob Taniguchi, of the Livingston-Merced JACL and the Merced Assembly Center Commemorative Committee.

A family recently scattered some ashes of a former Merced Assembly Center internee near the memorial. People have driven from all over the country to visit the memorial, often leaving keepsakes and personal items as tributes.

"For years and years the Nisei were silent about this [the internment], but after Redress in 1988, it

lifted the burden off of their backs," said Taniguchi. "People are feeling that it's OK to remember ... to remember is to honor."

The memorial features a bronze monument of a young girl sitting on top of a stack of suitcases.

More than 4,600 JAs were incarcerated in unroofed barracks at the Merced County Fairgrounds, beginning in 1942, after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Every year on Feb. 19, JA communities commemorate Day of Remembrance, the anniversary of the 1942 signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the forced evacuation and incarceration of over 100,000 JAs during WWII.

The Livingston-Merced and Cortez JACL chapters' gala dinner will also be an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the lessons learned from the WWII internment.

"It's important to remember that we all must be vigilant of civil rights for all Americans, especially minorities," said Taniguchi. ■

Livingston-Merced and Cortez JACL DOR Gala Dinner

Feb. 19

Merced County Fairgrounds

900 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way

Highlights will include keynote speaker Dr. Isao Fujimoto of UC Davis and Stockton Taiko.

An award will be presented to Rep. Dennis Cardoza. Former internees who come to the banquet will receive a commemorative coin.

Info: Janet Fujimoto at 209/723-8588 or Bob Taniguchi at 209/383-5161

Calif. Assemblymember Introduces DOR Resolution

A California Assembly member has introduced a bill, which would declare Feb. 19 as a Day of Remembrance to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 16 would declare only this Feb. 19 as a statewide DOR.

This year marks the 69th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, a policy of "grave injustice against American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry" according to the resolution.

After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed E.O. 9066 in 1942 authorizing the Secretary of War to prescribe certain areas as military zones and clearing the way for the incarceration of JAs in internment camps.

The resolution also calls on the chief clerk of the Assembly to transmit copies of the resolution to the governor, the superintendent of public instruction, the state library and the California State Archives.

"I am proud to introduce this important resolution that pays respect to Japanese Americans who had their freedom stripped and were forced to live as prisoners," said Eng. "Day of Remembrance should serve as a day that we reflect upon civil liberties as we continue to fight for justice and equality and ensure that history is never repeated again."

In 2008, Eng also authored Assembly Joint Resolution 33, which urged the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service to approve a commemorative postage stamp honoring WWII Nisei veterans. ■

DOR EVENTS ACROSS THE U.S.

EDC

Day of Remembrance Ceremony
MOORESTOWN, NJ

Feb. 19, 1-4 p.m.

Moorestown Friends

School Dining Hall

110 E. Main St.

\$5/members; \$10/non-members

A follow-up discussion to the violent incidents that took place at South Philadelphia High School.

Info: Cliff Akiyama

267/235-9426 or Don Kajioaka at dkajioaka@verizon.net

IDC

DOR Proclamation Signing
BOISE, ID

Feb. 21, 1:30-2 p.m.

Idaho State Capitol

Office of the Governor

700 W. Jefferson

Gov. CL "Butch" Otter signs a proclamation in honor of DOR. Join in the event and attend lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Yen Ching Fine Chinese restaurant.

NCWNP

Honouliuli Historic National Site — Dream or Reality?

KUNIA, HI

Feb. 27, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Monsanto Company

94-520 Kunia Road

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, the Honolulu JACL and Monsanto Hawaii will mark the 68th anniversary of the establishment of the Honouliuli internment camp by hosting a pilgrimage.

Info: www.jcch.com

Monterey Bay Day of Remembrance

SALINAS, CA

Feb. 27, 1:30-4 p.m.

Salinas Community Center

940 N. Main St.

The highlight of this Day of Remembrance observance will be the performance of "Hold These Truths: The Journey of Gordon Hirabayashi" by actress and playwright Jeanne Sakata and starring Ryun Yu.

Info: Mas Hashimoto at hashi79@sbcglobal.net or 831/722-6859

'Enemy Alien: An Innocent Post 9/11 Detainee's Fight for Freedom'

SACRAMENTO, CA

Feb. 19, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

California Secretary of State Office Building Auditorium
1500 11th Street

\$15/general admission, \$10/student, free/kids under 18

Filmmaker Konrad Aderer, whose JA grandmother was incarcerated during WWII, presents this gripping 70-minute story of an innocent Palestinian American activist's imprisonment after 9/11. The Florin, Lodi, Placer County and Sacramento JACL chapters are sponsoring the program.

Info: www.nctor.com

San Francisco Bay Area DOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Feb. 20, 2 p.m.

Sundance Kabuki Theatre

1881 Post St.
Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

1840 Sutter St.

Through cultural presentations, education and a candle lighting ceremony, the keynote speaker will be Rev. Michael Yoshii. San Francisco Board of Education Member Emily Murase will emcee. Info: www.dayofremembrance.org

'Fighting Against Fear' — 31st Annual Day of Remembrance Program

SAN JOSE, CA

Feb. 20, 5:30-7:30p.m.

San Jose Buddhist

Church Betsuin

640 N. Fifth St.

Free and open to the public

This event aims to bring different communities together to fight for equality, justice and peace. Highlights include a performance from San Jose Taiko and the traditional candlelight procession through historic Japantown.

Info: www.sjnoc.org or 408/374-2722

CCDC

CCDC JACL DOR
FRESNO, CA

Feb. 20, 11 a.m.

Pardini's Catering and Banquets
2257 West Shaw Ave.

\$40/general; \$20/Nisei veterans and youth

In the Central Valley, DOR is highlighted with the Distinguished American Awards. The 2011 awardees include Assemblyman Juan Arambula, the Charles Pashayan family and David "Mas" Masumoto.

Info: 559/960-0852

PSW

JANM's Day of Remembrance
LOS ANGELES, CA

Feb. 19, 2 p.m.

JA Nat'l Museum

369 E. First St.

This year's theme "September 11: Ten Years After" was selected by the DOR committee because of growing anti-Muslim sentiments.

Info: 213/625-0414

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Lucky Ears

The True Story of

BEN KUROKI

★ World War II Hero ★

Young readers and adults alike will find this **BOOK** Fascinating to Read.

Ben Kuroki's Story will make YONSEI Proud of Their Heritage.

Author: **Jean A. Lukesh** is a Member of JACL - Honolulu

Order LUCKY EARS Today from Your Favorite Bookstore or Online at AMAZON books or Barnes&Noble



for the RECORD

BY JOHN TATEISHI

PATRIOT Act Tanks

Now here's an interesting turn of events: the slam dunk that hits the rim and bounces off, the home run that goes foul at the last minute, the touchdown that gets fumbled at the one-yard line.

The sure thing that wasn't so sure after all.

On Feb. 8, less than a month into the new session of Congress the new Republican majority, confident it could dictate the House legislative agenda, called for a vote on a bill that would provide a nine-month extension of the most troubling provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

And failed.

Twenty-six freshmen Republicans joined with a majority (but not all) Democrats to vote "nay" on the extension, defeating what should have been an easy victory for the House leadership. Oops!

According to House rules, this bill (HR 514) required a two-thirds majority, which the Republicans have if everyone falls in line. In the past few decades, the Republicans (unlike their brethren on the other side of the aisle) have maintained the kind of strong discipline among its ranks to have frequently befuddled or over-powered the Democrats, especially on significant issues and legislation. And this was an important bill, a legacy of the Bush era that, we were told repeatedly would keep Americans safe from terrorists who were ready to strike at any moment.

But not all Republicans fell in line with the party vote. The 26 new members appear to be mostly if not all Tea Party members for whom party protocol has little meaning. If this vote is an indication of what's to come, the Republican leadership will have to deal with independent-minded members who don't necessarily buy into the party agenda. The normal way members of either party and in either house avoid having to vote the party line on something he or she may find objectionable is simply to miss the vote. There were six Republican "No-Votes."

What's interesting is that the Tea Party members stood against the majority of their party. They showed up and defied their party's leadership by voting "Nay" when they could easily have stayed home on the vote.

In other words, their "Nay" votes were a statement to their colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats.

What the USA PATRIOT Act represents to them, apparently, is big government intrusion, the very thing Tea Party candidates campaigned against in the November elections. They want smaller government. In this case, their

objection to the PATRIOT Act is that it gives the government too much power.

As sometimes happens in politics, and as the old cliché about politics makes for strange bedfellows suggests, liberals and Tea Partiers joined in their objections to the PATRIOT Act but for very different reasons which, ultimately, come to the same thing.

The Tea Party objections to the PATRIOT Act are that the government is too big and too powerful and too intrusive. The government should not be able to intrude in our lives by snooping around in our laundry, clean or dirty. The government has no right to be in our bedrooms or in our business accounts or our library records. Tea Party candidates throughout the last election campaign talked about liberty and freedom, imagining, I suppose, liberty and freedom in the terms of Patrick Henry and Paul Revere. Small government. That's what they want, and the PATRIOT Act exemplifies big government at its worst.

The liberals' approach to the PATRIOT Act has been strictly from a Constitutional point. By giving the government the authority to conduct wire taps on our phones without having to get a court order to show cause; to be able to conduct surveillance on anyone they label a suspected terrorist, whether justified or not; to give the FBI access to personal credit card and medical records, as well as to business records; to be able to get individual library records — these are among the more egregious violations of individual rights allowed by the PATRIOT Act.

The liberal objection to the act is that it violates the basic tenets of the individual liberties afforded by the Constitution and undermines the very foundations of democracy in America. The PATRIOT Act goes too far in allowing the government to intrude on the private lives of Americans without regard to reasonable limitations.

And therein, the two — Tea Party and liberals — come together in their objections to the PATRIOT Act. You call it *to-mah-toe* and I call it *to-may-toe*.

It will be interesting to see how this kind of independence demonstrated by Tea Party members will play among the power base of the Republican leadership. One would have to be naïve (or very hopeful) to think that it's going to change much because 26 votes won't always swing issues.

But it certainly does make it interesting. ■

John Tateishi is the immediate past JACL national director.

House Extends Key Provisions of Patriot Act



By Jim Abrams
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—The House on Feb. 14 agreed to a 10-month extension of three key law enforcement powers in the fight against terrorism that some privacy advocates from both the right and left regard as infringements on civil liberties.

The House measure, passed 275-144, would extend authority for the USA Patriot Act-related provisions until Dec. 8. Common ground must be found with the Senate before the provisions expire on Feb. 28.

At issue are two provisions of the post-Sept. 11 law that give counterterrorism offices roving wiretap authority to monitor multiple electronic devices and court-approved access to business records relating to a terrorist investigation.

The third "lone wolf" provision of a 2004 law permits secret intelligence surveillance of non-U.S. individuals not known to be linked to a specific terrorist organization.

On Feb. 8 the House, in an embarrassment for the new GOP leadership, failed to pass the same bill under an expedited procedure requiring a two-thirds majority. Twenty-six Republicans joined 122 Democrats in voting against it. The Feb. 14 vote drew 27 Republican no votes.

The main objections are to what critics see as unconstitutional search and seize authority and big government intrusions into private lives.

"I believe the American people have a legitimate fear of out-of-control government," said conservative Republican Dana Rohrabacher, one of the GOP no votes. "And yes, they have a legitimate fear of out-of-control prosecutors and out-of-control spy networks."

But House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, argued that the courts had consistently upheld the constitutionality of the

provisions and that if Congress fails to extend them, "we will forfeit our ability to prevent terrorist attacks." He said a temporary extension "is the only way to provide House members the time to study the law" and consider possible changes.

This time the bill was brought up under a procedure requiring only a simple majority for passage. Democrats got only one chance at changing the bill: an amendment stating that investigations must comply with the Constitution and that courts must give expedited consideration when a U.S. citizen argues that his or her constitutional rights have been violated. It was defeated on a party-line vote.

In the Senate, Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., on Feb. 17 plans to bring before his committee a bill that would extend the three provisions through 2013 while tightening disclosure procedures. Republicans have countered with a proposal to make the three measures permanent.

There's pressure on the two chambers to reach agreement this week because next week, leading up to the Feb. 28 deadline, Congress will not be in session.

The White House has said it "does not object" to the 10-month extension proposed by the House but would prefer stretching the provisions through the end of 2013 because "longer duration provides the necessary certainty and predictability that our nation's intelligence and law enforcement agencies require."

Laura Murphy, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Washington legislative office, said it was a mistake to renew the three provisions without added safeguards for privacy.

"We urge the Senate to reject this bill and instead make the necessary changes that will bring the Patriot Act in line with the Constitution." ■

'I believe the American people have a legitimate fear of out-of-control government.'

— Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif.

Guitar Hero Record Holder Annie Leung Talks Gaming

Annie Leung does not play guitar, but she set the Guinness World Record for rocking out on Guitar Hero III in her living room.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Don't be fooled by Annie Leung's girly appearance. Behind the pretty face is a gamer who can hold her own.

The 26-year-old holds the Guinness World Record for the highest score on Guitar Hero III set by a female. She won the title by racking up 789,349 to the song "Through the Fire and Flames" by Dragonforce.

The Irvine, Calif.-resident, whose parents emigrated from Hong Kong, is in the process of attempting to break her own record. Known by the gamer handle "Ecstasy," Leung's first professional competitive endeavor came in 2008 at the World Cyber Games, where she ranked first place nationally.

Now she's taken on casual competitors around country and world through her promotional work at gaming conventions.

Leung talked with the *Pacific Citizen* on Valentine's Day about what it takes to be a professional, female gamer in an industry dominated by males.

***Pacific Citizen:* How has your life changed since you set the Guinness World Record last year?**

Annie Leung: I've gotten a lot more recognition.

It's just cool to have so many people that I've kind of inspired to do that and show them that female gamers are good and we do play at a top-tier level. Other than that it's just really cool to be able to be on TV and do all these interviews.

***P.C.:* What made you want to set a world record?**

Leung: I thought it was really cool and something that if I ever had that chance that I would jump on. When Guinness contacted me last fall I immediately said 'yes' and started practicing.

The first week I started practicing [laughs] I think seven to nine hours. I was so tired. My wrist was aching. But I got into the practice and started playing the song better and better. Eventually I set my score.

***P.C.:* You were wearing a wristband in your Guinness World Record, YouTube video. Did you have a Guitar Hero injury?**

Leung: [Laughs]. Well, it's actually more for support. I didn't hurt my wrist. But actually when I play for four-plus hours, my wrist does get very tired.

It prevents my hand from bending too much when I'm trying to play the scales too fast. Sometimes I'll push my hand too far trying to play something. So the wristband just gives me support. It looks chunky because it's the only one I have, so it looks like [laughs] 'Whoa, she broke her wrist.'

***P.C.:* Do you have any Guitar Hero battle wounds?**

Leung: I remember one time I played a lot right before competition. My wrist was hurting really, really bad. [Laughs] I tired to use some Bengay.

But then it ended up smearing all over my fingers. It was so greasy I couldn't play the guitar. I had to wash my hands for an hour trying to get rid of it.

***P.C.:* I read about you using baby powder to help you play Guitar Hero.**

Leung: That's my secret or at least it's something that I use a lot because my hands get really sweaty.

It helps my hand move faster between the notes. It does get a little messy sometimes because I use it a lot. It does get on my guitar, so I have to clean it pretty often.

***P.C.:* Do you work full time as a professional gamer?**

Leung: I also do some promotional work with my gaming. So I do a lot of events and product promotions for different companies.



***P.C.:* A career in gaming is a huge shift from majoring in environmental economics and policy at the University of California, Berkeley.**

Leung: Yeah, it is [laughs]. So I did that during college. So my major really wasn't related to the marketing and sales I do. It's economic. So in a way it's business related, I suppose.

***P.C.:* What did you intend to pursue in college?**

Leung: I wanted to pursue more business administration or something like that.

But then on the side I was doing the gaming as well with my friends. There were other opportunities for me out there with the gaming, so I kind of pursued that while I was studying.

***P.C.:* You talked about some of the benefits that come with setting a Guinness World Record. But is all of the newfound attention you receive positive?**

Leung: It's not like everyone is congratulating me. Some people are more negative and like, 'Oh, she should be playing a real guitar.'

You can't let those get to you. You just got to let those things go [laughs].

***P.C.:* Were your parents supportive of you pursuing a career in gaming?**

Leung: Well I don't think I ever thought I would have a career. But when they saw how much I was gaming they were kind of worried.

But when they saw what I was making out of it and being able to travel and visit different cities ... they started kind of being more supportive about it.

***P.C.:* Did you always want to be a gamer?**

Leung: I was not like those kids where, 'Oh, I'm going to be a doctor or a lawyer or anything like that.' I just kind of wanted to see where college took me.

Right now it's gaming and being able to do this is really awesome.

***P.C.:* What do you think about gamers who get obsessed with video games?**

Leung: I think it's never too good to be too obsessed with anything. There needs to be a balance.

I know I've had my moments where I was playing a lot of games. But it didn't ever consume me to the point where I stopped going out or I was glued to the computer 24/7.

***P.C.:* You've talked about the harassment that female gamers sometimes endure. Can you tell me about your experiences?**

Leung: I know when I started gaming there was always

kind of like a shock, 'Oh, you're a girl.'

On my YouTube there's always some negative comments like, 'Oh, girl gamers aren't good' or 'You should go into the kitchen and make me a sandwich.'

There's always some harassment that comes with it. It's unfortunate, but that's just the way it is.

***P.C.:* Would you like to see more females become gamers?**

Leung: Through my record, I'm really hoping that it'll get more females to attempt the record because I don't think any females are even close to getting the male record right now.

***P.C.:* Do you ever get tired of gaming?**

Leung: Oh, absolutely. Sometimes like before a competition I will practice like two weeks or a few weeks in advance and just play every day for a couple of hours. After my competition, I'm so worn out I don't touch the game for maybe a month or two months, unless there's another event coming up.

I notice that when I do take a break and come back into the game I actually play better. I notice that I hit sections of a song that I could never do before.

***P.C.:* Do you date gamers?**

Leung: Actually my previous boyfriends have all been gamers. So the whole gaming, they're into it. So that wasn't an issue at all. The person I'm dating now is into gaming as well but not necessarily as much.

***P.C.:* Have you introduced anyone in your family to gaming?**

Leung: Just my sister tried to play a little bit, but she's not good at it at all [laughs]. She likes to sing most of the time.

***P.C.:* But, isn't your sister the one who got you interested in gaming?**

Leung: Yes. She is eight years older than me. When she started playing those games, she kind of introduced me to it.

***P.C.:* How does an everyday gamer transition to a pro ready for competitions?**

Leung: Well, I would say if you're playing on 'expert' and if you're playing all the difficult songs and you're hitting either 100 percent or 99 percent, then I would start thinking about going into competitions.

You can just search either on the web, or you could go to the Guitar Hero community forum to look up different tournaments or anything that's going on in the area. Enter into that and see how you do. ■

Japan Trip Stirs Memories of 'Hiroshima Maiden'



(L-r) Kenneth Oye, Michiko Yamaoka, Willa Michener, and Mari Michener Oye at the Peace Museum in Hiroshima, March 30, 2003.

New England JACler Kenneth Oye's upcoming trip to Japan recalls a past connection with a bombing victim.

By Joseph Craig
Correspondent

Kenneth Oye could still remember hearing a beautiful singing voice from his childhood that served as an introduction to an extraordinary woman with an amazing story.

And now, on the eve of a trip to Japan with the Japanese American Leadership Delegation (JALD), Oye's thoughts bring him back to memories of Michiko Yamaoka, a member of the so-called "Hiroshima Maidens" who came to the U.S. for medical treatment.

While living up in Pennsylvania, Oye's father, who spoke Japanese, heard of a group of 25 women that were brought to the United States by then-*Saturday Review* editor Norman Cousins to be treated for scarring and burns that were inflicted upon them by the Hiroshima atomic bombing, which they had survived.

Later known as the "Hiroshima Maidens", Cousins' work to bring the group to the Pennsylvania area for treatment and plastic surgery resulted in Oye's father befriending Yamaoka who would later work as Oye's babysitter.

"One of my earliest memories as a young child was this beautiful voice singing to me in a language that I didn't understand," said Oye, a New England JACL member. "I

can remember looking up and, as most four year-old children would do, being scared by the scarring and disfigurement that was present on this woman's face."

Yamaoka, who was a young student in Hiroshima, never saw the bomb drop. She looked up and at that moment the bomb exploded. In the 1950s Yamaoka had multiple surgery procedures to fix the scars on her face and body.

Oye's experience with Michiko followed him as he moved along in life, working to become an associate

professor of political sciences and engineering systems at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

"Like many other Hiroshima Maidens, Michiko was afraid to have children because she was afraid of the effect her exposure to the radiation would have on any children she might have, so she treated me and my brother very, very well."

In fact, the number of birth defects among survivors was not as high as feared.

Now, as Oye prepares for a trip to Japan as one of 13 Japanese American leaders from across the U.S. who will travel to the country to meet and exchange information with leaders in Japan, Oye remembers a later chance encounter with his former babysitter.

"I was on a family trip and we were in Hiroshima," Oye said. "I happened to look at a local museum and saw that they were having a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing speak there. I asked whom it was and to my surprise, it was Michiko!"

Oye informed the museum staff of his relationship with Yamaoka who relayed the message to the "Hiroshima Maiden". Upon hearing that Oye was going to be at her presentation, Oye said Yamaoka quickly prepared for their meeting.

"When she arrived, Michiko presented me with a bunch of pictures that she had kept all those years from when I was a child," Oye said. "We began talking, laughing and crying and now when I look back at it, I think it's funny how all these people showed up to hear her talk, but here I was monopolizing all of her time while they were all standing

around waiting."

While the JALD will bring Oye back to Japan, he said the scheduling makes another meeting with Michiko impossible but he doesn't rule out once again meeting up with his former babysitter.

"She's getting a bit up there in age and I know that if I asked her to come see me wherever we're staying, she'd feel obligated to come and I wouldn't want her to have to go out of her way to see me," Oye said. "But I definitely would like to go out there again in a few years to see her again." ■



The 'Hiroshima Maidens' traveled to the U.S. in the 1950s for reconstructive surgery.

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Medal of Honor Road Bill Clears Senate Panel

BOISE, Idaho—Senators will consider legislation to rename State Highway 3 in honor of Idaho residents who have received the nation's highest military honor.

The bill to christen the roadway as the "North Idaho Medal of Honor Highway" has cleared the Senate Transportation Committee. It now goes to full Senate for consideration.

The highway spans about 120 miles and connects U.S. 12 near Spalding with Interstate 90 near Rose Lake,

Sen. John Goedde introduced the bill to rename the highway and says Idaho has more than three dozen Medal of Honor recipients, including three who are still living.

Lawmakers Introduce Bill to Ban Shark Fin Soup

SACRAMENTO—California legislators have introduced a bill to ban the possession, sale and distribution of shark fins used in a traditional soup.

Shark fins are used to create a luxury Chinese soup that can sell for more than \$80 a bowl.

Supporters of the ban say shark finning is a cruel practice in which fishermen slice the shark's fin off while the animal is still alive and then throw the shark back in the sea to die.

Hawaii Rights Commission to Review Mandatory Tips for Foreign-Language Diners



HONOLULU—A restaurant has attracted the attention of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission with a notice that it will add a 15 percent gratuity to the checks of patrons who don't speak English.

The warning is in fine print on the menu at Keoni by Keo's.

The Waikiki restaurant told KITV that its customer base includes many international

travelers who, by custom, do not tip. The restaurant says it's merely trying to help its customers and wait staff.

About 17 percent of the nearly 7 million tourists who visited Hawaii last year were from Japan, where people do not leave tips in restaurants.

House Panel Backs Same-sex Marriage Amendment

CHEYENNE, Wyo.—A proposed constitutional amendment specifying that Wyoming won't recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states has cleared a committee hearing in the House.

The House Judiciary Committee voted 6-3 for the resolution that would allow Wyoming voters to decide whether to put language in the state Constitution saying the state would only recognize marriages between one man and one woman.

The Wyoming Senate has already approved the measure, which now goes to the full House.

Committee Approves Bingo on Hawaiian Island

HONOLULU—A House committee is advancing a measure that would allow bingo on Hawaiian homelands.

The Hawaiian Affairs Committee voted 9-1 for the bill permitting bingo at one location statewide that's designated by the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Nationwide, Hawaii and Utah are the only two states that bar gambling. The bill calls for 80 percent of general excise taxes on gross bingo receipts to be deposited into a Hawaiian homelands trust fund. The rest of the money would go toward the state general fund, administrative expenses and compulsive gambling programs.

The measure still faces two more House committees before it could get a vote in the full House and move to the Senate. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Shiraki to be Crowned Cherry Blossom Princess



JACL's **Jean Michiko Shiraki** will be coronated 2011 Hawaii Cherry Blossom Princess April 2 at Virginia's Fort Myer Office Club.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the city of Washington, D.C.

Sen. Daniel Inouye and **Irene Hirano Inouye** will present the crown.

Gardena School is Named in Honor of Kiriya

The Carson/Gardena Community Adult School in Gardena, Calif. has been named in honor of a longtime local educator and Los Angeles school board member.

The **George Kiriya Community Adult School** is located at 18120 S. Normandie Ave.

Kiriya served as administrator and principal of the Carson/Gardena Community Adult School for a total of 14 years. He was elected in 1995 to the LAUSD Board of Education.

Morita Named to Lead PUC and Clean Energy Goals



Environmental Rep. Hermina Morita is Hawaii's new chairwoman of the Public Utilities Commission, charged with directing the state toward energy independence.

Morita replaces Carlito Caliboso, who had been the PUC's chairman since 2003. Morita's appointment fills the remainder of Caliboso's six-year term ending in 2014.

The three-member PUC is a rate-setting agency that regulates everything from electricity to shipping rates. In recent years, it has passed rules creating the framework for companies and individuals to feed renewable energy to the power grid.

Asian Pacific Community Fund Announces a New Generation of Philanthropists

The **Asian Pacific Community Fund (APCF)**, together with **Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP)**, will be recognizing young individuals and organizations making a difference in the APA community through their outstanding leadership, volunteerism and philanthropic efforts. Los Angeles' best and brightest emerging leaders will be honored at the 3rd Annual Emerging Leaders in Philanthropy Awards Reception March 2.

This year's honorees, includes **Tuesday Night Project, China Care Bruins, Lisa Chong, Jonathan Chi-Lin Lee, Jonathan Lee and Robert Lee.**

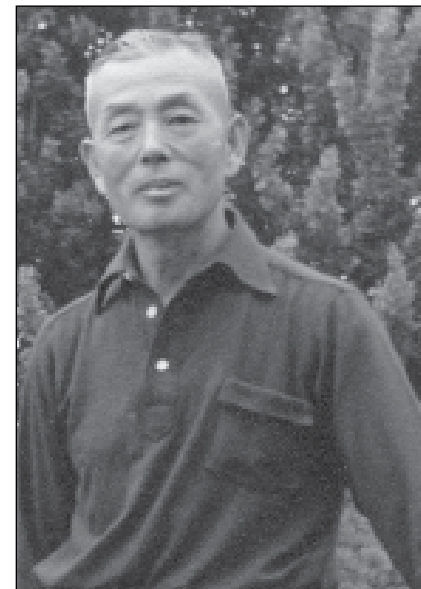
APALC's Kwoh Receives Leadership Award



The California Association of Human Relations Organizations has presented its 2011 CAHRO Leadership Award to **Stewart Kwoh**, the president and executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), a member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice.

Kwoh, a nationally recognized civil rights advocate who has received dozens of awards, including a MacArthur "Genius" Grant, was honored during CAHRO's statewide training conference,

"California: The State of Human Relations" at The California Endowment's Center for Health Communities. ■



Yuba College's Japanese garden, now overgrown (left) was designed by James Tomita (top) a private gardener with prestigious clients, according to family members.

Yuba College's Japanese Garden to be Transplanted

The garden was dedicated in 1963 as a gift from the Marysville JACL.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

In 2012, a Northern California college Japanese garden with JACL roots will be moved from its longtime campus location, but its historic integrity will remain intact, according to college officials.

The Japanese garden at Yuba College in Marysville, Calif. will likely be transplanted to a different part of the campus during a planned renovation of the library. Architects have not specified the garden's new location, according to Miriam Root, Yuba College public information officer.

The 12-foot-by-25-foot Japanese garden, located in an enclosed quad near the Library Learning Resource Center, was dedicated Feb. 18, 1963, as a gift from the Marysville JACL. It is part of one of the first original buildings on campus.

"We thought it was nice public relations for the Japanese American Citizens League to help beautify the campus," said Roger Tokunaga, Marysville JACL chapter president in 1963.

In its heyday, the garden's plants, rocks and water system provided tranquility and a nice respite for teachers, said Tokunaga.

Amidst the foliage, a stone marker declares that James Tomita designed the Japanese garden.

"That's my father," said Miyoko Nakahara, a Marysville JACL member.

Tomita, a private gardener who "loved nature" vol-

unteered his services.

"Anytime a school need decoration dad was there with gardenias," said Nakahara.

The garden was built mostly with the help of volunteers, including Tomita.

Callie Allison, a Yuba College language arts teacher in the 1960s approached the JACL to help beautify the campus.

When renovations are complete in 2013, college officials are hoping to rededicate the garden — in its new transplanted location — with the JACL, said Root.

Specialists from the architecture firm and faculty botanists are studying the plants to ensure the garden's historic integrity remains intact after the move, said Root.

Marysville JACLers say preservation should be a priority.

"I'm happy any time we can show our Japanese culture," said Hatsuye Nakamura, a longtime JACLer whose husband Frank Nakamura was a charter member of the Marysville JACL. "[The garden] is overgrown and it's important for the college to preserve it."

Nakahara, who graduated from Yuba College in 1957 with a business degree, said she has always been proud to be a part of campus history. She thinks her father would have approved of the preservation efforts.

"He would be very honored," said Nakahara.

In 2006, Yuba College passed a bond measure to renovate and upgrade its current facilities. Renovation on the library where the garden is located is expected to begin January 2012. ■

JCCCNC Announces Inaugural Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program

The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) is inviting interested youth to apply for its inaugural Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program to Japan.

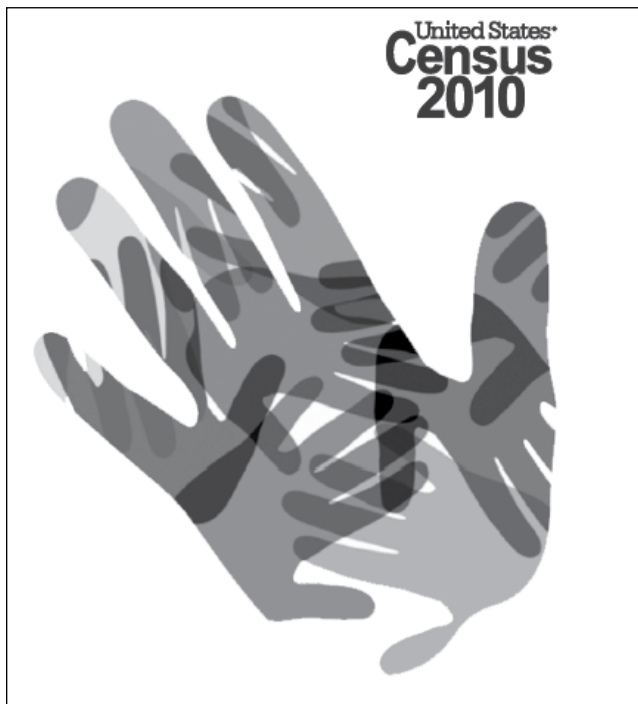
This new youth scholarship program to travel to Japan is open to 8th-11th grade students interested in learning more about their Nikkei heritage, gaining valuable leadership skills, participating in their community, creating international friendships and

experiencing culture first-hand through a 10-day trip to Japan from July 19-28.

The Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program is named in honor of Henri and Tomoyo Takahashi. ■

For more information and an application:
JCCCNC at 415/567-5505 or
<http://www.jcccnc.org/>

Census Estimates Show Big Gains for U.S. Minorities



Hispanics, Asians and Multiracials are the fastest growing groups.

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Racial and ethnic minorities accounted for roughly 85 percent of the nation's population growth over the last decade — one of the largest shares ever — with

Hispanics accounting for much of the gain in many of the states picking up new House seats.

Preliminary census estimates also suggest the number of multiracial Americans jumped roughly 20 percent since 2000, to over 5 million.

The findings, based on fresh government survey data, offer a glimpse into 2010 census results that are being released on a state-by-state basis. New Jersey, Mississippi, Virginia and Louisiana were the first to receive the census redistricting data, which will be used in the often contentious process of redrawing political districts based on population and racial makeup. By law, all states must receive their redistricting data by April 1.

The preliminary demographic numbers are based on the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey as of March 2010, as well as comparisons of the 2000 census with 2009 demographic estimates and the 2009 American Community Survey, which samples 3 million U.S. households.

According to those figures, minorities represented between 81 percent and 89 percent of the U.S. population growth since 2000, higher than the official 80 percent share in 2000.

The minority growth share in 2010 is the largest in recent memory, with only the influx of European minority immigrants such as Italians, Poles and Jews in the late 1800s possibly rivaling it in scope, said William H. Frey, a demographer at Brookings Institution who analyzed the census data.

Other findings include:

- In all, non-Hispanic whites make up roughly 65 percent

of the U.S. population, down from 69 percent in 2000. Hispanics had a 16 percent share, compared with 13 percent a decade ago. Blacks represent about 12 percent and Asians roughly five percent. Multiracial Americans and other groups made up the remaining two percent.

- California, Texas, New York and Hawaii were among the states with the largest number of people who identified themselves as multiracial.

- Some 40 states show population losses of white children since 2000 due to declining birth rates. Minorities represented all of the increases in the under-18 population in Texas and Florida, and most of the gains in the child population in Nevada and Arizona.

"The new engines of growth in America's population are Hispanics, Asians and other minorities," Frey said. "But it's just the tip of the iceberg. For the under-18 population — potential voters in the not-too-distant future — minorities accounted for virtually all the growth in most U.S. states."

"Political strategists and advocates, especially in growing states, cannot afford to ignore this surging political wave," he said.

In December, the Census Bureau officially reported the nation's population was 308,745,538, up from 281.4 million a decade ago. The growth rate for the past decade was 9.7 percent, the lowest since the Great Depression, with most of the growth occurring in the South and West.

The population changes will result in a shift of House seats taking effect in 2013. ■

On the web: www.census.gov

Community Leaders Encourage Involvement in Redistricting Process

The way district lines are drawn influences whether or not elected officials will be responsive to the needs of the Asian Pacific American community.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

To ensure Asian Pacific Americans have a strong political voice in 2011 and beyond, community leaders are urging APAs to get involved in the redistricting process.

Every 10 years after the Census, new district maps are drawn for Congress, county boards of supervisors, and city councils. The next time redistricting will happen is in 2011.

"When neighboring APA communities are included in a single district, we become a force to be reckoned with," said Mark Masaoka, policy coordinator for the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council. "When our communities are fragmented into multiple districts, our influence is diluted. In 1990 there were no APAs in the state legislature. Today there are eight."

California's new Citizens Redistricting Commission, a governmental body responsible for conducting redistricting, will hold two rounds of hearings this year. It has a deadline of Aug. 15 to establish new district boundaries.

"The way that district lines are drawn influences whether or not elected officials are

responsive to the needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, such as securing funding for bilingual education classes or ensuring that limited English proficient individuals in the community have access to health care," said Eugene Lee, voting rights project director for the Asian Pacific American Legal Center.

APA communities have, in past redistrictings, been fragmented by district boundaries. In 2001, the San Jose neighborhood of Berryessa was split among four state assembly districts, even though over half of Berryessa's population is APA, according to the Asian Law Caucus.

District boundaries that split APA communities weaken their political voice, community leaders say.

A statewide network of APA community organizations called the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting (CAPAFR) is holding community meetings February to provide APA community members the opportunity to review potential district configurations and to collect feedback on which configurations best reflect APA interests and concerns.

Results from the meetings will be incorporated into statewide assembly and state Senate mapping proposals.

APA communities will likely remain among California's fastest-growing populations during the next decade, said Lee. "However, whether their political power grows

commensurate with future population growth will be largely predetermined by district lines drawn in 2011." ■

'When our communities are fragmented into multiple districts, our influence is diluted. In 1990 there were no APAs in the state legislature. Today there are eight.'

— Mark Masaoka, Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council

REDESTRUCTING MEETINGS

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Feb. 15
5:30–8 p.m.
Oakland Asian Cultural Center
388 9th St.
Oakland, CA 94607
RSVP: Jenn Pae, jennpae@gmail.com

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOUTH BAY

Feb. 17
6–8:30 p.m.
Japanese Cultural Institute
1964 W. 162nd St., 2nd floor
Gardena, CA 90247
RSVP: Mark Masaoka, mark.a3pcon@live.com

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Feb. 22
6–8:30 p.m.
Bruggemeyer Library
318 S. Ramona Ave., 2nd floor
Monterey Park, CA 91754
RSVP: Mark Masaoka, mark.a3pcon@live.com

SAN FRANCISCO & SAN MATEO COUNTIES

Feb. 24
5:30–8 p.m.
Asian Law Caucus
55 Columbus Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94111
RSVP: Carlo De La Cruz, capafr2011@gmail.com



Thousands of mourners have traveled to Fresno to pay respect to the military leader.

Vang Pao's Family Urges Arlington Burial

By Garence Burke
Associated Press

FRESNO, California—Gen. Vang Pao's widow and children appealed to President Barack Obama on Feb. 8 to overturn the Army's decision denying the revered Hmong leader and U.S. military ally full burial honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Laotian general's wife, May Song Vang, said she had hoped her husband's role leading a covert guerrilla army that saved hundreds of American lives during the Vietnam War would be recognized. Army Secretary John McHugh's decision Feb. 4 denying the general a final resting place in Virginia was unjust, she said.

"I am deeply hurt and insulted by the

decision," she said. "The planes my husband was flying in crashed at least eight times in their attempts to save American soldiers. If that is not sacrifice, what is?"

Vang Pao died on Jan. 6 at age 81 in central California after battling pneumonia.

Thousands of mourners have traveled to Fresno to pay their respects to their late leader during an elaborate, six-day memorial service including Christian, Buddhist and traditional Hmong ceremonies to guide Vang Pao's soul back to his childhood home in Longhay, Laos.

California Democratic Reps. Jim Costa and Dennis Cardoza submitted the original request to McHugh on behalf of Vang Pao's family shortly after his death, saying the general had earned the honor of being buried alongside American soldiers. ■

Japan-America Summit Calls For Applicants

The Japan-America Grassroots Summit, a goodwill exchange program that aims to strengthen the peaceful relationship between the two countries, is accepting applications for the June 27-July 4 program in Kochi, Japan.

The Fresno JACL chapter is helping to recruit participants for the program touted to be open to participants regardless of age, occupation or language ability. Kochi is the sister city of Fresno, Calif.

For over 20 years, the summit has been held annually, alternately in the United States and Japan. An average of 200 people each year travel across the Pacific to take part in the program, according to the Japan-America Grassroots Summit.

One of the summit's highlights is a three-night homestay program that allows participants to experience person-to-person exchanges and the unique culture of the local area with their host families. There will be 14 local programs each highlighting a different aspect of the rich history and culture of the region.

Kochi, the capital city of the Kochi Prefecture on Japan's Shikoku Island, is the birthplace of Nakahama Manjiro, a Japanese fisherman who is credited with introducing and explaining American culture and technology to the Japanese.

In 1841, an American whaling ship rescued five shipwrecked Japanese fishermen, including Manjiro, then 14, who earned the respect of the American crew and the name, "John."

Manjiro was taken to Fairhaven, Mass. to receive an American education under the care of Captain William H. Whitfield. After 10 years in America, Manjiro was

determined to return to Japan to pass on the knowledge and goodwill he had received from Whitfield and the community of Fairhaven.

The bond between Manjiro and Whitfield has resulted in more than 160 years of friendship between their descendents. Members of the Whitfield and Nakahama families play a pivotal role in the Center for International Exchange (CIE) Summits, and serve as a reminder of the enormous potential of grassroots exchange.

Last August, the summit was held in San Francisco, Calif. with 250 participants from Japan. Among the speakers and special guests were Japanese Ambassador to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki and former Calif. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. ■

JAPAN-AMERICA SUMMIT June 27-July 4

Deadline: March 31

\$2,100 (departing from the West Coast) or \$2,150 (departing from the East Coast)

Price includes round-trip airfare between San Francisco or Los Angeles and Kochi, hotel accommodations, transportation in Japan and all participation, administration, and handling costs. The package does not include airline taxes, fuel surcharge, 4 percent credit card processing fee, hotel single supplement surcharge, and optional tours during or after the summit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

http://www.manjiro.or.jp or Ted Uchida, U.S. coordinator, at 408/828-7813 or s.teduchida@gmail.com

Comcast, NBC Sign Landmark Agreement to Increase Asian American Representation

Asian Pacific American leaders are applauding the Federal Communications Commission's recent merger between Comcast and NBC Universal as an opportunity to increase diversity in the media and workforce.

Comcast and NBC Universal signed a memorandum of understanding with Asian Pacific American organizations — including the JACL — committing to the inclusion of APAs in the media and in their corporate offices.

"With the merger approved, I look forward to seeing the benefits of that MOU flow to our community," said Rep. Mike Honda.



The 16-page memorandum details commitments to, among other things, launch a new video on demand channel called Cinema Asian America as part of its standard digital package.

Comcast will also dedicate at least \$1 million over three years to APA themed programming.

"Until now the door of access to media participation has been virtually closed to Asian Americans," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "This agreement is a great beginning of cracking open opportunities for the general public to see Asian American talent and our role in the community at large." ■



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PROPOSED ESCORTED TOURS & CRUISES SCHEDULED FOR 2011

April 4-10	Yamato's Washington D.C. Cherry Blossom Tour - 7 days/6 nights visiting Philadelphia, Lancaster, Washington D.C., Mt. Vernon.	Philippe Theriault Lilly Nomura
April 5-19	Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan - 15 days/13 nights visiting Tokyo, Sendai, Niigata, Takayama, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Hiroshima/Miyajima, Kyoto.	Peggy Mikuni
April 10-17	Crystal Cruise Pacific Escape - 8-days/7nights aboard Crystal Symphony from Los Angeles sailing to Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Astoria, Seattle and Victoria (BC).	Sharon Seto
Apr. 29-May 12	Yamato Britain & Ireland Tour with Collette Vacations - 14 days/12 nights visiting London, Stonehenge, Bath, Cardiff, Blarney, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Dublin, Wales, Gretna Green, Edinburgh, York, Coventry & Stratford-Upon-Avon.	Sharon Seto
June 5-15	Yamato Essential Spain Tour - 11 days/9 nights visiting Barcelona, Madrid, San Sebastian, Burgos, Bilbao, Seville, Cordoba, Gibraltar, Costa del Sol, la Ronda, Granada.	Philippe Theriault
July 8-13	Yamato Boston & New York by Rail Tour - 6 days/5 nights visiting highlights in Boston as well as visiting Concord & Lexington and New York City sites.	Philippe Theriault
July 8-19	Crystal Cruise Inside Passage Discovery - 13 days/12 nights aboard Crystal Symphony, roundtrip from San Francisco, sailing to Victoria (BC), Sitka, Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan.	Sharon Seto
September 13-19 <i>NEW DATES</i>	South Dakota, The Black Hills & Badlands with Collette Vacations - 7 days/6 nights, featuring a one hotel stay in Rapid City for the 6 nights, visiting Keystone, Rapid City, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Custer, Deadwood, Pine Ridge and Badlands.	Sharon Seto
Sep. 26-Oct. 5	Yamato Eastern Canada Fall Foliage Tour - 10 days/9 nights visiting Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton.	Philippe Theriault
Oct. 1-13	Route 66 with Balloon Fiesta with Trafalgar Tours - 13 days/12 nights visiting Chicago, St. Louis, Branson, Oklahoma City, Amarillo, Albuquerque (Balloon Fiesta), Flagstaff, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Hollywood, Los Angeles.	Sharon Seto
October 17-26	Yamato Korean Drama Tour - 10 days/8 nights visiting Seoul, Mt. Seorakson, Gyeongju, Jeju Island, DMZ.	Grace Sakamoto
October 17-31	Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - 15 days/13 nights visiting Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Hiroshima/Miyajima, Kyoto, Tokyo.	Peggy Mikuni
Oct. 31-Nov. 14	Yamato South Pacific Wonders with Collette Vacations - 15 days/12 nights visiting Cairns (Great Barrier Reef) & Sydney, Australia; Christchurch, Mt. Cook Nat'l Park, Queenstown, & Milford Sound, New Zealand.	Collette Escort
Nov. 13-21	The Heart of Texas with Collette Vacations - 9 days/8 nights visiting Austin, San Antonio, Bandera (dude ranch) and Fort Worth.	Sharon Seto
December 3-12	Yamato Christmas Markets of Europe Tour - 10 days/8 nights visiting Prague, Rothenburg, Dinkelsbuehl to Ulm, Neuschwanstein, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Salzburg, Vienna.	Philippe Theriault

* * *

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GO.SEE.DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*



“The Betrayed” Theater Performance

TORRANCE, CA.

Feb. 26, 2 p.m.

Torrance Cultural Arts Center

3330 Civil Center Dr.

Cost: \$25/person

Produced by the Grateful Crane Ensemble, the two-act play deals with the real-life conflict caused by two government-issued “loyalty” questions imposed upon Japanese Americans in 1943, and how these questions separated individuals into two opposing factions. The play is directed by Darrell Kunitomi with original music by Scott Nagatani.

Info: Call 323/769-5503 or visit www.gratefulcrane.com

NCWNP

Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage
OWENS VALLEY, CA
April 30, 12 noon

Manzanar National Historic Site
U.S. Highway 395

Each year, hundreds of students, teachers, community members, clergy and former internees attend the Manzanar Pilgrimage. The event is sponsored by the Los Angeles-based Manzanar Committee. Participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic site.
Info: 323/662-5102 or <http://blog.manzanarcommittee.org>

‘Hamakua Hero’ Book Signing
LIHUE, HI

Feb. 19, 11 a.m. to 12 noon
Borders Kauai
4303 Hala Rd.

Bess Press introduces the first historic graphic novel depicting the life and tragic murder of Katsu Goto, a Japanese immigrant and plantation worker who rose to prominence as a merchant on the Big Island of Hawaii. The book is authored by Patsy Iwasaki and illustrated by Avery Berido.
Info: 818/246-0862

GO!

‘Making Home From War’ Book Presentation

SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Feb. 27, 4 to 6 p.m.
Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Nor. Calif.
1840 Sutter St.

Please join Brian Komei Dempster, editor of “Making Home From War,” as well as production manager Jill Shiraki for a presentation and celebration of their work.

Info: 415/567-5505 or jshiraki@sbcglobal.net

Asian Heritage Celebration
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
May 21, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Civil Center/Little Saigon District

Larkin and McAllister Streets

The largest gathering of Asian Pacific Americans in the nation is back and bigger than ever. The seventh annual Asian Heritage Street Celebration, produced by the Asian Week Foundation, will feature a Mah Jong section, more arts and crafts selections and Filipino American jazz.

Info: www.asianfairsf.com

Contra Costa JACL Installation Luncheon
EL SOBRANTE, CA
Feb. 26, 12:30 to 3 p.m.
Royal Palace Restaurant

SEE!

3550 San Pablo Dam Rd.

Cost: \$15/ Per Person

Join the Contra Costa JACL for its installation luncheon at the Royal Palace Restaurant. The event features guest speaker Tim Kawakami, a sports columnist with the Bay Area News Group.
Info: 510/243-6688

Asian Fashion Show and Mother/Daughter Luncheon

SAN LEANDRO, CA
Feb. 26, 12 noon to 3 p.m.

San Leandro Library
300 Estudillo Ave.

Cost: \$20/general admission; \$30/couples

The San Leandro Library is proud to announce the Asian Fashion Show and Mother/Daughter Luncheon as part of the Big Read program. Attendees will enjoy a dim sum luncheon while watching models walk the runway wearing the latest fashions with Asian influences.

Info: 510/577-3971

DO!

PNW

An Intimate Dinner With George Takei
PORTLAND, OR

Feb. 19, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Portland Marriot Downtown Waterfront

1401 SW Naito Pkwy
Cost: \$100/general admission; \$1,500/tables

To remember the day in 1942 when President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which led to the incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, Oregon Nikkei Endowment will host famed actor and activist George Takei at a special fundraiser. The evening will feature a conversation with Takei.
Info: Call 503/224-1458 or visit www.oregonnikkei.org

PSW

Super Taiko Concert
LOS ANGELES, CA
March 5, 2 p.m.

Japanese American Cultural and Community Center
244 S. San Pedro St.

\$20/general; \$25/door
Former kodo soloist Shuichi Hidano and Hiroyuki Hayashida will perform. Also featured in the concert will be odaiko (big drum) expert, Jun Takada and the Taiko Center of Los Angeles.
Info: 213/680-3700 or 626/484-5184

Riverside JACL Installation Luncheon
RIVERSIDE, CA
Feb. 26, 12 noon

Riverside Marriott
3400 Market St.

Cost: \$25/person
The Riverside chapter of JACL cordially invites you to attend our annual installation lunch. The program will include a special performance by Taiko Mix. This unique ensemble embraces the spirit of North American taiko while fusing traditional and

contemporary musical elements.

RSVP: Irene Ogata at logata@yahoo.com or Michiko Yoshimura at 951/784-7057

FACES Summit and Expo
LOS ANGELES, CA
March 20, 12 to 2 p.m.

Japanese American National Museum
369 E. First St.

Cost: \$24/first two delegates; \$15/ subsequent delegates; \$10/ artists

FACES Summit and Expo is a dialogue for the Asian Pacific Islander community and its supporters. Following the summit, an expo will be held. Organizations will provide literature and food will be offered at the tables for one-on-one meetings.

Info: Ken Choy at summit@mapid.us or 424/558-0997

UCLA Nikkei Student Union Culture Night
LOS ANGELES, CA
Royce Hall at the University of California, Los Angeles
340 Royce Dr.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Nikkei Student Union's Culture Night, a key milestone for our organization and for the Japanese American youth at UCLA. The performance includes the renowned Kyodo Taiko, NSU Modern hip-hop dance team, traditional Japanese Odori dance and a play about the Nikkei experience.

Info: NSU.CNProducers@gmail.com

Yuken Teruya's 'Journey' Exhibit
SANTA MONICA, CA
Feb. 19, 5 to 7 p.m.

Shoshana Wayne Gallery
2525 Michigan Ave., Suite B1
Shoshana Wayne Gallery opens Yuken Teruya's fourth solo exhibit “Journey,” which will run through March 26. Teruya connects his ancestry rooted in Okinawan tradition and relates it to the American experience. The small gallery is comprised of Teruya's video installation.

Info: www.shoshanawayne.com or call 310/453-7535

New Racially Charged Words at Alabama

By Jay Reeves
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Disparaging words about several ethnic and racial groups were written in chalk on a University of Alabama sidewalk, the school said Feb. 9, the second time in less than a week officials have had to deal with such language.

The university told students and staff members of what happened in an e-mail Feb. 9, though it did not mention exactly what was written. A spokeswoman said words were chalked on three sidewalks near The Quad, a large campus green area.

The writing included the words “First Amendment,” and the message from university vice president Mark Nelson said the school supports free-speech rights.

“However, we find the use of these words to be mean-spirited and unacceptable,” Nelson wrote.

The words were removed as soon as they were discovered, and officials are investigating.

“As members of the UA community, the majority of our faculty, staff and students reject the notion that this type of behavior reflects our collective experience,” Nelson wrote. “As a community, we respect and value each member of the UA family, and I trust that we will make decisions that reinforce and reflect that commitment.”

University president Robert Witt sent a similar e-mail to students and staff after a white fraternity member was accused of yelling a racial slur at a black student on campus recently.

The school has refused to reveal the student's punishment, but the national president of the fraternity, Delta Tau Delta, apologized personally to the black student.

The Black Faculty and Staff Association at Alabama has suggested disciplinary action against the student including a 12-week suspension from fraternity activities that would allow him time to research ethnic traditions; complete community service; visit civil rights museums across the South; and perform numerous other tasks. ■

‘As members of the UA community, the majority of our faculty, staff and students reject the notion that this type of behavior reflects our collective experience.’

Writer Hisaye Yamamoto Dies at 89



Hisaye Yamamoto, a pioneer in Asian American literature, passed away on Jan. 30 in Los Angeles at the age of 89.

She was the author of "Seventeen Syllables," "Yoneko's Earthquake," "The Legend of Miss Sasagawara" and other short stories about Japanese American life from the 1930s to the present. Based on actual events, many of her stories explored the sometimes difficult relationships between Issei couples and between Issei parents and their Nisei children.

Born on Aug. 23, 1921 in Redondo Beach, she was the daughter of immigrants from Kumamoto Prefecture, Kanzo and Sae Yamamoto. From 1942 to 1945, she was interned at Poston, Ariz. along with her father and three brothers; her mother had died before the war. In 1944, she and two brothers relocated to Massachusetts, but the death of the oldest brother, Johnny, while serving with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy brought them back to camp. In 1945, she moved with her family to Los Angeles.

Yamamoto became a published writer at the age of 14, writing for the *Kashu Mainichi* under the pen name "Napoleon." While interned, she wrote for the *Poston Chronicle*. After the war, she was a staff member for three years at the *Los Angeles Tribune*, an African American weekly.

In 1950, Yamamoto received one of the first John Hay Whitney Foundation Opportunity Fellowships. She married Anthony DeSoto in 1955 and moved back to Los Angeles, where she raised five children in the Eagle Rock neighborhood.

She was a frequent contributor to the *Rafu Shimpo's* holiday edition and was also published in the *Pacific Citizen* and *Hokubei Mainichi*.

"Hisaye was my hero," said Janice Mirikitani, former poet laureate of San Francisco and founding president of the Glide Foundation. "She made me proud to be Japanese American and a woman." ■

Flags Fly at Half-staff to Honor 442nd Hero



HONOLULU—In honor of the late Barney Hajiro, Gov. Neil Abercrombie ordered that all Hawaii flags at all state offices as well as the Hawaii National Guard be flown at half-staff Feb. 12-14.

Hajiro was born on Maui Sept. 16, 1916 and passed away Jan. 21.

He was an Army private and member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team who earned him the Purple Heart and the Medal of Honor.

Abercrombie issued a Proclamation in Hajiro's memory stating Hajiro "epitomized the dedication, courage and perseverance exhibited during World War II by all Americans of Japanese ancestry." ■

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IN MEMORIAM

Aotani, Edward R., 83

Honolulu, HI; Feb. 11; he served in the Army Corps of Engineers and later opened Aotani & Associates, an architectural firm; his painting was displayed at the Honolulu Academy of Arts for the Artists of Hawaii exhibit; survived by wife, Ethel; son, Dean; daughter, Dawn; sister, Jean Kami; 2 gc.

Fujimori, Alice F., 80

Las Vegas, NV; Jan. 22; survived by husband, Jerome; son, Patrick; daughters, Cynthia Puleo and Jerri Wortman; sisters Jane Aki, Annie Christian, Hazel Kobayashi, Leslie Kubo and Irene Apana; 3 gc; 2 ggc.

Honda, Sam "Osamu," 83



White Bear Lake, MN; Nov. 24; predeceased by parents; sister, Sue Bungo; he served as chapter president and treasurer for the JACL Midwest district; he was an Army veteran; he fought for redress for Japanese Americans; survived by wife, Lily; daughters, Patti (Gary) Nakai and Nancy; son, Mark (Andrea); 6 gc.

Imabori, Mitsuo, 81

Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 2; he is survived by his loving wife, Sachiko; sisters-in-law, Miyoko Fukunaga, Kazuyo and Akemi Shinkai; nieces and nephews; also survived by relatives in Japan.

Inafuku, George Gumei, 87

Gardena, CA; Feb. 5; a Nisei born in Hawaii; survived by wife, Ruby Miyeko Inafuku; siblings, Yoshiko Kamiya and Toshio (Doris); children, Lester (Dawn), David, Dale and Ben; 2 gc.

Kato, Noburo, 91

Stockton, CA; Feb. 1; survived by wife, Mutsuko; brother, Akira (Chiyeko); sisters-in-law, Kazuko (Norio) Hashiguchi and Ikuko; a niece and nephews.

Koto, Matsuye "Mats," 86

Twin Falls, ID; Jan. 31, she was interned in Tule Lake, Calif. when World War II broke out; she worked in the family business, the Boston Café; her family later moved the family business to Twin Falls to open Koto's Café; she is survived by her daughter, Patty Koto; son, Tom Koto Jr.; nephew, Mike Koto; nieces, Laura Hall and Grace Ishida.

Nin, Stanley James Ah, 83

Kailua, HI; Jan. 22; survived by wife, Mary; brother, Damien M; sister, Rebecca M. Moniz.

Ota, Dorothy, 87

Lodi, CA; Feb. 5; predeceased by husband, Harry; sister, Florence Omoto; brother, Art Tomita; survived by sons, Dwight (Karen), Doug (Paula), David (Sue), Dana (Stacy); 5 gc.

Sakuma, Mamoru, 92



Sacramento, CA; Jan. 29; he served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II; he was a retired Superior Court judge; he was the first Japanese American to be named to the Sacramento County bench; preceded in death by parents, Sadahei and Fusano; also predeceased by wife, Hisako Sakuma; survived by son, Drew Sakuma; sister, Tonayo.

Satana, Tura, 72

Reno, NV; Feb. 4; she gained cult status for her part in the movie "Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!"; as a child, she was interned with her family during World War II; she is survived by her sisters, Amparo Steitz, Pamela Trujillo; daughters, Kalani Silverman and Jade Fall; 6 gc.

Takenouchi, Dorothy, 90

Miami, FL; Jan. 19; preceded in death by her husband, Kenny; survived by daughter, Sharon (Dan); son, Wayne (Denise); sister, Alice; brother, John

Hayashi; sister Helen Takemori; 2 gc.

Utsuki, Fumi, 94



Mar Vista, CA; Dec. 8; beloved sister-in-law of Jack Nakamine, Tomie, Hana; aunt of Gerald (Jennie); John (Lisa) Nakamine, Linda Slaten, Louise (Rodney Soong) Nakamine, Joanne (Sam Sarria) Nakamine-Sarria; also survived by seven grand nieces and nephews; predeceased by siblings Mie Mizusawa, Izumi, Midori Nakamine and Tamotsu.

Yoshino, Yoshito "Toe"

Los Angeles, CA; he served during World War II in the 100th Battalion; survived by long-time companion, Shieko Aiso.

TRIBUTE

Ben Ehara

January 19, 2011

Ben Ehara, 87, Mesa, AZ; Jan. 19; survived by wife, Peggy and step family Donna Morrison (Rick), Pam Lemons, and their families; sister, Mariko Kawamoto; daughters Kathy Henmi (Alan), Jackie Ishii (Mike), and their families; nieces and nephews.

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President

Historic Structure is Found in Good Condition at Amache

The water tank is immortalized in World War II era photos.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The original water tank, often captured in the background of historic Amache pictures has been discovered near the site of the former World War II internment camp.

The water tank from Camp Amache, located in southeast Colorado, was found in "fair to deteriorated condition" in a refuse pile at a nearby ranch.

"That we have been able to recover so much of the water tower at Amache is wonderful because above and beyond the rarity of any such find, the water tower at Amache was iconic," said Bonnie Clark, an anthropology professor at the University of Denver. "It was often portrayed in photographs and other historic images of camp, including some wonderful silkscreen images made in the Amache silkscreen shop."

During WWII, the water tank was painted with a red and white-checkered pattern that could be seen for miles, said Clark. "Because so much of the camp looked exactly alike, it was a way for internees to orient themselves."

Like other Japanese American internment camps at war's end, the structures at Amache were dismantled quickly. The water tank was moved from Amache to a local

rancher's property for many years. Before he passed away, he donated the tank to the Amache Preservation Society to be restored and moved back to the camp for interpretive purposes.

While the water tank was being dismantled, Bob Emick, another local rancher found parts of the tower in a burn pile at the back of the property, said Barbara Darden, of Scheuber + Darden Architects.

Approximately 200 bolts, washers and nuts that were a part of the tower were also found, she added.

During WWII, the water tank was used as the water supply for the camp. The water for the camp is supplied by four wells approximately 800 feet deep.

Researchers are hailing the discovery as a rare opportunity to restore an important part of JA history.

Because so much of the camp looked exactly alike, Amache's water tank was a way for internees to orient themselves, said Clark.

"Also most of the architecture in the camps was modeled on temporary army buildings, so they were not intended to be permanent. That means that any buildings or building materials that are actually historic, that were used in an internment camp and retain any integrity, are quite rare," added Clark.

The Friends of Amache, a Colorado-based non-profit, has been working to restore and rebuild part of the former internment camp



PHOTO: AMACHE PRESERVATION SOCIETY



Some of the best photos from Amache were taken from the water tower. (Above) WRA camp photographer Joseph McClelland's photo. (Left) Architects Barbara Darden and Dick Beardmore poses in front of the recovered water tank.

site. Only the foundations of buildings are left.

Colorado Preservation, Inc. is working with the Park Service, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Friends of Amache to fund the restoration.

"The reconstruction of the tower will

be much more accurate now that we have not just the tank, but elements of the tower structure itself," said Clark. ■

For more information:
www.amache.org

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