

APRIL 1-14, 2011

PACIFIC CITIZEN

RECOVERY IN
JAPAN

HELPING THE HELPLESS

JACL, Japanese Americans
step up fundraising efforts.

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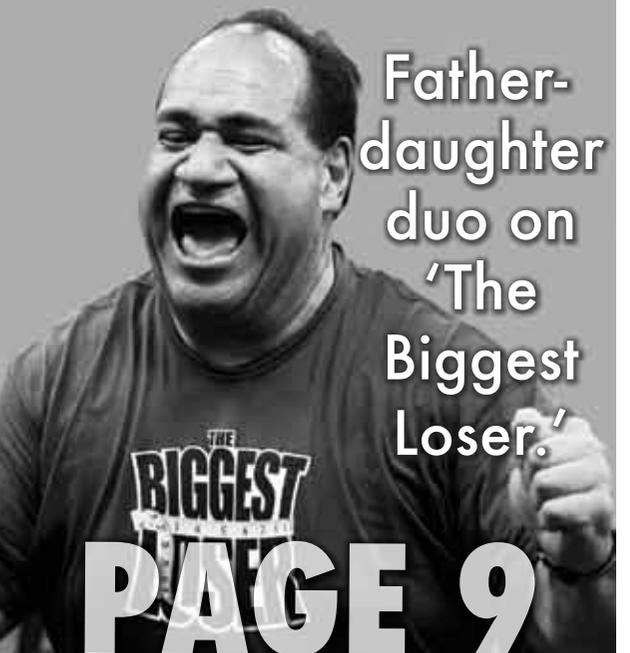
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AP PHOTO/MARK BAKER

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APRIL 1-14, 2011

THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JAACL



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



PHOTO: LAUREN KANEGAWA/BROOKS INSTITUTE

Don't Forget About Books

In regards to the *Pacific Citizen* article "Cultural Disconnect Among Japanese American Youth" in the March 4-17 issue, I would like to remind your readers that there is another way to learn about Japanese American history besides learning it in school and talking to your elders. It's called "books."

In the Indianapolis public library system, for example, there are 68 books about the internment (cataloged under "Japanese Americans-Evacuation and Relocation, 1942-1945").

The titles range from books appropriate for small children to books by historians to the report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, as well as oral histories and books of photographs. Books make nice graduation gifts, too.

NANCY N. CONNER
via email

Civil Discourse on Immigration

While I welcome a vigorous debate on immigration, I also feel that we should be committed to a civil discourse informed by thorough research and evidence ("Ariz. Immigration" letter, March 4-17).

Federal social services require citizenship. Moreover, we must remember that immigrants — sanctioned and undocumented — are significant contributors to our economy. They are consumers, and thus pay taxes, and toil in some of the most grueling, unsafe jobs with little to no avenues for social mobility.

Our economy, unfortunately, is dependent upon maintaining an underground and exploited labor market. I am proud that the JACL has taken a courageous stance on immigration reform and is fighting against demonization of all immigrants.

J. DEGUZMAN
San Fernando Valley
JACL Board Member

Payback Comments are Distasteful

These comments, especially in regards to the Pearl Harbor attack, are because of fear and lack of information ("Amid Rescue Efforts in Quake-hit Japan, Racist Comments are Rampant on the Web", *Pacific Citizen*, March 18-31).

I personally overheard a person say: "Japan's a rich country — let them just help themselves" shortly after the earthquake and tsunami.

Franklin Roosevelt was an active participant in the events leading up to Pearl Harbor.

In the book "Day of Deceit" by Robert B. Stinnet, many of the events leading up to the attack are clearly defined. The attack was really not a surprise — not to Roosevelt anyway — and this should be known to all.

Comments such as "payback" are not right

JON I. TAKATA
Thornton, Colorado

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SPRING CAMPAIGN

Warm Spring Thoughts

By Kevin J. Miyazaki



As I sit at my desk writing during the last week of March, I see freshly fallen snow on the ground outside my window. In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where I live, Spring can arrive painfully late.

I am a product of the Midwest. And my life here is a result of Japanese American history, as my father's family chose to settle in the Midwest after the war, rather than return to their former home and life in Tacoma, Washington. My mother

arrived later from her native Hawaii, and for some reason found the aforementioned weather agreeable enough to stay for the past 56 years.

Milwaukee is not unlike other cities away from the West Coast, in that our JA community is a small one, and our JACL chapter is shrinking as our Nisei members age. On a recent trip to California, I was reminded

SEE **MIYAZAKI**/PAGE 13

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NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JACL Membership is an Ongoing Issue

By Floyd Mori



Thank you to all those who contributed to the JACL during the recent year-end giving program. We are very grateful for your support.

Although corporate funds have been secured in recent years and have been beneficial to help run the JACL's various programs, it remains a fact that the JACL is a membership driven organization. The major monies for the operations of the organization are still

derived from the membership dues.

National JACL is operating with some key positions remaining unfilled because of budgetary concerns. This makes increased work for the JACL staff, who should be commended for the good work they do with limited resources.

It is no secret that the JACL membership has been decreasing due to our members aging and passing on without enough younger people to replace those who leave us. Now, as we go forward, we must do our part as JACL members to build our membership base. We have been focusing on reaching out to young potential members.

SEE **MORI**/PAGE 13

JULY 7-10
14
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Japan Earthquake Fundraising Spikes, Nuclear Disaster Worsens

American donors have dipped into their pocketbooks to help those in need following the devastating earthquake that struck Japan.

**By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter**

Fundraising efforts for Japan have revved up nationwide as the nuclear crisis in the country intensifies.

Donations from American donors for the Japan earthquake and tsunami disasters totaled over \$161 million on March 25, according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

American Red Cross has raised about two-thirds of the total donations collected. The surge in donations comes two weeks after a 9.0 earthquake struck Japan, which generated a tsunami. To date about 10,668 are reported dead and some 16,574 people are missing, according to Japanese police.

The inundation of news coverage on the tragedy is overwhelming to some Japanese residents.

"I barely want to watch the news due to the sadness of the tragedy," said 34-year-old Kumi Sone Mendoza, a Japanese American living in Tokyo. "Every day since the quake and tsunami [it] is all they are showing on TV. But in the beginning of this situation, I honestly felt that they were 'hiding' the truth."

Making recovery efforts more complicated is the developing nuclear disaster in Japan that seems to worsen by the day. The Fukushima Daiichi power plant, which is northeast of Tokyo, was crippled by the tsunami that hit Japan's northeastern coast. The facility's power system that cools the nuclear fuel rods was destroyed in the tsunami.

Officials with the Tokyo Electric Power Co., which owns the facility, said March 28 that radioactive water was leaking from the facility. Traces of plutonium were also found in the soil outside on March 28.

Fears and anxiety over the crippled nuclear plant in Japan are now spreading across the world as other countries report finding traces of radiation.

"I think it's far less serious than Chernobyl," said Naj Meshkati, a nuclear power plant safety expert at the University of Southern California, on March 23. "Because in the case of Chernobyl that started with an explosion of the reactor. Then there was not a containment dome to keep the radioactive material inside. In this case the reactors have not exploded, thank God."

The 1986 accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine is considered the worst nuclear plant disaster in history.

News of the nuclear disaster in Japan is changing daily, prompting Japanese Americans to spring into action.

"Every time I watch the news, it scares me, be it the new estimated death toll or an update on the nuclear reactor situation," explained Risa Naka, a senior at Cornell University and president of the Japan U.S. Association, or JUSA. "There is a part of me that's frustrated that we can't do more for Japan and the people in Japan."

The JUSA joined forces with other student organizations for a three-day event to raise funds for the disaster in Japan. A total of \$8,000 was raised and 2,000 paper cranes were made in an effort to help.

Members of the Olympia JACL chapter in Washington state held two events to also raise awareness about the recent devastation in Japan.

"This has a huge impact for us as Japanese Americans simply because Japan is part of our heritage, ancestral, and cultural awareness that we recognize and are very proud of," said Bob Nakamura, the president of the Olympia JACL. Nakamura says over \$1,200 was raised, which will go to Direct Relief International.

The JACL partnered with Direct Relief International to create the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund. Direct Relief International as of March 24 raised more than \$1.9 million.

"The immediate need is cash in order to purchase the needed supplies," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "We looked a little bit further to determine what supplies they were sending and who they were helping. Their target has been the disabled and elderly and they have supplied fuel, personal items, food, and blankets."

Those working in the devastated areas near Sendai say they are concerned about helping displaced residents with their long-term needs.

"I saw more people who have gotten the common cold by living in the crowded shelters," said 35-year-old Nahoko Harada, New England JACLer and a registered nurse who is working in shelters near Sendai. "Food, water and medication are vital for a couple of months. But then people need houses, jobs, education, and money which they have lost."

Organizations in the U.S. are also helping to raise awareness about the tragedy in Japan amongst the youth.

"Japan's recovery will take years, and we hope to keep raising the awareness of the younger generations," said Saki Miata, the founder of Konnichwa Little Tokyo, a nonprofit that introduces foster children to Japanese culture and history. "We need to continuously meditate and send our positive energy toward the victims."

Students at Martin Luther King High School in Riverside, Calif. will hit the stage on April 1 to perform in hopes of raising funds for Japan.

"The students and I wanted to take the opportunity to find a way in helping. What better way to help them than to provide music for a fundraiser," said Charles Gray, band director.

Fundraising efforts continue nationwide as fears of contaminated tap water swirl in Japan. The news sent Japanese residents to the stores and vending machines in search of bottled water.

Tokyo Gov. Shintaro Ishihara warned residents on March 23 that tap water was not safe for infants because of high levels of radioactive iodine.

"But within a few hours of the news, all the bottled waters have disappeared from the supermarkets and vending machines,"



PHOTO: MARK BAKER/AP



PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

(Top) A mother feeds her baby at an evacuation center in Yamagata March 24. Hundreds of thousands remain homeless, squeezed into temporary shelters without heat, warm food or medicine and no idea what to call home.

In Little Tokyo (left), Japanese Americans step up fundraising efforts for earthquake and tsunami victims.

explained 56-year-old Keiko Tanaka, a professor at Meiji Gakuin University. "I have about 30 bottles — enough for my family for a month."

However some Tokyo residents are not worried about fears of contaminated drinking water.

"I am personally not too concerned about the tap water here, but I am sure families are more cautious," said 34-year-old Edward Yi, a Korean American living in Tokyo. "I don't plan to change anything that I have done with everything that has been going on."

Radioactive water seeped into two workers boots and burned their legs at the Fukushima

Daiichi power plant on March 24. Nuclear experts say power plant workers are putting their lives at risk by saving the plant.

Some say this nuclear accident is more than one country can handle and the international community needs to step in to help.

"Where is the international atomic agency in this situation?" Meshkati said. "Unfortunately I followed the Chernobyl accident and I was very disappointed with the international community's response to that and everything."

"In this situation we see international atomic agencies really missing in action here." ■

The Japanese Americans of the Jet Age



Former Nisei stewardess Mae Takahashi (pictured here in 1968) sits in the engine of a Pan American airplane that has been diverted in Osaka, Japan during a snowstorm.

To compete with Japan Airlines, Pan American World Airways in the early 1950s amassed a fleet of jets and hired Japanese American ‘Nisei stewardesses.’

**By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter**

Gone are the days of the glamorous Jet Age that are memorialized today in vintage advertisements that depict dapper passengers dining on full course meals while en route to exotic destinations.

But a group of Japanese American women are keeping the Jet Age alive by reliving their time in the skies as Pan American flight attendants.

“When we flew the women were in hats and gloves. The men were in suits. The service: you had a beautiful course-by-course service,” said Eva Reiko Miyahara Kama, who started with Pan Am in about 1964. “It’s not a glamorous job anymore. All you’re on there for now is safety. That’s the main goal: safety. Ours it was safety and service.”

Japanese Americans like Miyahara Kama first donned their blue, serge Pan American uniforms decades ago, but the “Nisei stewardesses” still meet regularly today.

They are part of a tradition that began in 1955 when the now defunct Pan American World Airways recruited Japanese American Nisei flight attendants—or stewardesses as they were then called — to promote its Tokyo-bound flights.

Not all of the flight attendants were Nisei, second generation Japanese Americans. Later the program was expanded to recruit other Asian Americans, but these women would come to be known as the Nisei stewardesses.

Author Christine Yano, who is also a professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, has documented the stories of Pan Am’s Nisei flight attendants in her new book “Airborne Dreams,” which was released in January.

Yano will be on hand to talk about her book on April 10 at Eastwind Books of Berkeley in Northern California.

The author first started her research about the Nisei stewardesses of Pan American World Airways in 2005 when their 50th anniversary luncheon was held.

Many of the retired flight attendants remained friends over the years and/or joined World Wings International, an

organization of former Pan Am flight attendants.

Through her research Yano documented the Nisei flight attendants’ experiences in the Jet Age. It was an era that came only years after the incarceration of JAs during World War II.

Pan Am turned to California to recruit Nisei stewardesses for its program, Yano explained. But recruiters had more success hiring JAs from Hawaii.

“The feeling is that it was more difficult to get California Japanese Americans on board with this very public program, which would put them in the spotlight after spending those years in the internment camps, sort of negating a kind of Asian American self,” Yano explained.

Some of the gatherings Yano attended as part of her research were a throwback to the Nisei flight attendants’ days during the Jet Age.

“Think cocktail hour. So they’re dressed up. Some dancing,” Yano explained with a laugh. “It’s not a wild bunch at this age, but you can imagine. I would be falling asleep in the car afterwards and they would say, ‘Oh, we know she’s not really Pan Am. She can’t keep up with us.’”

Some former Pan Am flight attendants like Hawaii resident Mae Takahashi, 72, left careers as teachers behind to work for the airline.

Also a teacher, Miyahara Kama’s decision to become a flight attendant was met with criticism from her family.

“They told me that I was bringing shame upon the family. They felt that being a stewardess was nothing but a waitress in the sky,” Miyahara Kama explained. “My parents wanted to disown me.”

Others were lured by the glamorous lifestyle of the business and flight attendants.

“Most people say, ‘Why do you want to be a stewardess?’ And the answer is usually, ‘I love to travel.’ But I hadn’t traveled that much,” Takahashi said, who never went back to teaching after being hired on with Pan Am in 1963. “My cousin’s wife was a stewardess. She was just beautiful and attractive and I really looked up to her. I thought, ‘That would be a wonderful life.’”

Despite the perks of being a flight attendant, the former Pan Am employees say it was exhausting and hard work. Takahashi says she flew around the world 55 times.

“They used to talk about these wild stewardesses,” Takahashi explained, who now lives in Hawaii where she is the chapter president of the World Wings International. “It’s

really hard to have wild parties because you’re tired all the time.”

“My mother used to tell me whenever I came in from a flight, she says, ‘You never hardly say anything and you really don’t smile. Were you unhappy about the flight?’” said May Tsukiyama, 76, who was one of the original Nisei stewardesses hired in 1955. “I said, ‘No. I was happy about the flight. But I was smiling for nine hours and I cannot smile anymore.’”

In addition to the exhausting schedule, there were strict dress codes for Pan Am’s flight attendants.

“We had to wear red lipstick. If we wore nail polish it had to be red. We had to wear white gloves during the summer,” Miyahara Kama said. “And also the grooming supervisor would actually sort of like, I would say, tap your rear end to see that you had a girdle on.”

Pan Am collapsed in 1991 and merged with United Airlines, but former flight attendants remain active in World Wings International.

There are now about 2,400 members and 30 chapters of former Pan Am flight attendants with World Wings.

The Hawaii chapter of World Wings continues to meet regularly. This year their Hawaii chapter held a garage sale fundraiser raising over \$19,000, which mostly benefitted the Saint Francis Hospice in Hawaii.

“We had all kinds of stories to tell about different things that happened. And so when we get together it’s kind of fun because you can talk about all those things,” Takahashi explained. “I guess you know when you have friends during a period of your life you remain friends. It’s like a class reunion.”

It has been decades since most of the former attendants have worked with Pan Am, but their pride in the airline still soars high.

Despite her family’s objections to her career choice, Miyahara Kama said she has never regretted becoming a flight attendant. Miyahara Kama’s parents eventually grew to appreciate their daughter’s occupation.

“When my parents met people, people would say, ‘Well what does your daughter do?’ They’d sort of mumble stewardess or something. But then the second and third year I took both my parents on a trip I would take,” Miyahara Kama said. “Afterwards my father would say, ‘My daughter is a stewardess with Pan Am.’”

“He didn’t whisper it anymore.” ■

Asian Americans Aim for 'Ya es hora'-Style Citizenship



The citizenship workshops will start in California and then go national

By Amy Taxin
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Inspired by a highly publicized Latino naturalization drive, Asian Americans are fanning out to help immigrants across California — and eventually the country — become U.S. citizens.

Asian American advocates say getting more immigrants to naturalize is crucial to flex the political muscle of the state's fastest-growing ethnic group and give the community a louder voice. And it has become even more pressing since the country ramped up immigration enforcement, making citizenship a requirement to get more government contracts and to avoid deportation if convicted of a crime.

The task is daunting. In California — home to a third of the country's Asian population — dozens of languages are spoken, in addition to dozens of dialects, and myriad often-competing Asian-language media outlets reach diverse segments.

"Everything we have to do is multiple in terms of the amount of resources and effort," said Karin Wang, vice president of programs at the Los Angeles-based Asian Pacific American Legal Center, which is spearheading the drive.

The campaign — which started last week with a workshop in the San Gabriel Valley's sizable Chinese and Vietnamese communities — is modeled after the "Ya es hora" citizenship campaign launched by a close-knit partnership between community groups, Spanish-language media giant

Univision and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

Wang said she has often fielded questions about why AA advocates can't mount a similar campaign, which led her group to draft a plan to create a naturalization network.

Under the program, AA advocates will host six large-scale workshops across California to offer free assistance in multiple languages filling out naturalization forms.

California is home to about 5 million Asians who account for about 13 percent of the state's population.

Advocates hope to eventually expand the effort to other states with large Asian communities such as Texas, Georgia, Nevada and Ohio, said Karen Narasaki, president of the Washington-based Asian American Justice Center, an APALC affiliate.

Asian immigrants are already more likely to naturalize than Latinos and more than 60 percent become U.S. citizens within a decade of getting a green card, according to 2005 statistics from the Department of Homeland Security.

But advocates say many still need help with forms that are closely scrutinized by immigration officials, especially older immigrants who may have difficulty with English.

Peggy Santis, a 59-year-old Thai immigrant who became a citizen recently said having someone help fill out the paperwork makes a big difference.

The insurance agent from Anaheim applied to naturalize last year after living in this country for decades when she realized she felt like an American.

"It is better to become a citizen," said Santis, who got help filling out the paperwork through a local citizenship program. "You work and you pay taxes and then you don't have a right to vote."

Janelle Wong, a political science professor at the University of Southern California, said once Asian immigrants naturalize, they are relatively high-propensity voters. They are also more likely to get involved in politics in other ways, for example, by contacting their elected officials.

Many immigrants, from all countries, are reluctant to apply to become citizens, fearing their English isn't good enough. Others are thrown off by the \$680 expense — often more if they seek help from a lawyer.

In the California drive — which is funded by \$250,000 in private donations — advocates plan to follow up with new U.S. citizens to make sure they are registered to vote.

Asian immigrants have shown a strong interest in learning how to become citizens, though many are skeptical about asking questions of the U.S. government.

That's one of the reasons federal authorities rely on community organizations trusted by immigrant communities to help promote naturalization, said Jane Arellano, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Los Angeles area.

"That is how we reach our ethnic communities," she said. "They trust their leadership." ■

'It is better to become a citizen.'

— Peggy Santis,
59-year-old
Thai immigrant

Renewed Call for Confirmation of Edward Chen

Chen, a magistrate judge, has waited longer than any other judicial nominee for a confirmation vote.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

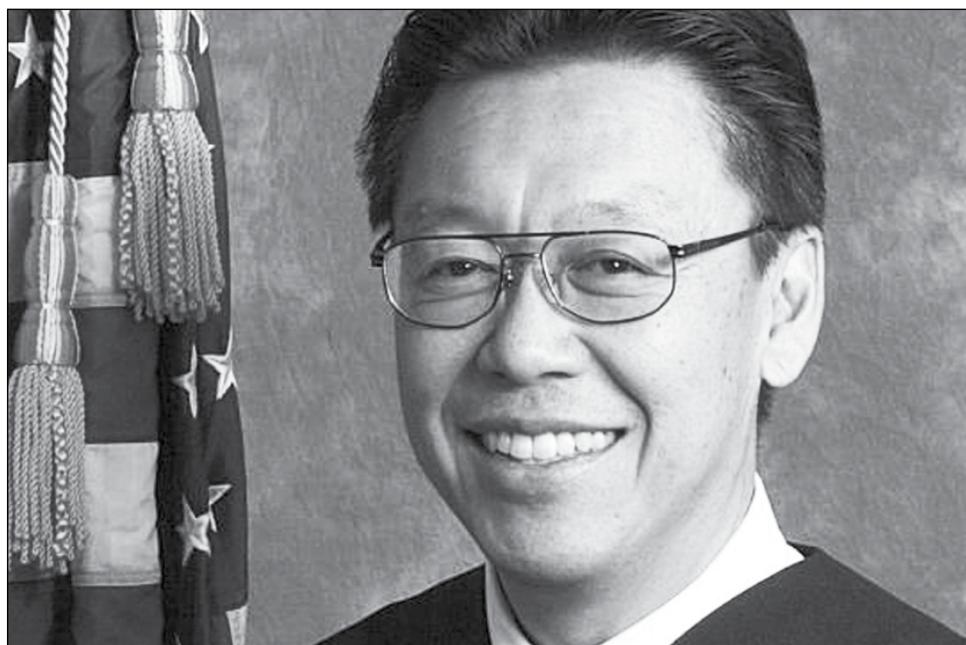
President Barack Obama's pick for a judgeship in San Francisco has cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee for the fourth time giving Asian Pacific American leaders hope that Edward Chen will be confirmed over a year after his initial nomination.

The committee voted 10-8 along party lines March 17 to recommend the confirmation of Chen, a magistrate judge whom Obama first nominated to the U.S. district court in August 2009.

Facing Republican opposition, Democratic leaders have not brought Chen up for a Senate floor vote. Obama has re-nominated him twice.

Asian Pacific American leaders are renewing their call for a Senate confirmation without additional delay.

"Judge Chen is eminently well-qualified to serve as a U.S. district court judge, and



The seat Chen has been nominated to is classified as a 'judicial emergency.'

we urge the Senate to give him the up-or-down vote that he rightly deserves," said Paul O. Hirose, president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

(NAPABA).

Chen has waited longer than any other judicial nominee for a confirmation vote. The seat that he has been nominated to is

classified as a "judicial emergency."

"The American people deserve true access to justice, and our judicial nominees should not be forced to live in limbo," said Karen K. Narasaki, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC).

Born and raised in Oakland, Calif., Chen was part of the famed Fred Korematsu legal team, which successfully overturned Korematsu's World War II conviction.

In 2001 Chen was appointed as a magistrate judge in the Bay Area, and has presided over criminal and civil trials.

Republican opponents continue to question his work with the American Civil Liberties Union, where he served as a staff attorney.

In 2007, the Bar Association of San Francisco named Chen "Judge of the Year". His other accolades include the Bay Area Asian Pacific American Law Students Association Conference, Unity Award, Minority Bar Coalition and Building Bridges Lifetime Achievement Award, among others.

He has also served on the board of directors for the Chinatown Community Development Corporation and the Asian American Bar Association. ■

'Project: Community!': Not Just a Summer Project



By Molly Serizawa

I grew up with a mom and grandparents who upheld traditional Japanese customs so I recognized that my Japanese American ethnicity was integral to my family, although I largely took it for granted.

Up until the summer of 2009, when I participated in JACL PSW's "Project: Community!" just before my freshman year of college, I didn't really know what it meant to be JA. Or, what it meant to be a part of that community.

This may sound nonsensical since I've been involved with the JA community from childhood, participating in everything from Camp Musubi, OSULA summer camp, Wakaba Japanese School, Yonsei 12 basketball team, Nikkei Federation Rising Stars Youth Leadership Program, to serving as a teacher's assistant and tutor in my high school's AP Japanese program.

Admittedly, I could not acknowledge why it was important to continue my pursuits in

college, other than the fact that I enjoyed the Japanese programs I could pursue at my own leisure, as the opportunities were available. Of course, looking at the consistent history of my activities and involvement with the JA community and continuous study of the language, it seems obvious that it had a much greater bearing upon me than just a hobby.

But I didn't actually realize this until I participated in "Project: Community!" To say it was a life-changing experience would be an understatement.

Just one week after the program ended, I was bound for Reed College (Portland, Oregon), where there was no Japanese language program and hardly any JAs. Something in me had changed during "Project: Community!" Towards the end of the program while my group was working on our final mural project — our theme was "Little Tokyo: Past, Present, and Future" — it suddenly dawned on me what I would be leaving behind.

There I was, surrounded by students

and community leaders who were working on a mural design of a growing tree that represented Little Tokyo — symbolic of the generations that have contributed to the growth and development of Little Tokyo and our community. And yet I was about to stunt the growth of my own tree of knowledge of the importance of the JA community when it was just about to bloom.

What came to life in me was the realization of my true passion and sense of obligation to my community.

More than a year later, I have since transferred to a school with a Japanese language program and JA students because I felt an acute cultural disconnect from the community I call home. If it wasn't for "Project: Community!" I really don't know when or if I would have realized how much the community means to me.

What struck me most about the program was the talented, passionate and determined individuals who came together to learn more about the JA community and ensure its preservation. The most intriguing part of the program was that

our counselors — who spoke about the need and importance of youth involvement in the further development of the community — were not just talking the talk, but walking it.

The counselors were young and actively working in the community, providing a relatable and positive example. Never before had I seen such genuine passion for the community as I did here, especially in my mural project group. I was fortunate to have Craig Ishii and Kristin Fukushima as my group counselors who, for me, embody what it means to be a JA youth working in the community.

As the next generation, it's our responsibility to continue our ancestors' efforts so that we can procure a future that is as inspiring and beneficial for generations to come. "Project: Community!" taught me that this isn't just a summer project — it's a lifetime commitment to our future as a community. ■

Molly Serizawa is currently a sophomore at Scripps College.

'As the next generation, it's our responsibility to continue our ancestors' efforts so that we can procure a future that is as inspiring and beneficial for generations to come.'

JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Join us at the July 7-10 JACL national convention in Los Angeles to participate in workshops and discussion tracks such as 'Civic Engagement and Leadership Development' and 'Community Preservation and Development.'



After 41 Biennial National Conventions, the national JACL community will convene annually for the first time in Los Angeles, California, home of the Pacific Southwest District. The PSW District is proud to host the 42nd JACL National Convention in the City of Angels.

In conjunction with Convention, JACL and the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJACL) will co-host the 2011 Nikkei Conference to bring the National JACL and the Japanese American community together to dialogue, envision, and plan for the future of an active and cohesive Japanese American community.

This year's Convention theme: "JACL 2.0 - Making New Waves" is representative of the concept of effecting change throughout the community. Waves symbolize the energy from a central point spreading outwards- the way we hope that we can mobilize the community to engage in an active approach to plan the future of our community and reenergize the spirit of our people.

Convention Hotel

Renaissance Hollywood Hotel & Spa Phone: (323) 856-1200 Contact the hotel directly and mention "JACL National Convention" or book online: www.jacl.org/convention.

Book early!



We'll see you in Los Angeles!

REGISTRATION FORM

A separate form must be completed for each individual registration. Additional registration forms are available online, or by email at 2011convention@jaclpsw.org, or by calling (213) 626-4471.

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Student in Anti-Asian Rant Says She'll Leave UCLA

The viral YouTube video was posted shortly after the Japan earthquake.

By Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—A student who posted an Internet video of her tirade against the Asian population at the University of California, Los Angeles, said March 18 that she is leaving the school, despite the university's decision not to discipline her.

In a statement to the *Daily Bruin* campus newspaper, Alexandra Wallace said she has chosen to no longer attend classes at UCLA because of what she called "the harassment of my family, the publishing of my personal information, death threats and being ostracized from an entire community" in the wake of the three-minute video.

"In an attempt to produce a humorous YouTube video, I have offended the UCLA community and the entire Asian culture," Wallace said in the statement, her second apology.

"Especially in the wake of the ongoing disaster in Japan, I would do anything to take back my insensitive words. I could write apology letters all day and night, but I know they wouldn't erase the video from your memory, nor would they act to reverse my inappropriate action."

On March 18, university officials said they would not discipline Wallace because her video was an exercise of free speech, not hate speech, and it didn't violate the student code of conduct.

UCLA's vice chancellor for student affairs, Janina Montero, said in a statement that campus officials were "appalled and offended by the sentiments expressed in the video," but it did not seek to harm or threaten a specific person or group.

In the video, Wallace said her complaints aren't directed at any individual and people shouldn't take offense, but "the problem is these hordes of Asian people that UCLA accepts into our school every single year."

She says the numbers would be fine if Asian students would "use American

'In an attempt to produce a humorous YouTube video, I have offended the UCLA community and the entire Asian culture.'



In the infamous YouTube rant, Alexandra Wallace complained about Asians frequently talking on their mobile phones by saying, 'Ohhh. Ching chong ling long ting tong.'

manners" and goes on to complain about Asians frequently talking on their mobile phones while she tries to study. At one point she mocks them saying, "Ohhh. Ching chong ling long ting tong."

Wallace suggests in the video that people calling to check on the fate of Japan's tsunami victims go outside so they won't freak people out if they get bad news.

Wallace took down the rant shortly after posting it March 13, but it had already gone viral and sparked a strong reaction at UCLA, where at least 37 percent of the school's 26,000 undergraduates are Asian, 32 percent are white, 16 percent are Hispanic and 4 percent are black.

Wallace could not be reached for further comment. ■

Crash Highlights Chinese American Gambling Market

By Associated Press

NEW YORK—At age 75, Mon Ling Ng is hard of hearing and often lonely — a resident of Manhattan's Chinatown who finds a way to fill his days: by gambling.

About 30,000 Chinese New Yorkers like Ng per week board discount buses that take them from Chinatown to casinos outside the city — buses like the one that crashed on a return trip from a Connecticut casino, killing 15 passengers.

"I go almost every day; it's exciting, and I have company," said Ng, who takes a bus to a casino hours away.

The crash is illuminating how casinos around New York in many ways treat the city's Chinese Americans as their bread and butter, a population with an ancient gambling tradition that will reliably hand over money.

"If you run a casino, Chinese business is a major part of the business," said Peter Yee, assistant executive director for behavioral health services at the Hamilton Madison House, which offers Chinese-language treatment for compulsive gambling. "There's no other population that is exclusively targeted by the gambling industry like the Chinese."

Yee noted that Chinese children grow up seeing some form of gambling "as part of everyday ritual."

"We incorporate it in all major celebrations, and it's for money — playing cards, dice, pai gow," he said.

Mohegan Sun, the casino in Uncasville, Connecticut, from where the doomed bus was returning last month, caters especially to



Mohegan Sun, the casino in Uncasville, Connecticut, from where the doomed bus was returning last month, caters especially to Chinese American gamblers.

Chinese American gamblers; its website has a Chinese-language section offering gaming and bus promotions. The casino estimates that a fifth of its business comes from ethnic Asian clients.

The typical gambling package includes a round-trip bus ticket, plus cash bonuses subsidized by casinos, some of which also offer meal coupons.

On any given weekday in New York, about 4,000 seats are sold on dozens of such buses, and 6,000 on weekends, Yee said. More than 90 percent of the passengers come from Chinese communities, drivers told *The Associated Press*.

Each passenger on the ill-fated bus paid

\$15 for the 200-mile round trip to Mohegan Sun, said Matthew Yu, operator of Sunflower Express, the ticket agency that coordinated sales.

The World Wide Travel bus left Manhattan for Mohegan on March 11 and started the return trip just before 4 a.m. local time March 12. The journey ended when the bus flipped on its side just a few miles short of home and slid into a sign pole, shearing it in two and leaving a mess of bodies and twisted metal on Interstate 95.

"People are scared," said Yu, holding his head in his hands as he sat in his tiny, windowless office up two flights of stairs from Canal Street, Chinatown's main drag.

Another company, Sky Express, charges \$12 for a round trip, with a free \$60 casino bonus.

Ng celebrated his birthday March 11 by taking to Mohegan a World Wide Travel bus that left about six hours before the one that crashed. Patrick Kennedy, an unemployed car service chauffeur, was also on the trip.

On March 14, Kennedy was at the bus stop, greeting Ng.

"Me and you — we made it back!" Kennedy told Ng as they gave each other the thumbs up in front of a bus operated by Dwayne Smith, a driver for World Wide.

"Some people go almost every day," Smith said, although only a handful of people showed up for the March 15 trip, which was canceled.

Right behind the World Wide bus was another one, run by Sky Express and leaving for Connecticut's Foxwoods casino at 1 p.m. and returning around midnight, driver Marvin Ha said.

Many Chinese American gamblers are elderly, looking for company and entertainment. Others are immigrants with few friends or family in the United States. And some are men at risk of losing their homes, jobs and families to accommodate their pastime, Yee said.

As a result, Yee said, when gambling becomes a problem, people don't seek treatment "until they are totally lost — until they lose their homes, their jobs, their families." Others, he said, commit suicide.

Three years ago, Mohegan donated \$25,000 to Yee's program, he said. ■



VERY
truly yours
BY HARRY K. HONDA

The Sendai Connection

IN VIEW OF the disastrous earthquake, devastating tsunami and the nuclear crisis in Sendai plus Fukushima, Iwate and Miyagi last month, these areas of Japan are no stranger to these pages. First of all, our late Tokyo correspondent Tamotsu Murayama has cited the first Japanese person to set foot in California was Hasekura Tsunenaga (from Sendai) in November 1613.

Lord Date Masamune of Mutsu Province, a military commissioner of the northern provinces for the Tokugawa Ieyasu government based in Sendai, chose Hasekura as ambassador to promote trade with Spain and visit Rome because of Masamune's "avowed object of acquiring the esoteric details of the Catholic faith."

The embassy, with around 180 people, left Japan in October 1613, landed a month later at picturesque Cape Mendocino, Calif., for water and provisions. Continuing along the California coast to Acapulco, the embassy rested inland at Cuernavaca, the Franciscan stronghold associated with the Philippines and Spanish trade.

The Hasekura Embassy, on a second ship from Vera Cruz, stopped at Havana Harbor (where a statue of Hasekura stands today), on its way to St. Augustine, Florida.

On a third ship to Spain, where they stayed for eight months, Hasekura was baptized with 20 others before the court of King Philip III in Madrid in February 1615.

On a fourth ship, the Hasekura Embassy sailed from Barcelona across the Mediterranean to Civitavecchia, a port city for Rome since ancient time and one of the towns liberated by the 100th Infantry during World War II. In Rome by November 1615, the embassy was received with great pomp and ceremony. Hasekura presented letters from Lord Date and exchanged gifts with Pope Paul V. The letter and Hasekura's portrait are preserved at the Vatican library.

THOUGH NOT OBVIOUS, the Sendai connection is associated with Aizu Wakamatsu (Fukushima Prefecture), the strongest military post in the 1800s in northern Japan under Lord Matsudaira Katamori of Sendai. During the spasmodic Japanese Civil War (1864-68), his army, loyal to the Tokugawa government in Edo, finally lost in January 1868 to the Satsuma, Choshu and Tosa forces, whose battle cry was, "Rid the foreigners, restore the emperor."

With Lord Matsudaira's fortune diminished, about 40 joined Eduard (John Henry) Schnell, 29, to start anew in America. A munitions merchant who taught gunnery to the Aizu forces, married a Japanese woman and was naturalized

as Buhei Matsudaira. They boarded the Pacific Mail side-wheeler, arrived in San Francisco on May 27, 1869, and went to Sacramento by riverboat to Gold Hill, El Dorado County, where they founded the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm on June 9. They brought Japanese mulberry tree seedlings, rice, bamboo for food and craft, tea nuts or seeds and silkworms.

The best known member of the colony was Okei Ito, nursemaid to Schnell's two daughters, Frances, two, and first U.S. born Nisei, Mary, two months old.

Because of the heat, drought (1871) and the lack of water to irrigate the farm, the colony went bankrupt. Schnell returned to Japan, promising to return with money, but didn't. Thus, the farm was sold to their neighbor, Francis Veerkamp.

Many returned to Japan but five were known to stay: Okei, Sakurai, Masumizu and two believed to be from the colony named in the 1870 Census as houseboys for Judge E.J.C. Kewen at El Molino Viejo, now known as San Marino, Calif.

Nursemaid Okei Ito, 19, who was not found in the 1870 Census, died of pneumonia in 1871 and was buried on the grounds of the Veerkamp property. Sakurai served the Veerkamp family until his death in 1901 and rests at Vineyard Cemetery, Colma.

Masumizu married Carrie Wilson, the daughter of a freed slave husband from Missouri and a Blackfoot Indian woman of Placerville. "Kuni" led a nomadic life as a farmer, cook and fisherman. He died alone in 1915 and was buried in Colusa. He had nine children, six died in infancy. Grant, Harry and Clara survived.

In 1941, the FBI summoned Mrs. Carrie Wilson Masumizu, then in her 90s, to inquire about her citizenship status since her husband, dead now for 27 years, was Japanese.

Reporting at Walerga Assembly Center, she and "Kuni's" children (half-Japanese, and one-quarter African American) were not evacuated. And it was Col. Bendtsen who told Maryknoll Father Lavery if a child had one-sixteenth Japanese blood, they "went."

At the centennial celebration of the Wakamatsu Colony in 1969, a state historical plaque was dedicated at Gold Hill with then Calif. Gov. Ronald Reagan present. At the banquet in Sacramento, the presence of Kuni's descendants was, indeed, special. ■

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

THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN

The Sendai I Will Never Forget

BY PETER SHIGEKI FRANSDEN



Peter Frandsen (left) in Iwate prefecture in 2003.

The year was 2003. The season was transitioning from spring to summer and the location was a tiny private beach

tucked away by a 45-minute hike through the woods. The town was Miyako in the Iwate prefecture of northern Japan.

My friends and I had spent the afternoon relaxing on that beach, basking in the beauty of this secluded town on the eastern shore of Tohoku. We had purchased and grilled an obscene amount of yakitori skewers, passed the time playing the ancient Japanese chess, *shogi*, and telling stories.

I was a month or so away from completing a two-year mission for my church, which was based in Sendai, and I wanted to freeze time. I didn't want Miyako or Hirosaki or Sendai or any of the other quintessential *inaka* (rural) towns to ever change. They were quaint and perfect, like a step back in time. I guess I didn't want my life to change either. For that moment, everything was still and perfect.

The destruction of these cities has been emotionally wrenching. Watching YouTube videos of Miyako washing away and looking at pictures of the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in those cities have been devastating. I think of the people I knew, who were likely going about their regular lives, and it pains my heart.

Listening to early reports about the Sendai airport being underwater, I thought of all the times we would drive to the airport to pick up fresh, new missionaries. Watching the news footage of rice farms being washed away with the force of the tsunami waves, I remembered the many hours I spent on buses and trains traveling across Tohoku marveling at the serenity and beauty of those rice farms.

I used to love the springtime when you could get off your bike and take a picture in front of the rice fields filled with water and capture both the mountains and their reflections in your picture.

Now pictures tell a different story.

Sendai will always have a special place in my mind and in my heart. With this tragedy, I hope that it will find its way in the hearts and minds of the international community as well.

Stunning, unbelievable events like this immediately bring to mind similar

horrific events that we, as an international community and as individuals, have endured. We are forced to remember and relive the emotions of tragedies like the earthquakes in Indonesia and Haiti, Sept. 11th and Katrina. It is also easy to quickly compare and contrast the extent of destruction, support and reaction to these various tragedies.

In this, I find great pride in being Japanese American.

Watching the news stories, reading e-mails from friends and relatives in Japan and listening to interviews on the radio, I am stunned by the strength of the Japanese character. The lack of looting, the commitment to community, the goodness of strangers looking and caring for one another is laudable in the highest degree.

On the brink of despair, this Japanese ethos is incredible. Even as the international community rushes to bring aid to Japan, the Japanese character is aiding the rest of the world by teaching the rest of us how to deal with tragedy.

We must not let them down. While many of us in the Japanese American community would love to jump on the next plane to Japan to help in any way possible, sadly, it is not realistic. But, there are other ways to help, and we must use any avenue possible to salve the wounds of this catastrophe.

Many people have given money to the Red Cross and donated through their church groups or non-governmental organization of choice. This too will help. We must not let up in our efforts to help our Japanese brothers and sisters regardless of how many generations separate us from the motherland. Please make a phone call or get online to find ways to help.

Even as the media turn their cameras towards the next sensational story, we must not forget to care for those in Japan. The way in which we, as individuals, react to tragedies like this will define our own characters. ■

Peter Shigeki Frandsen is a Mount Olympus JACL member.

'The Biggest Loser' Father and Daughter Race to the Finish

Kaylee and Moses Kinikini say it has been a blessing to be together throughout their journey on 'The Biggest Loser.'

**By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter**

Kaylee Kinikini says she had never been kissed before appearing on "The Biggest Loser" reality show. Now in the twelfth week of the weight loss show the 20-year-old has shed 64 pounds and her former bashful exterior.

Her transformation physically and mentally has kick-started her dating life.

"Right now I don't have a boyfriend. But I am dating a lot," she said in a phone call to the *Pacific Citizen* while battling a cold. "There could be a boyfriend in the mix pretty soon [laughs]."

The 20-year-old's new dating life is not flustering her father, Moses Kinikini, who also appears on the NBC show. With the show's new trainer Cara Castronuova teaching contestants like Kaylee Kinikini boxing techniques, Moses Kinikini says his daughter can likely fend for herself.

"If you're going to date my daughter, you don't have to worry about me, her dad," Moses Kinikini explained laughingly. "You better worry about Kaylee because I think she'd beat the crap of pretty much any guy. She is fierce. Daddy will always worry. But I know that my daughter can hold her own. She's Tongan."

Being Tongan, Moses Kinikini says food was always an integral part of their lives. His family, he said, had a saying that Tongans don't eat until they are full, they eat until they're tired. Bad eating habits and a sedentary lifestyle took a toll on Moses Kinikini.

At the show's start he weighed 440 pounds, and his daughter at 233 pounds. Moses Kinikini says he was 475 pounds at his heaviest. He suffered from sleep apnea and high blood pressure, among other ailments.

"I was in a lot of pain. No matter what I did it just did not feel good," Moses Kinikini said. "Then ten weeks of just doing that [exercising and eating right] I went from a 90 percent chance of getting diabetes to a one percent chance of diabetes."

The 47-year-old dropped 147 pounds on the show. He lost the weight even despite a leg injury that sidelined him for about two weeks. But the Idaho-resident, who works as a garage door installer, did not give up and instead took to shadow boxing to stay in the game.

The father and daughter duo are shedding weight to win "The Biggest Loser" title and the \$250,000 prize.

But Moses Kinikini says the lessons he has learned about nutrition and exercise mean more to him than any cash prize.

"I realized winning \$250,000 is great but it doesn't make you rich," Moses Kinikini explained. "Maybe if it was a billion dollars [laughs] I might be a little more excited

about it. It's really about being with my family, being with them as long as I possibly can. 'The Biggest Loser' has given me my life back. I will be forever indebted for that."

In preparation for the finale Kaylee Kinikini, who was attending Brigham Young University in Idaho, says she has been working out about seven to eight hours a day.

While on the "Biggest Loser" ranch contestants are challenged by the four trainers to push their bodies to the limit. Contestants often train so hard that they vomit in the gym.

"The gym [laughs] it's pretty good," Kaylee Kinikini said. "But I got to say sometimes it does smell a lot. You can definitely smell the sweat and all the body odor [laughs]. Sometimes it can be pretty messy."

More challenging than the workouts is the competitive nature of the show, say the Kinikinis.

Less than half of the contestants remain in the competition as of week 13. The show started out with 22 contestants. Those who have been eliminated are still vying for the \$100,000 at-home prize. However, some of those who've been eliminated needed to be on the show, some say.

Many fans posted comments online chastising the Red team for voting off Arthur Wornum, who started the show at 507 pounds. Trainer Bob Harper pleaded with contestants to consider Wornum's health and not the competition. These instances of strategic game play were frustrating at times for contestants like Moses Kinikini.

"You know you're cramped in there with everybody doing these things and it is a game," he said. "There was about a two-week timeframe that I was allowing it to affect me more often. I just needed to let that go and really again focus on why I was there, and what I needed to do rather than what everyone else is doing."

The Kinikinis say they are blessed to have experienced together "The Biggest Loser." There was a time during the audition process that Kaylee Kinikini says her unemotional demeanor nearly threatened their chances of being casted on "The Biggest Loser."

"I knew my dad wanted this so bad. I being so guarded was kind of holding back," Kaylee Kinikini said about being told by a producer to drop her guard. "I knew I needed to open up and just dig deep."

Like everyone else on "The Biggest Loser" Kaylee Kinikini eventually showed her emotions on camera. For others it was not as difficult to cry on cue.

"I think that within the first week they realized how to make me cry," Moses Kinikini said with a laugh. "All they had to do is just ask me ... 'So, Moses. So you think you're wife would be proud of you?' I'm like, 'Oh, my goodness! Really, what does that have anything to do with what we just talked about!' They knew that if I talked about my wife, my girls or my family the emotions would come out."

Watching "The Biggest Loser" as a fan with his wife, Moses Kinikini says he used to



PHOTO: NBC

The father and daughter duo are shedding weight to win 'The Biggest Loser' title and the \$250,000 prize.

cry at home hearing the contestants stories.

He often put his family before his health. But Moses Kinikini says being on "The Biggest Loser" has taught him to also take care of himself. He now hopes his story will inspire others to also make a lifestyle change.

"Reality is I'm not going to give up a piece of chocolate cake or a doughnut or a hamburger. I will eat it a lot less often and definitely not as much," Moses Kinikini says. "That is actually what I hope to be able to teach my family, that yes, let's enjoy

being Tongan. Let's celebrate being Tongan and our culture. But let's be smarter at what we do."

Win or lose, the Kinikinis say they are happy to have made the journey together.

"I can't imagine doing it with anyone else besides my dad," Kaylee Kinikini explained. "That's something I'll have and no one else can have, not even my mom can have that time that I had. It was a really special time. It's something that I'm going to cherish forever." ■

Hawaii Braces for Downturn in Travelers From Japan

The state has close ties to Japan where a quarter of their residents consider themselves full or part Japanese American.

By Jaymes Song
Associated Press

HONOLULU—A tsunami spawned by the deadly earthquake in Japan caused tens of millions of dollars in damage to homes, businesses and boats in Hawaii after the waves roared ashore last month.

Now the islands are bracing for another hit — a loss in travelers from Japan.

Gov. Neil Abercrombie predicted the economic consequences will be severe for this tourism-dependent state that is already dealing with a projected shortfall of nearly \$1 billion over the next two years.

“It’s going to be terrible. It’s going to be rough,” he said. “It’s something that we have to come to grips with.”

Hawaii is the top U.S. destination for the Japanese, hosting more than 1.2 million of the 16.6 million total outbound tourists last year. Visitors from Japan poured about \$1.9 billion into Hawaii in 2010, or about 17 percent of the \$11.4 billion overall visitor revenue.

The Japanese are treasured in the Aloha State for their affection of shopping and dining. They also embrace Hawaiian culture and outspend American visitors nearly 2-to-1 on a per-person, per-day average. Each day, there are 13 direct flights from Japan to Hawaii, bringing in anywhere from 3,000 to 5,000 tourists.

The tragedy is being followed closely here and has prompted residents, businesses and government leaders to respond with widespread fundraising efforts in this state, which has close ties with Japan. The first Japanese immigrants arrived here more than a century ago to work on the sugar canes fields with their children and grandchildren rising to prominence and power.

Today, about a quarter of the state’s population, or 296,674 residents, identified themselves as being of part or full Japanese descent, according to the 2000 Census.

The fundraising efforts include concerts to donations



Hawaii is likely to see a decrease in the number of Japanese couples who have destination weddings after the Japan earthquake and tsunami.

accepted at most banks in a new statewide campaign called “Aloha for Japan.” Telephone service providers are offering free phone calls to Japan, and the Hawaii-based U.S. Pacific Fleet is also helping in relief and rescue operations.

“This market is very important to us,” said Mike McCartney, president and CEO of the Hawaii Tourism Authority. “(But) for us, first of all, we’re most concerned about their well-being. More than dollars and cents, that’s No. 1.”

Hawaii has already experienced the cancellation of several groups from Japan, resulting in the loss of thousands of visitor arrivals.

H.I.S. Hawaii, a travel agency that handles about a fifth of all Japanese travel to Hawaii, saw new bookings plummet by half and cancellations tripling in the first three days after the March 11 earthquake, said Naomi Hashizume, the company’s assistant general manager.

However, the cancellation rate dropped to less than 10 percent starting March 15 and Hashizume is hopeful that the

market will bounce back soon when power is fully restored in Japan and life returns to some degree of normalcy.

Kazuko Murota, a 58-year-old woman from Hokkaido, Japan, considered cancelling but went ahead with her Hawaiian trip only because she was traveling with a group of co-workers. Murota, who was shopping in Waikiki on March 15, said she didn’t share with many people that she was leaving on vacation because she felt some guilt about leaving Japan and being so far from home during a tragedy.

“We can’t help, because we’re far,” she said in Japanese. “It’s a feeling that we’re here having fun on vacation and there are people who have suffered.”

Hawaii has experienced sharp declines in the number of Japanese travelers after past tragedies, from the deadly 1995 Kobe earthquake to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Unlike other cultures that try to move on and return to normal as soon as possible following a tragedy, travel industry officials say the Japanese tend not to travel or at least postpone in sympathy.

Newlyweds Tasuku and Mana Hashimoto of Tokyo were determined to make it to Hawaii for their honeymoon after being married a day after the earthquake.

“We just barely were able to (have the wedding),” Mana Hashimoto said. “We had it in Yokohama. There were some friends who weren’t able to make it. But most did.”

The couple considered cancelling their trip but decided to go because there wasn’t much damage in their area and the planes were flying. But they acknowledged it’s been difficult to fully enjoy their vacation, knowing the devastation back home.

McCartney said an analysis and plan to address the possible downturn will be completed in the next seven to 10 days.

“We’re looking at the different scenarios, various markets and various alternatives, but our focus at this moment is offering them support,” he said. ■

JAVA Offers Scholarships

The Japanese American Veterans Association is calling for applicants for its 2011 scholarship program.

Eight \$1,500 scholarships are being offered, two more than last year, according to Dr. Ray Murakami, the new scholarship program chair.

The deadline is April 30. Winners will be announced at the June 18 JAVA luncheon.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a graduating high school student this year, and must be related lineally to a person who served during World War II in the U.S. Army’s 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion, the Military Intelligence Service, or associated units.

The applicant may also be a Japanese American who has served or is serving in Armed Services. Those related to a regular member of JAVA may also apply.

Applicants must also submit an essay on the subject: “What winning a JAVA scholarship award will mean to me” and provide proof of enrollment in a post-secondary educational institution.

The program honors the memory of Orville Shirey, Douglas Ishio, Sunao Phil Ishio and Kiyoko Tsuboi-Taubkin, for whom scholarship funds have been separately established.

Again this year, there will be a special scholarship honoring Teru Kamikawa Matsui. Also, a separate scholarship has been funded for Mary Kozono.

Newly established funds also memorialize Joseph Ichiuji and Grant Hirabayashi. ■

For more information and application:
www.javadc.org



President Obama stopped by the White House Initiative on AAPIs’ gathering to thank the group for their work.

Report Stresses Asian Americans Need Hepatitis B Education

Over half of people afflicted with the virus are Asian American.

Early identification of chronic Hepatitis B Virus infection is crucial for Asian Pacific Americans who account for over half of 1.5 million people in the U.S. afflicted with the virus, according to a new report by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Many APAs with Hepatitis B don’t know they have the virus, according to the report, which was presented to the White House March 14 with recommendations on how 23 federal agencies and offices can improve the everyday lives

of APAs.

The report addresses problems uniquely facing APAs such as linguistic isolation, bullying and other civil rights issues.

“We’ve made a lot of progress,” said Sec. of Commerce Gary Locke, the White House Initiative’s co-chair. “A lot of innovative thought went into this report to the president.”

The report was submitted to the White House during a gathering of two groups created under the executive order establishing the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the President’s Advisory Commission and the federal Interagency Working Group, which includes representatives from almost every federal agency. ■

Little Tokyo's Challenger Monument Ships Off for Repair

The monument honors Ellison S. Onizuka, the first Japanese American in space.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

A space shuttle monument in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo is on its latest mission.

After 21 years of being exposed to the elements in Little Tokyo's Weller Court, the Space Shuttle Challenger Monument is on assignment in Hawthorne, Calif. to be refurbished by its creator, Isao Hirai, of the Scale Model Company.

On March 22, the 12.5-foot-tall model of the ill-fated Space Shuttle Challenger was hoisted off of its base and transported to the Scale Model Company site to get a much-needed facelift.

"I'm happy the Orbiter is in good shape," said Hirai.

Cracks in the base of the monument will be repaired, light fixtures will be replaced and the monument will receive a fresh coat of paint.

Hirai spent about eight months creating the monument, originally installed in 1990. He sketched the

designs and made the calculations to make the 2,000-pound monument structurally sound. Now, it's back in the studio where it was created and Hirai is glad to see it again.

"It's my baby," he said with a laugh.

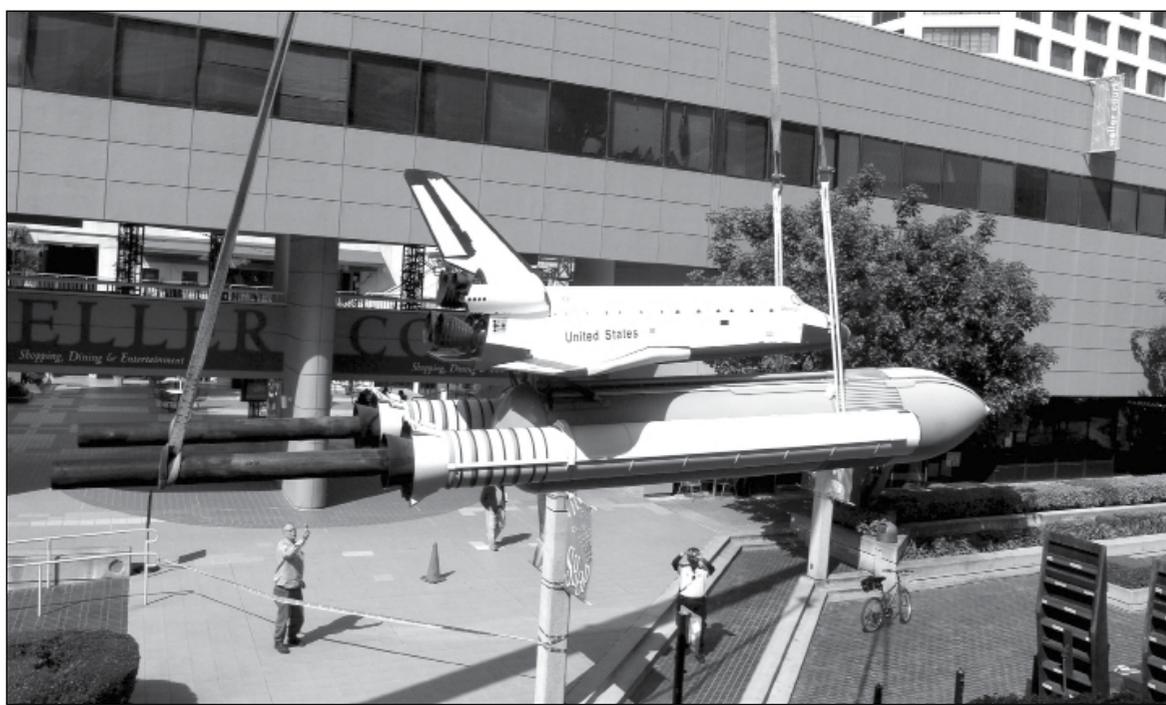
The monument honors the legacy of the Challenger's crew. On Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle exploded 73 seconds after liftoff, killing all seven astronauts aboard, including Ellison S. Onizuka, the first Japanese American in space.

The Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Board was formed to honor the astronaut's memory in Little Tokyo.

"I met Ellison the year before the accident. I was really impressed with the type of person he was," said Herb Omura, of the memorial board. "I didn't want people to forget."

The memorial board is planning a fundraiser to help offset the cost of the \$70,000 refurbishment project.

Onizuka was grand marshal of the 1985 Nisei Week Parade. In addition to the memorial, the street in Weller Court, formerly named Weller Street, was renamed in the



The Space Shuttle Challenger Monument hovers above Weller Court just moments before heading for repairs.

astronaut's honor.

The monument will be rededicated June 24, on what would have been Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka's 65th birthday.

In his memory, the board also created the Space Science Day Conference and the Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial

Lecture Series, an annual lecture program and hands-on workshops at El Camino Community College in Torrance, Calif.

On the 25th anniversary of the Challenger tragedy, Onizuka's sister-in-law Linda described him as "humble."

"I once asked him if he was

afraid to go into space," said Linda. "He said he wasn't because the reward was always worth the risk. He even mentioned that sitting on the space shuttle was like sitting on a ticking time bomb until the rockets separated, but he always felt as though it was worth it." ■

Mile-Hi JACL Hosts Teacher-Training Workshop

The Mile-Hi JACL Education Committee sponsored a recent teacher-training workshop at the University of Denver focusing on the World War II Japanese American experience.

A panel of speakers discussed the impact of the WWII incarceration on JAs.

Incoming Mile-Hi Chapter President Harry Budisidharta also provided updates on newly introduced legislation in Colorado since the passage of Arizona's anti-immigration bill and the "ban" on ethnic studies in the state's schools.

Outgoing Mile-Hi Chapter President Suzy Shimasaki and the education committee were instrumental in making the workshop possible. Committee members include Kathy Namura, of the Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado; Bonnie Clark, of the University of Denver; Linda Takahashi-Rodriguez, of the Asian Education Advisory Council; Richard Hamai, of the Mile-Hi JACL; and Leslie Sakato.

A Day of Remembrance commemoration was held at the university the next day. Dr. Gina Mumma-Wenger spoke about the history of art education in the WWII JA concentration camps. Mumma-Wenger said many of the children's artwork reflected the trauma they suffered as a result of living in camps surrounded by armed guards and barbed wire fences.

Instead of teaching, camp teachers were encouraged to test the children's loyalty toward the United States, according to Mumma-Wenger.

There was an inherent irony in teaching incarcerated JA students about American democracy, said Dr. Jan Fielder Ziegler, a speaker at the event.

During WWII, many young JAs started to exhibit disciplinary problems caused by the loss of traditional social order, added Ziegler, winner of the Adele Mellen prize for her book "The Schooling of Japanese American Children at Relocation Centers During World War II." ■

Twin Cities JACL Participates in Social Studies Conference



(L-r): Carolyn Nayematsu, Janet Maeda Carlson, Judy Murakami and Sally Sudo at the Twin Cities JACL booth during the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies spring conference in Rochester, Minn.

The Twin Cities JACL Education Committee participated in the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies spring conference held at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, Minn. on March 4.

Over 150 social studies educators attended the conference themed, "Not Your Typical 'Standards.'"

Judy Murakami and Sally Sudo manned the informational booth, and distributed complimentary

copies of JACL publications including, "Journey from Gold Mountain: The Asian American Experience."

Janet Maeda Carlson, a retired college professor, and Carolyn Nayematsu, former executive director of the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence at the University of Minnesota, led a breakout session titled, "Lessons Learned from the

Japanese American Internment and 9/11: Community Resources for Educators."

Carlson compared the hate crimes and responses in the aftermath of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks to the events after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

Nayematsu discussed ideas on how to integrate the JA WWII experience into the Minnesota social studies academic standards. ■



Students Ask USC to Issue Honorary Degrees

The Los Angeles-based private university has honored its WWII-impacted JA students, but not with honorary degrees.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Japanese American students at the University of Southern California who were unjustly uprooted from their homes and universities during World War II have a new ally — a coalition of current USC students in their 20s who are appealing to the private university to issue honorary degrees to former Nisei students.

“We are putting to practice what our school encourages us to do and apply our education through leadership,” said Sally Kikuchi, a first year master student studying public administration and coordinator of the Nisei Diploma Project at USC.

In 1942, over 120 USC students were forced to discontinue their education in compliance with Executive Order 9066, which forced JAs into internment camps after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

The project’s goal is to honor these JA students who were unable to continue their education because of wartime hysteria.

“What hits home is imagining your own degree being taken away from you and what emotional impact that has on you,” said Kikuchi.

In 2008, the USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association honored their former Nisei students during an April 25 scholarships and awards gala. The university also honored the students during a football halftime show.

But many California universities and community colleges have either already awarded Nisei students with honorary degrees or have announced plans to

host such ceremonies after the passage of Assembly Bill 37, which called on California State University, University of California and community colleges to award these degrees.

Knowing that the last step hasn’t been taken to issue honorary degrees at USC has motivated the coalition of students to act, said Kikuchi.

The student group has spearheaded a petition to “support the initiative to grant honorary degrees to our fellow Trojans,” which will be delivered to university president C. L. Max Nikias.

Setsuko Nishi, a former USC student whose education was interrupted by WWII, said honorary degrees for Nisei students would be “symbolically significant.”

Many Nisei were in the transitional age between high school and college when WWII broke out. To be denied a rite of passage like receiving a college degree and graduation is traumatizing, said Nishi, who went on to earn her doctorate degree in psychology at the University of Chicago.

“For those who didn’t finish their education or for those who had a particularly bad experience [because of the internment] this may be healing,” said Nishi about the honorary degrees.

Last April, the JAACL national board unanimously passed a resolution calling on USC to “act with a particular priority on issuing honorary degrees to former Nisei students.”

“I think it’s important because USC is a distinguished school, and people view USC with such high regard on a state, national, and international level that this project can only help USC gain even greater respect by demonstrating such commitment to its students,” said Kikuchi. ■

Universities Seeking Nisei For Honorary Degrees

Two California universities are seeking former Japanese American students to recognize with honorary degrees.

Santa Ana College’s spring commencement is slated for May 20. Twenty-two JA students who had their college studies interrupted because of World War II have been identified.

“It’s never too late to right a wrong,” said Erlinda J. Martinez, Santa Ana College president. “This is our college’s opportunity to honor those former students who didn’t have the chance to finish what they started at Santa Ana College. We want to honor their sacrifice and present them with their long overdue diplomas.”

Similarly the UC Hastings College of the Law will confer honorary degrees to its former Nisei students May 15.

Approximately 700 students enrolled at UC Hastings and four other university schools were among the 120,000 JAs sent to internment camps during WWII. Thus far, 10 students who meet the criteria established by the University of California have been identified.

UC Hastings students who were unable to receive their degrees will be awarded an honorary degree of the University of California *Inter Silvas Academi Restituere Iustitiam*.

AB 37, which became law last October requires California’s public college and university systems to retroactively grant an honorary degree to JA students, living or deceased, who were forcibly removed and subsequently incarcerated during WWII. ■

Honorary Degrees

Help identify former Nisei students who were unable to graduate because of the internment.

Santa Ana College

Send information to Mark Liang:
liang_mark@sac.edu
or 714/564-6040.

UC Davis

Send information to Stephanie Kang at kangs@uchastings.edu.

Maui WWII Internment Camp Sites are Part of Research

The two sites are among 13 in Hawaii that will be part of a resource study.

By Associated Press

WAILUKU, Hawaii—The National Park Service has identified two sites in Maui as former Japanese internment camps.

Park officials say the Kalana O Maui building in Wailuku and the Horizons Academy of Maui in Haiku lie on areas that held Japanese Americans during World War II. The two sites are among 13 statewide to be part of a resource study.

A Park Service spokeswoman says in Maui, there is little left from the camps. But officials are holding a series of meetings across Maui County to seek the community’s input on how to preserve their history.

Congress recently instructed the National Park Service to carry out the study. Internment camp sites have been found on all six Hawaiian islands. ■

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Aug. 30-Sep. 13	Gems of Malaysia
Oct. 11-Oct. 20	Legacy of the Incas – Peru, Machu Picchu, Nazca Lines
Oct. 11-Oct. 20	Autumn Japan: Majestic Fall Colors
Nov. 3-Nov. 13	Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku
Nov. 29-Dec. 13	Ancient Capitals of Thailand & Laos
Dec. 18-Dec. 20	Holiday in Las Vegas: Shows: Cirque du Soleil “Mystere”
	2012
Apr. 3-Apr. 12	Spring Japan - “The Beauty of the Cherry Blossoms”
Apr. 12-Apr. 24	South Korea: All Major Highlights & Drama Sites

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MORI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Craig Ishii, PSW regional director, has been running some very effective programs for young people, including Project: Community! and Bridging Communities.

Bill Yoshino, regional director in the Midwest, is running successful leadership conferences and workshops for college students. Karen Yoshitomi and Patty Wada, PNW and NCWNP regional directors, are working on youth programs in their areas as well.

The JA population has been in the U.S. for generations and has assimilated very well. Many of the younger members of our JA community do not see a need for the JACL. Additionally, there are many JA non-profits, community organizations, and churches to which people belong. We need to show others the value of the JACL.

One way to increase our membership numbers is to include other communities, which could benefit from being under the

umbrella of a national organization to assist them in advocacy and issues important to them. We can do a better job of inviting others to join the JACL. New chapters, which include other Asian American groups, may also be formed.

Phillip Ozaki, membership coordinator at the JACL headquarters in San Francisco, and David Lin, JACL vice president of membership, have been working on lapsed members and are trying to come up with new ideas to increase membership. Please support them as they present programs to the districts and chapters.

The JACL depends on its members, and we thank you for being stalwart members over the years. The JACL could not have continued without you. We are also grateful to our newer members who have joined. Anything any of you can do to encourage friends and family members to join the JACL would be greatly appreciated and beneficial to the organization. ■

'The JACL depends on its members, and we thank you for being stalwart members over the years.'

Mako Nakagawa to Keynote Manzanar Pilgrimage

Mako Nakagawa, a community activist working to eliminate the use of euphemisms to describe the World War II Japanese American experience, will be the keynote speaker at the April 30 Manzanar pilgrimage.



Nakagawa is the leader of the 'Power of Words' movement.

Each year, over 1,000 people from diverse backgrounds attend the Manzanar pilgrimage, which commemorates the unjust WWII imprisonment of over 110,000 JAs in 10 American concentration camps located in the most desolate, isolated regions of the United States.

Manzanar, located on U.S. Highway 395 in California's Owens Valley, was the first of these camps to be established.

During WWII, Nakagawa, 74, was incarcerated at the Puyallup Assembly Center in Washington, then at the Minidoka concentration camp in Idaho, and ultimately at the Crystal City internment camp in Texas.

The "Power of Words" resolution is part of a movement within the JA community to identify and address the use of euphemistic language to describe the camps and the JA experiences of WWII.

"Use of accurate terminology in describing the Nikkei experience

is vital to preserve the truth of this episode in history so that we can be vigilant in our resolve to protect our democratic way of life," said Nakagawa, president and CEO of Mako & Associates. "The Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution failed us in our time of need. Let the legacy of our experience be that it never happens again to any group of people."

In addition to the daytime program, the pilgrimage will continue that evening with the popular Manzanar At Dusk (MAD) program at the Lone Pine High School gymnasium.

Bus transportation to the pilgrimage is still available

from Los Angeles. Pilgrimage participants should bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks. Water will be provided at the site. Both the daytime program and the MAD event are free and open to the public. ■

Pilgrimage

April 30

An air-conditioned bus will depart at 7 a.m. from the St. Francis Xavier Chapel Japanese Catholic Center (formerly the Maryknoll Japanese Catholic Center), 222 South Hewitt Street in Los Angeles. Bus reservations are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Manzanar At Night

5-8 p.m.

538 South Main Street (US Highway 395), in Lone Pine, nine miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site

For more information:

323/662-5102;
42ndpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org or http://blog.manzanarcommittee.org

MIYAZAKI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

of the vibrancy and scope of the Asian American communities there, and how we have to look a bit harder to find that in other parts of the country.

From my vantage point, this is exactly why the existence and vibrancy of the *Pacific Citizen* is so important. Since 1929, the *P.C.* has delivered the news of our community to doorsteps (and now computer screens), however far flung they may be. It has served as an important voice and record of events.

More than ever, as the profile of our population changes, and we share fewer communal meals and chapter gatherings, the *P.C.* continues to be there, as a fabric that keeps both history and current events within grasp. It connects us.

And importantly, the paper exists in two forms — the print edition, which many members prefer for both its tradition and accessibility, and online, with an expanded and vibrant website. This makes the smart content provided by the *P.C.* staff obtainable and pertinent to the widest possible audience, both in the JA and broader Asian American communities.

I'm excited about the online archive of historical back issues

of the *P.C.* (currently 1929-1944), and the power that this resource holds, for historians, families and students. Christine McFadden's recent story, "Cultural Disconnect Among Japanese American Youth" (March 4-17 issue), was a reminder that history can be easily lost, and that stories are not always handed down between generations in a family. In the act of archiving past issues online, important content exists for Sansei, Yonsei and Gosei to discover now, or in the future.

So with snow (hopefully) being in the past, I'm turning to warmer thoughts, and in particular to the *P.C.*'s Spring Campaign. I remember something my father said about the redress money he received for his time served at Tule Lake and Heart Mountain. To him, the money itself wasn't important. But he said that this is how our society places value to something — in this case, acknowledging great wrongdoing.

Please remember that by donating to the *Pacific Citizen*, you're showing that you place value in the hard work of its staff, and in the important role it continues to serve in our community. ■

Kevin J. Miyazaki is the Midwest district representative on the Pacific Citizen editorial board.



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*



PHOTO: OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT

Film Screening of 'Prisoners and Patriots'

PORTLAND, OR

April 22, 6:30 p.m. and April 23, 1:30 p.m.

University of Oregon, Portland Room 142/44
70 NW Couch St

Neil H. Simon, an award-winning filmmaker and journalist, presents his new film "Prisoners and Patriots." The film documents the Department of Justice internment camp in Santa Fe as well as the internment experience in Lordsburg and Fort Stanton. It will run in conjunction with the exhibit "Taken: FBI at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center."

Info: Nicole Nathan at 503/224-1458 or
nicole@oregonnikkei.org

EAST

JACL New England Chapter's
'Crisis in Japan' Lecture
WELLESLEY, MA
April 2, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Wellesley Friends Meeting
26 Benvenue St.

Please join us for this discussion on Japan's earthquake and tsunami, recent events in Fukushima, and the long-term

a one-act OPERA of Japanese-American Internment

The Sisters of Manzanar

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effects on politics and economics in the region. Ken Oye, an MIT associate professor of political science and engineering systems, was in Tokyo during the earthquake and will provide an eye-witness account of the event. He will also discuss his perspective as a political scientist and author of articles on Japan's nuclear policies.

Info: 781/237-0268 or visit
www.wellesleyfriendsmeeting.org

The 5th Annual New York Asian American Student Conference

NEW YORK, NY

April 16, 9:30 a.m.

NYU Kimmel Center

60 Washington Square S.

This year's Annual New York City Asian American Student Conference, themed "eMerging Profiles," will be a place to merge different perceptions of Asian Americans, to reveal the clashes as well as the similarities of many views.

Info: Visit www.nycaasc.com

IDC

The 6th Annual Japan Festival

SALT LAKE CITY, UT

April 30, 11 a.m.

Japantown Street

100 South (Between 200 West and 300 West)

The festival will begin with opening ceremonies and feature live entertainment on two stages during the day. The Nihon Matsuri Festival committee has arranged for performances and workshops by two Japanese artists, including shinobue artist Miwako Mori and taiko artist Takahito Nishino. The popular anime contest will be held on stage as well.

Info: www.nihonmatsuri.com

NCWNP

The Chinese for Affirmative Action's Celebration of Justice

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

June 9, 6 p.m.

Empress of China Restaurant

838 Grant Ave

The Celebration of

Justice is CAA's largest fundraiser of the year where civil rights, LGBT rights, and political leaders gather to honor extraordinary individuals. It's also a fun setting where old friends can reconnect.

Info: www.caasf.org or call
Brian Fong at 415/274-6760 ext. 313

Kimochi's 40th Anniversary Gala 'Nightastic!'

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

May 14, 6 p.m.

Hotel Nikko San Francisco

222 Mason St.

Cost: \$175

The evening will honor co-founders and original organizers of Kimochi, Inc., Steve Nakajo, executive director, and Sandy Ouye Mori, retired development director. A live auction will be

hosted by Rick Quan, KGO-TV. Proceeds from the event will benefit the work of Kimochi.
Info: www.kimochi-inc.org or call Steve Nakajo at 415/931-2294

Sachiko Fashion Fundraiser for Nihonmachi Little Friends

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

April 8 to 10

Kabuki Hotel's Kyoto Suite

1625 Post St.

Sachiko, a 21-year-old fashion designer, will present a special three-day fashion series to benefit Nihonmachi Little Friends' programs and building fund. The three shows will be held during San Francisco's Cherry Blossom Festival.

Info: 415/922-8898 or

www.nlfchildcare.org

Tattoos in Japanese Culture

SACRAMENTO, CA

May 7, 2 to 4 p.m.

Asian Community Center

7375 Park City Dr.

Cost: \$5/donations

Why are tattoos so popular among persons of all ages, especially with athletes, musicians, and actors? John Marshall, an internationally known textile artist of natural fibers and fashion designer, will lead a lively discussion on the role tattoos have played in Japanese culture since earliest times.
Info: 916/427-2841 or
jkpca21@yahoo.com

CCDC

The 26th Annual Shinzen Run and Walk

FRESNO, CA

April 23, 6 a.m.

Woodward Park

The JACL Fresno Chapter is pleased to announce this year's run and walk! The event is open to runners and walkers of all levels and benefits the Central California Nikkei Foundation, the Shinzen Friendship Garden at Woodward Park and the Fresno JACL Scholarship Fund.

Info: www.proracegroup.com or 559/434-1662

PSW

King's Hawaiian Hukilau Fundraiser

TORRANCE, CA

April 20, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

King's Hawaiian Bakery & Restaurant

2808 W. Sepulveda Blvd.

Come support the Hukilau fundraiser at King's Hawaiian Bakery and Restaurant. The fundraiser benefits Camp Musubi, a youth day camp. Participants must present a flyer to contribute 20 percent of proceeds to the fundraiser.

Info: To receive a flyer, contact Marissa Kitazawa at 213/626-4471 or visit
www.campmusubi.org

Southern California's 10th

Annual Cherry Blossom Festival

LOS ANGELES, CA

September 2011

Los Angeles' Little Tokyo

The 10th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival is around the corner! Join in the festivities and experience a festival that brings together the Southern California community. There will also be a booth where attendees can donate to the American Red Cross to help Japan.

Info: Visit www.

cherryblossomfestivalsocal.org

MIDWEST

JACL Chicago Chapter Cocktail Party and Silent Auction

CHICAGO, IL

April 14, 6:30 to

9:30 p.m.

The Noodle Zone

5423 North Clark St.

Cost: \$35; \$25/students (with school ID)

Please join the JACL Chicago chapter as they install the 2011 board of directors. The silent auction will be held at the JACL office at 5415 North Clark St.

Info: Call 773/728-7171 or

chicago@jacl.org

Japanese American World II Internment Exhibit

DAVENPORT, IA

April 4, 4 to 7 p.m.

St. Ambrose University,

Rogalski Center

518 West Locust St.

The exhibit "Japanese American Internment in World War II" intends to help viewers understand the lengths a country may go to sacrifice individual freedom and liberty of its citizens when national security is threatened.

Info: To pre-register call

309/793-1300

Free Film Screening of 'Vincent Who?'

MINNETONKA, MN

April 3, 2 to 4 p.m.

Hennepin County Library

12601 Ridgedale Dr.

In 1982 at the height of anti-Japanese sentiments, Vincent Chin was murdered in Detroit by two white autoworkers who blamed him because they were out of work. This documentary features interviews with key players at the time.

Info: Call 952/847-8800 or visit

www.vincentwhofilm.com

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Free tours of the Pinedale and Fresno Assembly Center Memorials & the Shinzen Japanese Garden will be offered on Saturday, April 30.

Proceeds will benefit the Fresno Assembly Center Memorial, sharing the local story of internment. Additional donations for Japan earthquake relief are appreciated.



IN MEMORIAM

Furukawa, John Mutsuo, 88,



Gardena, CA; March 5; he was born in Kansas City, Mo.; he is survived by his son, Manabu John; nephews, Kenny (Dianne), David (Eugenia), Robert (Beverly), and Cedric (Christy); niece, Arleen (Dan) Pavan.

Higashi, Grace Toshiko, 77,



March 10; she is survived by husband, Tom; daughters, June, Susan and Cynthia; brothers, Richard and Roy Nakao; sister, Mae Okayama; 2 gc.

Kanamori, Lynne Kuromi, 56, March 22; she is survived by her husband, Glenn; brother, Kevin (Susan); sister, Janet (Kent) Fujimura; daughter, Cheryn.

Kawamura, Wallace T., 89, Honolulu, HI; March 4; he was a U.S. Army vet; he served during WWII with the 442nd RCT; he is survived by wife Mabel E.; daughter Terry Sasamura; brother, Michael S.; sister, Edith Torikawa; 2 gc.

Munesue, Tsuneo, 91, Honolulu, HI; Feb. 27; he retired from USPS after 37 years; predeceased by his wife, Grace; he is survived by son, Gary; daughter, Gail L. (Paul T.) Kaneshiro; brothers, Ben (Bernice) and Harry; sisters, Betty Iwamoto, Mary (Yoshio) Toyama; nieces and nephews; 3 gc.

Nagata, Grace Miyako, 88,



Stockton, CA; March 22; her family was interned during WWII at Rohwer, Ark.; she was an active member of JACL; predeceased by brothers, George, Sam, Norman, Mas and Roch Funamura; also predeceased by sisters, Minnie Masaoka and Dorothy Morita; she is survived by her daughter, Sharon; sons, Keith and Kevin; daughter-in-law, Lynn; sister, Mary Iyemura; brother, James Funamura; many nieces and nephews; 1 gc.

Nakamoto, Toyoko "Toggie," 89, Los Angeles, CA; March 25; she is survived by her children, Cathy (James) Rogers and Dale (Sol); sister, Shigeko Taira; many nieces and nephews; 3 gc; 2 ggc.

Takaazu, Toshiko, 88, Honolulu, HI; March 9; she was a Japanese American ceramic artist; her work is on display at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among other places; she is survived by two brothers and four sisters.

Tanaka, Yoshi Okubo, 103, St. George, Utah; Nov. 9, 2010; she co-founded an art gallery at the

Mission Inn located in Riverside, Calif.; she later married art student, Shigeru; her family was interned at Heart Mountain during WWII; she is survived by her children, Tek, Taka, Jeanie and Seiko Buckingham; 9 gc; 9 ggc.

Tokunaga, Sumio, 84, Honolulu, HI; Feb. 18; he was a retired crane operator with Oahu Sugar; survived by wife, Michiko; sons, Nolan (Mavis), Leo (Diane); sisters, Tomii Orita, Hisayo (Mikio) Soma, Chiyono Hishinuma; 3 gc.

Tsukahara, Berta, 95, Dallas, Texas; March 9; she was the youngest daughter of Dr. Kinya and Ura Tsukahara; predeceased by her parents; sister, Mary; brothers, Henry, William, Woodrow and Theodore; survived by many nieces, nephews and friends.

Uchizono, Taro, 89,



Fountain Valley, CA; March 22; he was a U.S. Army vet with the 442nd RCT; predeceased by wife Rosie; brother Saburo and sister Toshiko; survived by wife, Estella; brothers Jiro (Toy) and Shiro (Minnie) Uchizono; sister Ikuko Iguchi; sons, Stanley (Sharon), Dr. Rodger, and Craig (Karen); many nieces and nephews; 6 gc. 1 ggc.

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George Yoshito Masunaga

September 2, 1914 - March 3, 2011

George Masunaga was born on September 2, 1914, in Fort Lupton, Colorado, graduated from Brighton High School and the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy in 1941. He served as a chemist for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad before doing a tour of duty with the U.S. Army during WWII. He served as a civilian pharmacist at the Lowry Air force Base in Denver. George and his brothers, Jess and John, operated several drug stores in the Denver metro area.

In 1958, George married Mary Funakoshi of Fort Lupton. Although they did not have children of their own, they are beloved by many who call them, Uncle and Auntie. George is survived by his wife, Mary, a sister Mary Fujimoto and brother, John Masunaga.

He and Mary attended Mile Hi Chapter JACL meetings regularly until his last illness. He was a mentor to all; quick with stories, laughter and shared a wealth of the history of JACL and of life.



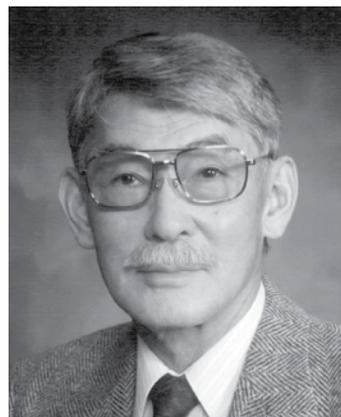
He was Mile Hi Chapter president from 1947 to 1958 and organized the biennial JACL Convention in Denver in 1992.

He was a Millineum and Thousand Club member, active in the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy, Simpson Methodist Church, Japanese Association of Colorado, Japan America Society, the Nisei Post (VFW) Colorado and the Colorado Pharmacist's Society. Funeral Service was held at 11:00 a.m., March 8, 2011, Simpson Methodist Church, 6001 Wolff St., Arvada, CO 80003.

TRIBUTE

Shirgeru "Shig" Motoki

May 14, 1922 - February 5, 2011



Shirgeru "Shig" Motoki passed away on February 5, 2011 at the age of 88 years. He was born on May 14, 1922 in Ichinoseki, Japan. He lived with his family in Seattle, Washington until World War II when they were placed in an internment camp in Minidoka, Idaho.

Shig enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Japan during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged in 1954. Shig graduated from the University of Utah in 1958. He worked for the Civil Service at Hill Field

Air Force Base and became a supervisor for production management of the F-16 fighter plane. He retired from the Civil Service in 1980.

He was active in the Mount Olympus chapter of the JACL and served a term as president. Shig is survived by his wife, three sons, four grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

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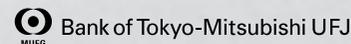
'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes, which honor the memory of your loved ones with original copy and photos, appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/ column inch.
For more info: Brad Kiyomura
bkiyomura@pacificcitizen.org or
(800) 966-6157

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