

Nikkei senior housing still developing

(A PC Update)

Housing for the elderly Nikkei has been developing in certain locations across the country through the supportive efforts of various JAACL chapters and community groups. Two were recently completed but one suffered at least a temporary setback.

In Utah, Salt Lake City's Multi-Ethnic Senior Citizen's highrise was completed Jan 20 with the majority of its tenants settled in. It is a 140-unit building covering approximately one acre of the city's Multi-Ethnic Center, which is yet to be completed. An open house for the highrise is scheduled April 10.

In Chicago, the 200-unit Heiwa Terrace was completed last June, built under the leadership of the Joint Action Board Conference, a non-profit human rights organization which includes the local chapter of the JAACL. The housing facility is now man-

aged under the JASC Housing Corporation, an organization distinct from the Japanese American Service Committee.

In contrast, the Gardena Valley (Ca.) Japanese Cultural Institute's housing project was set back on March 4 when the Torrance City Council Planning Commission turned down the JCI's bid for a zone variance needed for the construction of the proposed complex. The 100-unit, two-and-one-half acre structure would be built on the boundary line which separates the cities of Torrance and Gardena. It would request funds through a \$4 million Housing and Urban Development loan.

The Gardena JCI bid was rejected because a large number of opponents to the project appeared at the city council hearing to protest the project and no local citizens were at the hearing to speak in favor of it. JCI director William Hiroto is currently compiling supportive material and will

appeal the commission's verdict. Hiroto later said that people objected to the project because "they don't like to see changes made" in their community and other reasons were given, such as the fear of a higher crime rate, parking problems and traffic congestion. Hiroto felt, however, that these arguments were very weak, since part of the proposed site was currently being used as a little league ball park and the housing certainly couldn't cause additional problems.

But other California projects seem to be progressing favorably. In Placer County, plans for a 144-unit retirement village (in Penryn) are ready to get underway, as part of the Japanese American Heritage cultural center, a 14.5-acre project that includes a cultural center, garden and small shops.

The Heritage Center's non-profit corporation, which an-

nounced the plans March 3, will place their rezoning request before the Placer County Planning Commission next month, with construction possibly beginning in the fall. However, the corporation has to apply and receive a low-interest loan from the federal Farm and Home Administration (the cost of the retirement complex was estimated at 1.5 million).

The acreage, at the southwestern corner of the Taylor Road and Penryn Road intersection, has been secured with a down payment advanced to the corporation by seven of the directors. One of these is James Makimoto, who outlined the project at Tuesday night's meeting.

The rugged terrain is divided by a live stream, which Makimoto envisions will be dammed and bridged. Rock gardens using the existing trees and a few Japanese maples would create a tranquil atmosphere with paths winding between the developments.

Eligibility for residents at the village will be a required age of 62 or above, a low income whereby the rent of the unit constitutes 25 percent of it, and being self-sufficient.

The East Bay Issei Housing project, supported by JAACL chapters in the San Francisco Eastbay—Contra Costa, Berkeley, Oakland, Alameda, Eden Township and Fremont—had applied for federal funding last year for a site near Hayward. The site was not approved.

The San Diego JAACL Retirement Project Committee had obtained last September a \$4.3 million reservation from HUD for Kiku Gardens, a 100-150 unit apartment complex similar to Little Tokyo Towers in Los Angeles.

HUD is currently reviewing the proposal submitted by the committee, and the Housing

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New hearing date set for Takahashi

MERCED, Ca.—The hearing on the appeal of Mrs. Mitsue Takahashi of Livingston on her dismissal by the Livingston school board several months ago, scheduled for Mar. 10 has been postponed to Monday, April 27.

Merced County Superior Court Judge George G. Murray is scheduled to hear her arguments that as a tenured teacher of some 20 years, she was not given a fair hearing prior to the 2-1 decision to fire her.

Spark backs day for Vietnam veterans

WASHINGTON—Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) is co-sponsor of a resolution designating April 26, 1981, as "National Recognition Day for Veterans of the Vietnam Era", which is a Sunday that could spearhead a week of hearings and observances dealing with Vietnam veterans.

Over 480,000 Vietnam veterans are unemployed and 60% of all Vietnam vets aren't eligible for GI Bill educational benefits, Matsunaga, a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, pointed out. "Last year, a Harris poll revealed over 90% of the public believes Vietnam veterans deserve more respect than they are currently being shown," he added.

Redress Commission chair accepts Tri-District invitation

LOS ANGELES—Joan Bernstein, chairperson of the nine-member U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, of Washington accepted the JAACL Tri-District Conference invitation to headline the redress panel discussion on Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m. at the Los Angeles Hilton Hotel, it was announced by host district governor Dennis Kunisaki.

It was also understood that the commission would commence in July (instead of May, as reported earlier) public hearings into the impact of Evacuation and internment of 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of them native-born Americans, and about 1,000 Aleuts during World War II.

The conference opens Friday evening with a mixer. Panel discussions and workshops follow on Saturday with Ron Wakabayashi, recently appointed National JAACL executive, and vice president Floyd Shimomura, ranking national JAACL officer in the three district council area, addressing the luncheon.

The "Yuki-Yaki" roast of Hollywood actor Yuki Shimoda at the dinner Saturday evening will feature well-known Asian American entertainment personalities. Proceeds of the \$30 event go toward the PSWDC redress campaign, it was stressed by Pan Asian JAACL, conference co-hosts.

The conference will draw participants from the 70-plus chapters in California, Nevada and Arizona. Package registration will also be \$30, covering Saturday luncheon, Saturday-Sunday continental breakfasts, parley presentations and mini-workshops.

The Pacific Citizen Board, which heretofore met in conjunction with Tri-District Conferences, has postponed its biennial session.

Min Yasui named to JAACL redress chair

PORTLAND, Ore.—With the resignation of John Tateishi as chair of the National Committee for Redress, Minoru Yasui of Denver was appointed by Jim Tsujimura, National President to carry on the responsibilities of the program.

Yasui has served as a member of JAACL's Redress Committee since the Salt Lake City convention in 1978, and well aware of JAACL's historical involvement and current commitment to this issue. "It goes without saying that Min has a singular commitment to this issue," Tsujimura declared.

"Although we are unaware at this time of the Commission hearing schedule, we can assume that time is of the essence in JAACL's program preparation. The Commission has already formally convened, and at its first meeting selected Joan Bernstein as its chair. It is therefore important that each chapter assume its responsibilities in this priority program of the organization; for without the aid of each chapter, optimum success of the Commission may not be realized," Tsujimura said.

N.Y. JAACL plans 'mock' redress hearing

NEW YORK—In preparation for the probable hearing here by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, the New York JAACL will conduct a "mock hearing" on April 25 in the World Room at the Columbia School of Journalism, 116th St. and Broadway, at 2 p.m.

Chapter president Ruby Schaar said that the idea for the "mock hearing" came from the one which was held during the national convention in San Francisco last summer.

The "mock hearing" is open to the community. Those who wish to present testimony are asked to contact Ruby Schaar, 50 W. 67th St., New York, N.Y. 10023 (212) 724-5323.

DC testimonial for Tateishi slated

SAN FRANCISCO—A testimonial banquet honoring John Tateishi for his leadership, talent and sacrifices to the JAACL redress campaign will be sponsored by the No. Calif.-W. Nev.-Pacific JAACL District Council on Saturday, May 16, according to regional director George Kondo. The locale is to be announced.

Rep. Norman Mineta, co-author of the House bill establishing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act, will be main speaker.

BCA to inaugurate new Bishop Yamaoka

SAN FRANCISCO—Formal ceremonies marking the inauguration of the Rev. Haruo Yamaoka of the Stockton Buddhist Church as bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America will be held on Saturday, April 25, 4 p.m. here at the BCA Headquarters chapel at the Buddhist Temple.

The Fresno-born priest is the first native-born American appointed titular head of the 100,000 members of the Hampa Hongwanji Jodo Shinshu faith on the U.S. mainland by the Nishi Hongwanji Headquarters in Kyoto. Bishop-designate Yamaoka succeeds retiring Bishop Kenryu T. Tsuji, Canadian-born and the first Nisei BCA bishop.

A banquet follows at Miyako Hotel. Tickets may be reserved through any BCA temple or BCA Headquarters, 1710 Octavia St., San Francisco 94109 (415-776-5600) at \$20 per person.

Mrs. Hom to seek Rep. McCloskey's seat

SAN JOSE, Ca.—Gloria Sun Hom, wife of local attorney Peter Hom, mother of three teen-age daughters and head of the economics department at Mission College, announced her candidacy for the 12th Congressional District seat, now held by Rep. McCloskey. She fell short by 441 votes last year in her political debut in a state senate race.

Daughter of a career diplomat, Patrick Sun, who was China's consul general in San Francisco, she is active in state politics and currently heads the Palo Alto Republican Women's Club Federated.

MIS vets gear for 40th ann'y reunion

SAN FRANCISCO—Plans for a 40th anniversary MISLS reunion on Sunday, Nov. 1 at the Presidio of San Francisco at the Presidio Officers Club were announced by Tad Hirota, general chairman. Instructors and members of the first MIS class will be honored.

Issei chorus a hit at 'GFB' exhibit debut



PC Photo by J.D. Hokoyama

Watsonville Issei choral group renders "God Bless America", phonetically memorized in kana, during dedication of the "Go For Broke" Exhibit at the Presidio of San Francisco. Some of them are Gold Star Mothers.

SAN FRANCISCO—The Watsonville Japanese Senior Center Issei choral group, 25 singers between 74 and 92, sang "God Bless America" at the program March 7 to dedicate the new "Go for Broke" exhibit at the Army Museum.

A Gold Star Mother, Mrs. Fumiyo Izumizaki, 85, whose son Henry was killed in France, is a member of the group but was, at the time, hospitalized and unable to come.

Mrs. Asa Sugidono, 77, had two sons serving with the 100th/442nd: Ichiro, who received a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, and Jiro.

Six others had sons in the unit. They are Mr. Tokushige Kizuka, 79, his wife, 80, parents of Shigeru Kizuka, Purple Heart; Mrs. Toku Tsuda, son Tomio; Mrs. Yuki Torigoe, 85, son Kenji; Mrs. Yaye Hayashida, son Louis, Bronze Star; Mrs. Sueno Fujimoto, 84, son Kiyoshi.

Other members of the group were:

Mrs. Hana Tada, Mrs. Fujino Honda, Mrs. Mina Tanaka, Mrs. Shizuko Fujihara, Mrs. Hana Matsuda, Mrs. Misayo Yorita, Mrs. Toku Oda, Mrs. Yoshino Kimoto, Mrs. Kimiko Hiura, Mrs. Shizuko Yokoi, Mrs. Suyeko Okamura, Mrs. Toshihiko So, Mrs. Sadame Maruyama, Mrs. Jutaro Hamagi-

wa, Mrs. Toshi Murata, Mrs. Shigeo Mizokami and Mrs. Masao Kitano.

According to Tokushige Kizuka, head of the Issei center, 12 of the 18 Issei contacted are naturalized citizens.

The group rushed back to Watsonville after the program to attend a party being held that night to honor Kumajiro Murakami, who became 100 the week before.

At the "Go for Broke" commemorative banquet at the Fairmont hotel that night, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye said, "Their rendition of 'God Bless America' was the best I've ever heard."

Watsonville Issei marks 100th year

WATSONVILLE, Ca.—The Watsonville Buddhist community honored its oldest member, Kumajiro Murakami, on March 7, four days after he had celebrated his 100th birthday.

Murakami, an Issei from Yamaguchi-ken, is the sole survivor of a rice farmer's family of seven children. When he was 17, he sailed to Hawaii to work on a sugar plantation. He then moved to Watsonville to raise strawberries and in 1909, he journeyed to Seattle to meet his picture bride, Fushi Matsumura.

During WW2 he and his family of five children were sent to the Salinas Assembly Center and in April 1942 to Poston II, relocated to Chicago, and after the war returned home. He and his wife will celebrate their 72nd anniversary in May.

The secret to his longevity, says Murakami, is "not to get too excited too much." He adds, "And don't worry. Avoid tension."

Annual Okei grave clean-up Apr. 26

GOLD HILL, Ca.—The annual Placer County JACL/Sacramento JACL Okei Grave and Wakamatsu Colony Memorial clean-up has been scheduled for Sunday, Apr. 26, 9:30 a.m.

The project has been a joint affair since the site was dedicated as a state historical landmark in 1969. Members and friends are reminded to assemble at the Gold Trail Elementary School, winding up after the clean-up with a picnic at Coloma State Park. This year's clean-up is being coordinated by Al Nitta, Placer chapter president. #

JADC dinner keynotes

SAN FRANCISCO—Rep. Robert Matsui will be the main speaker at the fifth annual dinner of the San Francisco Japanese American Democratic Club on Saturday, April 25, at the Union Square Holiday Inn. His topic will be "Democrats Face the Reagan Years". For information call: Yori Wada, (415) 931-8720 or Sumi Honnami, (415) 386-7800.

Sumo in San Jose

SAN JOSE, Ca.—Japan sumo comes in grand style with a tournament set June 6-7 at Independence High School field house. Tickets ranging from \$10-\$25 are available at Tokunaga Insurance, 515 N. 1st St., San Jose (408-286-1537) and other outlets in Japanese communities throughout Northern and Central California. #

Deaths

Tony Shigeo A. Kato, 80, the first British Columbia Nisei to be accepted into the Canadian army before Pearl Harbor, died on Jan. 23. In 1944, Kato, with the rank of Warrant Officer 1st class, served in Burma with British Intelligence Corps until the war's end and was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, the Victory Medal, the 39-45 Star and the Burma Star. He is survived by his wife Doris. #

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More seek Hayakawa's seat

SAN FRANCISCO—Arthur Shingleton, a black Bay Area Republican banker with no previous political experience, announced his candidacy for Senate March 5. He will attempt to unseat Sen. S.I. Hayakawa in next year's Republican primary.

Shingleton, 41, is the vice president and manager of the San Francisco branch of the First Enterprise Bank. Born into a Republican family, he said that he supports President Reagan's efforts to revive the economy and trusts Republican pledges "to convince minorities that they're trying to get them into the fold. I'm going to see if that's true."

Shingleton said of Hayakawa, "I'm embarrassed by the man representing me. I feel cheated."

Republican pressure to defend the seat with younger candidates has been building over the past year with other aspirants with greater name identity such as Rep. Paul McCloskey of Menlo Park, Rep. Barry Goldwater Jr. of Los Angeles, Maureen Reagan, the President's daughter; and Rep. Robert Dornan of Santa Monica. #

N.C. JACCC wins \$29,800 private grant

SAN FRANCISCO—A San Francisco Foundation grant of \$29,800 was approved Mar. 11 for the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, according to David Asano, center president. New funds will assist coordinate the project, access organizational community needs and draw up a master plan of the Nihonmachi site on Sutter between Webster and Buchanan Sts. According to Henry Izumizaki, Foundation program executive, the grant will be available in quarterly allocations. #

San Jose hires Nisei to tout tourist spots

SAN JOSE, Ca.—Japan is a rich source of tourist dollars for many California communities and it is Joanne Hirasaki's job to see that San Jose gets a fare share.

As director of tourism for the San Jose Chamber of Commerce, Hirasaki, 40, organizes some campaigns aimed directly at the Japanese market. The tourism director's position was created through the Chamber of Commerce in 1978. It was initially funded with a \$10,000 grant from the U.S. Travel Service, which was matched with local funds. The position is now a permanent one in the Chamber's Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Two years after the grant ended, the chamber's tourism agency estimated that 10 to 15 percent of the Japanese tourists to San Francisco added San Jose to their tour packages, which amounts to 30,000 and 45,000 visitors a year.

During her first year on the job, Hirasaki went to Japan to sell some of the major tour operators on the idea of including a sidetrip to San Jose into the West Coast itineraries.

But only a few tour operators could recall having been there, until Hirasaki mentioned such tourist spots as Eastridge Shopping Mall, Winchester Mystery House and Paul Masson Vineyards, she said. They were all places the tour operators had visited themselves.

While in Japan, Hirasaki spoke only English. Born in Washington state and never having visited Japan before, she said, "I'm hesitant about using Japanese." #

NHK's 'Nisei Soldier'

SAN JOSE, Ca.—NHK-TV's documentary, "Nisei Soldier", aired November last year in Japan will be shown at the MIS Assn. dinner meeting Mar. 28, 5 p.m. at the 17 West Restaurant, 34 E. Rosemary St.

Nihongo class

SAN JOSE, Ca.—Beginning Conversational Japanese will be offered Saturdays by Foothill College at Mt. View Buddhist Temple starting April 11, 9 to 11:40 a.m. Registration fee \$8. #

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Cherry Blossom Pageant on Apr. 18

SAN FRANCISCO, Ca.—The 14th annual Cherry Blossom Festival queen contest and pageant will take place April 18 at the Japan Center Theater. No-host cocktails will be from 5:30, dinner at 6:30; the pageant at 8 p.m. Table reservations at \$22.50 per person can be made at the Paper Tree, 1743 Buchanan Mall, San Francisco.

Applications to compete in the queen contest are available at all Northern California branches of the California First Bank, the Sumitomo Bank of Calif. and the Paper Tree.

Nikkei heads Calif. minority business

SACRAMENTO—Calif. Dept. of General Service's Director David E. Janssen has named Stimson S. Suzuki to head the department's Small and Minority Business Procurement Assistance Division, which is responsible for assisting small, minority and women-owned businesses in gaining access to State purchasing and contracts.

Suzuki has 17 years of buying experience with the State Office of Procurement and has been actively involved in small and minority business programs since 1973. #

Farewell set for Stockton minister

STOCKTON, Ca.—The Rev. Haruo Yamaoka, recently named bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, will be honored April 3 at a church social hall farewell banquet. He leaves for his new duties in San Francisco on May 1.

Dr. Ken Fujii and Pete Yagi are co-chairing the farewell service. Yoshio Itaya and Tad Akabe share the emcee podium. #

'Hito Hata'

BOSTON—"Hito Hata" makes its Boston area debut on Sunday, April 5, 7 p.m. at Harvard Univ. Science Center Auditorium B, it was announced by the New England JACL / Asian American Resources Workshop. Tickets will be \$5 (\$3 students). #



A LOYAL SAMURAI stands guard aboard the taiko drum float during last year's San Francisco's Cherry Blossom Festival parade. This year's festival takes place April 17-19 and 24-26 at the Japan Center.

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