



Established 1929

# Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

**A peach of  
a story  
—page 7**

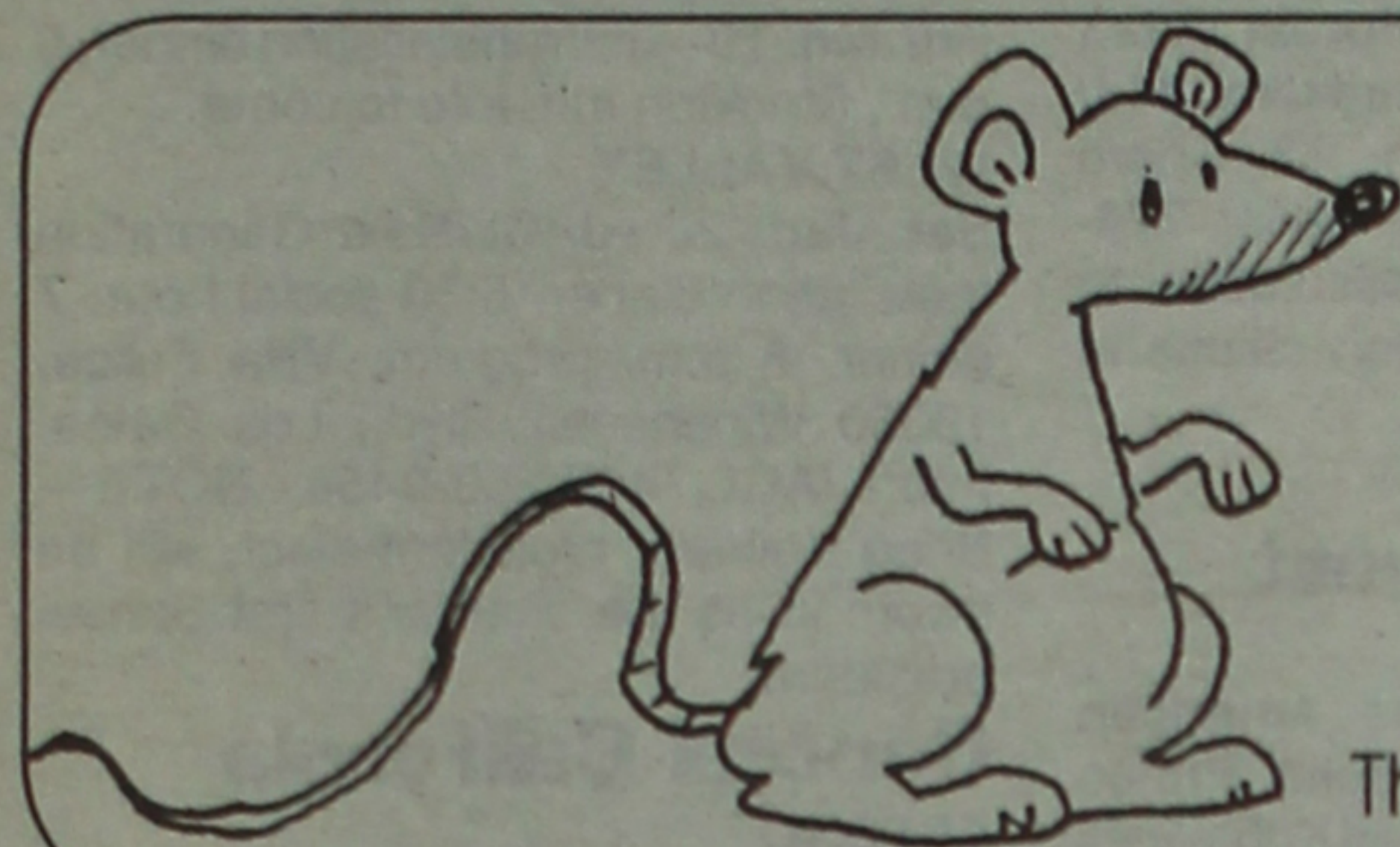
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Jan. 5-18, 1996



The Year of Rat

## Happy New Year 1996

### Shiozawa pleads guilty to reduced battery charge

Troy Shiozawa, 24, pled guilty Dec. 13 to a reduced misdemeanor battery charge and was sentenced to 90 days in the Bannock County, Idaho, jail a month before he was to go on trial on a felony charge of aggravated battery stemming from an alleged assault on his estranged wife, Leslie, reported the *Idaho State Journal*.

A jury earlier ruled that a stab wound suffered by Shiozawa's 2-year-old stepdaughter, Lexie Hill, was accidental, as he had earlier claimed. The jury also found Shiozawa not guilty of running his former wife's car off the road during the same incident; however, they deadlocked on the third charge of aggravated battery against Leslie.

Local JACL members were concerned that Shiozawa's civil rights had been violated when his bail was set at one million dollars and he was not allowed to contact his family for several days while incarcerated. Pocatello Blackfoot Chapter members were in attendance during various portions of the trial proceedings.

Judge Peter D. McDermott initially sentenced Shiozawa to six months but later reduced sentence. The judge allowed Shiozawa to finish classes at Idaho State University during his incarceration. His jail term was scheduled to begin Dec. 26. In addition to the jail sentence, McDermott gave Shiozawa two years probation and ordered him to attend classes in anger management. He also has to pay \$100 for a medical deductible related to his stepdaughter's medical costs and has been ordered not to carry any knives unless he was going to a rodeo event. Shiozawa has maintained that the stabbing of Lexie occurred accidentally when she fell on his knife which he said he was using to clean his nails.

According to Masa Tsukamoto, member, Pocatello Blackfoot Chapter, JACL, Shiozawa entered the plea bargain to spare his family further anxiety and additional attorney fees and court costs. Kent Shiozawa, Troy's father, said the family had initially wanted to fight the remaining charge, but decided to accept a plea bargain after discussing the case with a number of advisors, noting that another court battle would delay Troy's studies. He said that the judge would not allow Troy to plead no contest to the charge or accept the plea bargain based upon financial reasons, but insisted that he plead guilty.

Speaking to *Pacific Citizen*, Kent

See SHIOZAWA/page 10

### JACL goes on-line

The Japanese American Citizens League headquarters in San Francisco can now be reached through E-mail.

JACL's new address is:

JACL@hooked.net

## At the helm

An interview with Herbert Yamanishi who begins his new job as JACL national director this first month of the new year . . .

*In December of 1994, Herbert Yamanishi of Lansing, Mich., was named national director of the Japanese American Citizens League, succeeding Karyl Matsumoto. The new director, 52, was formerly executive director of the Michigan Community Action Agency Association. He comes to JACL with some 25 years of experience in private, nonprofit human service programs and association work. In taking over the organization's administration, Yamanishi assays his background, his beliefs, and his views of JACL.*

**PC: Let's begin with your background. Where were you born and raised?**

**YAMANISHI:** I was born in Tule Lake, Calif. We lived there for probably less than a year and then the family was moved from Tule Lake to the Minidoka camp in Idaho. From there, because there was nothing to return to in Oregon, we stayed in Idaho. So I grew up in Idaho near a small town called Middleton, between Caldwell and Boise.

**PC: What about your education?**

**YAMANISHI:** I went all the way through college in the Boise Valley. The family briefly moved to Los Angeles when I was in the fifth grade and I completed my sixth grade in Los Angeles. We lived there about five months and moved back. My father was fairly old coming out of camp and he couldn't maintain the farm that we lived on. By the time I reached the sixth grade, we had to move because my father couldn't farm any longer and there was no one else to help. My brothers and sisters had all left the farm a couple years before. So we had to go on welfare and moved to California to be closer to the family. That didn't work out, so we turned around and came back to Idaho. So that was my experience from then on—living on welfare and growing up in Nampa, Idaho. We went from the farm to Nampa. I went to junior high, high school and college in town.

**PC: How did camp influence you? What are your thoughts about that?**

**YAMANISHI:** Camp was not a direct influence on me because I don't have any memories. But camp influenced me in the sense that there was some talk about whether or not, as I recall when I was a little child, whether or not people from Japan should go back to Japan, that kind of thing. I remember asking my mother, "Are we going to go back to Japan? I don't want to go to Japan." And she was consoling me and telling me there was no thought of going back to Japan. Soon after that I remember JACL was able to get the naturalization laws passed and my mother was able to become an American citizen and vote. I think she voted in 1952 and became a citizen in 1950. My father never became a citizen; he was too ill by that time and just wasn't able to



"There has been a time when people viewed leadership as being somewhat charismatic with a topdown approach. Today's world is not so much topdown as knowing how to facilitate, having ideas. And knowing how to bring people together."

make it. That was sort of the experience I remember from that time, that somehow where we were and conditions we were living in had something to do with the experience. And then, as time went on I asked questions. When I got into college, I had some professors who had been to Sophia University in Japan and had come back to start a curriculum on Japanese history and some other things. For some reason I had always been a member of Junior JACL and been a member of the JACL baseball team from early on. In college I became more interested in the internment situation and I knew that there was this Rev. Shaver, who was a Methodist minister, Caucasian, who had been a missionary to Japan and had befriended the Japanese Americans there in Caldwell, Idaho. My parents tell me how Rev. Shaver was beaten up because he had seen some Japanese Americans off at the railroad station when they joined the American Army. So that kind of stuck in my mind. There were little tidbits like that. And then when I got into college I wrote a paper on the experience of people at that time in the valley. I had my mother give me a list of people she

knew that lived there at the time. People in Boise Valley were not interned, people in Idaho were not interned, but they experienced discrimination and other acts of violence against them. So it's always stuck with me.

**PC: What did you major in?**

**YAMANISHI:** Sociology. While I was going to college, I took part of a year off, between my junior and senior year, went to L.A. and worked in Gardena, where my sister lived. So I lived there about eight months and took a class at UCLA. When I went back to Nampa, I was able to graduate with my class and then I went straight into the Peace Corps. I didn't know what I wanted to do at the time. The category of service I was put into was called, "Rural Community Action/Poultry." The first half excited me, the second half, poultry, didn't. The assignment was to go to India. I was really excited because I didn't know what I really wanted to do. I heard Kennedy's speech at the University of Michigan when I was a senior in high school and I was pretty excited about the whole thing. And really didn't think I would get a chance. It was quite an experience because you go from, well, I had a little bit of world experience by going to L.A. But when you go from a little farming community of 400 to New York City, to the world, it was quite an experience.

**PC: It was culture shock.**

**YAMANISHI:** Well, I didn't experience as much as I found my other colleagues who came from frankly a more privileged background. I found that they had more of a struggle. From where I grew up, growing up on the farm, we didn't have running water. We had out-houses, our meals were cooked on a coal stove. The whole works. I find it strange thinking about it now. But it wasn't so unusual at the time because Idaho was so far back. So the rural experience of India wasn't as much of a shock to me as it was to my other colleagues.

**PC: Did you begin your business career from there?**

**YAMANISHI:** Well, from there I decided I wanted something that had to do with community action, community organizing. When I was going to college I was thinking I wanted to be a social worker, but then I found I didn't like case work. I didn't like the welfare workers. I didn't like how my parents were treated. But when I got into the Peace Corps I found that there might be something else and found out that graduate schools did teach something else other than case

See YAMANISHI/page 4

**MORE FROM YAMANISHI**—New JACL national director writes his first column—page 3.



No. 2,791

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## Pacific Citizen

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Assistant Editor: Gwen Muranaka

Editor Emeritus: Harry K. Honda

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## JACL calendar

### Eastern

#### PHILADELPHIA

Sat. Jan. 13—New Year's potluck party, 2-7 p.m., Moorestown Friends School, Pages Lane and Main St., Moorestown, N.J. info: Naomi Higuchi 609/667-3008 or Jane Sanbuchi Guerin 215/848-2567.  
WASHINGTON D.C.

Sat. Jan. 20—50th anniversary celebration; NOTE—Pat Okura, planning committee, 301/530-0945.

### Midwest

#### DAYTON

Jan. 4-Feb. 14—Smithsonian's "A More Perfect Union," Dayton Public Library, 3rd and St. Clair Sts. NOTE—A series of afternoon programs at 2 p.m. for six Sundays starts Jan. 7; focus on WWII American history and lessons of justice, correcting past errors and the Constitution. Co-sponsored by Dayton JACL, Dayton-Montgomery County Library and the National Conference (formerly, NCCJ).  
DETROIT

Fri. Feb. 4—Premiere view of Detroit JACL's 50th anniversary photo and artifact exhibit, Detroit Historical Museum.

Sat. Feb. 17—50th Anniversary dinner-dance, Novi Hilton, info: Valerie Matsumoto 313/482-3778. NOTE—George Takei, keynote speaker.

#### ST. LOUIS

Sat. March 2—JACL 50th Anniversary party, Sheraton Tower, Westport (near the Airport), info: George Sakaguchi, 314/842-3128.

#### TWIN CITIES

Chapter Board once a month, preceded by potluck dinner; open to any visitor; info Joanne Kumagai, chapter president, 612/537-8076.

### IMPORTANT

All JACL and Community calendar items must include the following information: what, where, when (date, time), phone number(s) and contact person.

### WISCONSIN

Sun. Jan. 21—Installation dinner (non-football weekend), 3 p.m. cocktails, 3:45 program, 4:45 dinner, Meyer's Family Restaurant, 60th and Forest Ave., Greenfield; info: Renee Murakami, 414/228-6683; RSVP by Jan. 12, Sheri Fujihira 423-1408, Linda Pfaller 774-5687. NOTE—On tap: resolution to adopt a chapter dissolution clause in constitution.

### Pacific Northwest

#### ALASKA

Sat. May 25—Japanese American Gathering banquet, Alyeska Prince Hotel, Anchorage; info: Sylvia Kobayashi 907/561-0809, fax 561-0409. NOTE—All Nikkei, MIS veterans in particular, JACLers will gather for this single event; suggesting personal choice on tour, contact your local travel agent.

### NorCal-WN-Pacific

#### CONTRA COSTA

Sat. Jan. 20—Chapter's 60th anniversary celebration, installation dinner. Details to be announced.

#### JAPAN-TOKYO

Chapter Board on the 1st Tuesday every month (unless it falls on the 1st or the 2nd day), Union Church, info: Ted Shigeno, 0468-76-2431.

### SAN FRANCISCO

Chapter Board on first Tuesdays, 7 p.m., National JACL HQ, 1765 Sutter St., open to all members and public, info: Jeff Adachi 415/922-1534.

#### SAN MATEO

Sat. Jan. 6—Installation dinner, Airport Hilton. Info: JACL Office, 415/343-2793.

#### SAN JOSE

Chapter Board on 2nd Fridays; '96 Convention Committee on 3rd Tuesdays, info: 408/295-1250.

#### STOCKTON-LODI

Fri. Jan. 19—Joint installation dinner, 6 p.m., Stockton Inn, info to come.

#### WEST VALLEY

Sat. Jan. 20—JACL/Next Generation Installation dinner, 6:30 social hour, 7 dinner, 8 p.m. program, Villa Felice, 15350 Winchester Blvd., Los Gatos. Info: JACL, 408/253-0458. NOTE—Brian Kuwara, president-elect, will be sworn in as the chapter's first Sansei president.

### Central California

#### FRESNO

Tue. Jan. 9—Chapter board meeting, 7 p.m., Union Bank, Fashion Fair, 565 E. Shaw Ave. Info: 209/486-6815.

Sat. Jan. 20—Kunsho awards testimonial luncheon for Fred Hirasuna and Kakuo Komukai, 11:30 a.m., Centre Plaza Holiday Inn, RSVP by Jan. 12, Izumi Taniguchi, 439-8769.

### Pacific Southwest

#### ARIZONA

Sun. April 21—JACL Scholarship Awards luncheon, 1 p.m., Crown Sterling Suites, 2630 Camelback Rd., Phoenix; info: Mrs. Kathy Inoshita, scholarship committee sec., 5332 W. Golden Lane, Glendale, AZ 85302, 602/937-5434. NOTE—Applications due March 1, 1996.

## Community calendar

### Midwest

#### CHICAGO

Sat. March 16—JASC spring event, Kanojo Fashion Show; info: Sunnan Kubose, 312/275-7212.

#### DAYTON

Jan. 4-Feb. 15—Smithsonian Institution's travel exhibit: "A More Perfect Union, Japanese Americans and the U.S. Constitution," Dayton Main Library, 215 E. 3rd St., NOTE—Volunteers from Cincinnati and Dayton JACL chapters are requested to assist.

### Arizona

#### PHOENIX

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 24-25—11th annual Festival of Japan, Heritage Square, 6th and Monroe; info: Arizona JACL, 602/931-1985.

### California

#### LOS ANGELES

Sun. Jan. 7—Japanese American National Museum (JANM) lecture, 1-3 p.m., JANM, 369 E. 1st St., info: 213/625-0414. NOTE—"Okinawan History and Genealogy," Dr. Mitsuru Sakihara, speaker; Oral History workshop follows, Darcie Iki, instructor; and Hokubei Okinawa Kenjinkai Geinobu performance, 3:30-4 p.m.

Thu. Jan. 11—Asian American Writers Speak series: "A Filipino American National Historical Society Reading," 7-8 p.m., JANM, RSVP required, 213/625-0414.

Sat. Jan. 13—JANM Book Party, "Vanishing Sands" with author Gerald Kinro, 1-3 p.m., JANM; RSVP required 213/625-0414.

Closing Jan. 14—Splendor of the Dragon: Textiles of the Ryukyu Kingdom, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Craft & Folk Art Museum, 5800 Wilshire Blvd., info: Noreen, 213/680-0333.

Wed. Jan. 17—Japanese Consulate General / Asia Society / Japan America Society public affair, 11:30 a.m.-1:45, Omni Hotel, 930 Wilshire Blvd., RSVP: 213/627-6217x17. NOTE—"Japan Looks at Asia: Perspectives of the 21st Century," Japan Ambassador to Indonesia, Tazuo Watanabe, Consul General Robert O'Donovan of Australia, Los Angeles; and Frank Gibney, speakers.

Fri-Sat, Jan. 19-20—JANM "Relics from Camp—an artist's installation," 11 a.m.-1 p.m., JANM, info: 213/625-0414. NOTE—Artist Kristine Yuki Aono seeks relics, which will be returned after installation ends in April. Partially funded by NEA and Artist talk, 2-3 p.m., Sat. Jan. 27.

Sat. Jan. 20—JANM film screening, 2-4 p.m., "Looking Like the Enemy," JANM, RSVP, 213/625-0414; NOTE—Robert Nakamura, Karen Ishizuka, speakers.

Wed. Jan. 24—Japan America Society public affair, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Arco Plaza Conference Room, 505 S. Flower St. Level C; RSVP: 213/627-6217x17. NOTE—"Past and Future of U.S.-Japan Security Treaty," Dr. Chalmers Johnson, speaker.

Tue. Jan. 30—Mark Taper Forum's Asian Theater Workshop / JANM Play Reading: "Our Hearts Are Touched by Fire," by Edward Sakamoto, 7-9 p.m., JANM; RSVP 213/625-0414.

Sun. Feb. 4—Shin-Hanga: Modern woodblock prints from Japan, 11:30-12:30 p.m. walk-through with Hollis

Goodall-Cristante, curator; L.A. County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., RSVP 213/627-6217x15.

Thu. Feb. 8—LMU/Japan America Society public affair, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Hilton Center for Business, Loyola Marymount University, info: John P. Daly, 310/338-4538. NOTE—"Red Flag over Hong Kong," four government speakers from Hong Kong; James Flanagan, L.A. Times.

#### ORANGE COUNTY

Jan. 5 - Feb. 11—World premiere of Philip Gotanda's new drama, "The Ballad of Yachiyo," South Coast Repertory, 655 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Box office: 714/957-4033. NOTE—Performances Tue-Fri 8 p.m.; Sat: 2:30 and 8; Sun 2:30 and 7:30 p.m., production commissioned with Berkeley Repertory Theater and AT&T OnStage.

Wed. Jan. 25—Japan America Society food outing, 6-8:30 p.m., Tsunami Sush, 17236 Pac. Coast Hwy, Huntington Beach, RSVP 714/850-4335.

Sat. Jan. 27—Origami-Kai, 10 a.m., O.C. Japanese American Assn., 141151 Newport Ave. #200, Tustin; info: 714/893-4546. (Meets monthly every fourth Saturday.)

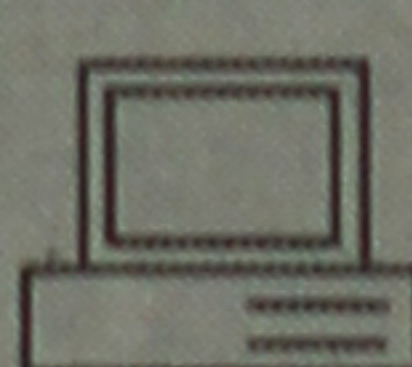
#### SAN DIEGO

Tue. Jan. 30—Japan America Society food outing, 6-7:30 p.m., Banzai Cantina (Old Town), 3667 India St., RSVP 619/699-2411.

### Hawaii

#### HONOLULU

Through May, 1996—JANM exhibit, "The Kona Coffee Story," Bishop Museum, 808/847-3511.



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## Small kid time



## Gwen Muranaka





## National dialogue

By **HERBERT YAMANISHI**  
JACL National Director

### First thoughts

Since I am about to leave Lansing, Michigan and drive to San Francisco with my U-Haul in tow, this first article will be short. I begin my official duties Jan. 2, 1996. Next summer, after school is out, my wife, Barbara, my middle school children Lucas and Evan, and Michigan State University sophomore Drew will also be moving.

Before I begin the trek to San Francisco, I wish to express my personal gratitude to all who have kept the JACL moving forward. To the JACL membership, thank you for your loyal support of the JACL. Crisis and confusion can provide an easy reason to drop out and cancel one's membership. The vast majority however continue to take the long-term view and have remained loyal, even to the point of giving something extra at the end of the year.

Second, I wish to express my appreciation to Denny Yasuhara and the Board of Directors for not only selecting me as the new National Director, but also for their efforts to put JACL back on the path to a sound financial condition. It appears that the agency, for the first time in two years, will end the fiscal year with a positive balance. A primary duty of a voluntary board of directors is its fiduciary responsibility. It is apparent that they have taken the

matter to heart and continue to keep the fiscal integrity of JACL a top priority.

I also extend special thanks to Karyl Matsumoto and the JACL staff. Karyl has managed to stabilize the administration of the organization in the few short months she has been there. Much of what she and the staff have accomplished will probably never be fully understood or appreciated. I know that the staff has put in many long hours and have had to cope with many details. They should be proud of what they have been able to accomplish.

It is apparent from the many conversations that I already have had and the letters I have received, that there are many challenges and many expectations in the weeks ahead. The fundamental value of JACL is in question. Is there a mission, is there a constituency that the organization can build on? Who does JACL represent... Japanese Americans or the Asian American community? How can we maintain and improve the fiscal integrity of the organization? Should the organization build its political base or emphasize services? What can be done to attract the youth? While the answer to these questions is fundamental to the future of JACL a healthy debate on the issues can also lead to the answers while

reinforcing the fabric of the organization. Much of what has happened to JACL should be put in perspective. Economic and political forces outside of the control of the organization have to some degree influenced what has happened. For the past 30 years nonprofit organizations have experienced a halcyon period of wealth and growth. The number of advocacy and other nonprofit organizations more than doubled in number. Funding also accelerated at rates beyond what founders could have imagined. Now nonprofits are entering a more competitive environment. It is no wonder that many organizations such as the JACL and NAACP experienced a fiscal and leadership crisis.

Similarly, political agendas and social change occurred since the 60's. Having worked in the legislative arena, I know that many legislative changes were accomplished with relative ease. At times, laws and regulations could be changed almost at will.

Now we are in a period where not only the JACL is struggling with its identity and direction but so is our nation. Is it no wonder that the constituents of JACL raise many kindred questions and issues about JACL? It demonstrates how much we have all become integrated into American Society and media culture.

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### St. Louis Chapter 50th Anniversary Inaugural Dinner

St. Louis Chapter is looking for those interested in reuniting with our chapter members March 2, 1996. Our 50th Inaugural Dinner will feature a visual journey of the past and recognition of chapter founders and presidents. For information about reunion activities, contact George Sakaguchi, 9109 Rusticwoods Dr., St. Louis, MO 63126, tel: (314)842-3138.

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## Announcements

● Relics from camp is the subject of a new art installation opening Jan. 25 and running through April 14 at the Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First Street, Little Tokyo, Ca. The exhibit, "Relics from Camp: An Artist's Installation by Kristine Yuki Aono and Members of the Japanese American Community," will feature common everyday objects that have been saved from the camps including, a baby shoe and wire-rim glasses frames.

"My idea is that people will come (to see the installation) and will begin interacting," said Aono.

In addition to the exhibit, the public is encouraged to bring in their own relics on workshop/collecton days, Friday, Jan. 19 and Saturday, Jan. 20. Aono said that public participation is a key element to the conception of the exhibit. She hopes to gather relics from all 10 internment camps to form the central part of the installation.

Information: 213/625-0414.

● Scholarships are now avail-

able to eligible students, announced the Sacramento Chapter, JACL. Each year the chapter gives out over \$20,000 to local high school and community college students.

All applicants or their families must be JACL members.

Entering freshman applicants must be graduating from high school and are planning to attend a trade school, college or university in the fall of '96. Undergraduates must be currently enrolled or play to re-enter a trade school, business school, college or university at the undergraduate level in the fall of '96.

Applications can be picked up at the Sacramento JACL office, 2124 - 10th St., Sacramento CA 95818; 916/447-0231.

● The Nisei Widowed Group is holding its monthly meeting Sunday, Feb. 4, 2-6 p.m. New members, men and women are welcome. Information: Elsie Uyeda Chung, 415/221-0268 or Margaret Iwai-Ey, 510/724-6247.

● Paul Igasaki, vice chair, U.S.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, is the speaker at the the Chicago Chapter JACL's 51st annual inaugural dinner, Saturday, Jan. 20.

In addition to his current position, Igasaki worked as first director, Asian American Affairs, city of Chicago and served as president of the Chicago Chapter.

The event will be held at the Inn at University Village, 625 S. Ashland Ave. (Harrison). Cost: \$45. Music by: Steven Hashimoto Trio.

Information: Midwest JACL office, 312/728-7170 or Chiye Tomihiro, 312/348-6380.

● Asian American Coalition of Chicago celebrates its 13th Lunar New Year Dinner Banquet, Saturday, Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m., Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 West Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, Ill. The event will be hosted by the Thai American community.

Cost: \$45. Information: Suchitra Surapiboonchai, 708/371-8730 or 312/962-3950 or Pravatchai Boonlayangoor, 312/243-9575.

## JACL Membership Administrator

**Responsibilities:** Responsible for the management of the membership program as well as coordination of dues and member contributions. Handles all inquiries regarding membership, membership benefits and services. Provides supervision of clerical and receptionist functions, including training and development and management of volunteers.

**Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree preferred or 3-4 years experience in a related field. Extensive PC experience including hardware maintenance, set-up and software installation, Access 2.0 programming and program design helpful. Proven interpersonal and customer contact skills.

Submit application by Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1996, to:

Herbert Yamanishi  
1765 Sutter St.  
San Francisco, CA, 94115

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Send To: Frances Morioka, Administrator

JACL-Blue Shield of California Group Health Trust  
1255 Post Street, Suite 805, San Francisco, California 94109



## YAMANISHI

(Continued from page 1)

work, that they dealt with organizing. The University of Denver had a program in community organizing and social work and so I got accepted and went there. And was one of the first students in a new program in community organizing. And it's carried me right on through to where I am now because of that interest that started in the Peace Corps.

**PC: Let's get to your new job. What is your definition of leadership?**

**YAMANISHI:** Well, leadership has different meanings at different times and under different situations. There has been a time when people viewed leadership as being somewhat charismatic with a top down approach. Today's world is not so much top down as knowing how to facilitate, having ideas. And knowing how to bring people together. That's the sense of leadership today, it's no longer this person, it's coming from business that it's got to be a team approach to getting things done, delivering quality service. So that's where I'm coming from at this point.

**PC: How does your background qualify you for this job? What do you bring to JACL?**

**YAMANISHI:** Well, first of all the main task I see is the fundamental administration and organization of JACL. And I come with considerable experience and knowledge about management and administration of a non-profit organization. That was sort of my specialty when I came to Michigan, I was focused on non-profit organizations and how they are administered. That's one piece.

The other piece the organization has to get its financial situation in better shape and I may not be the be all, do all in the area of fund-raising but I do have background in fund-raising as well working with foundations. So hopefully we'll be able to start looking at ways of improving the financial position of the organization, not just the way it is managed and organized.

And a certain piece of it of course is programmatic. There has been a major change in the direction of civil rights organizations across the country and in social policy in the United States and that's affecting every kind of organization. JACL is not the only one faced with coming to a crossroads in its future. So we have to reexamine which directions we're going with JACL. Those are the three areas: administration, financial condition and programmatic.

**PC: With your background in administration, do you plan any innovations? More specifically, viewing the organization as you have, what changes do you have in mind? Or do you have any at this point?**

**YAMANISHI:** Right now what I'm doing is trying to assess the situation. I don't like to throw the baby out with the bath water. I've seen in the short time that Karyl (Matsumoto) has been there, she's done a lot of good stuff. What I need to do is to see what's to be eventually accomplished with what has already been put into motion. There seems to be an awful lot of things which were a problem that have already been taken care of or are in the process of being reorganized, everything from personnel practices to salaries to board procedures things of that nature. I think all of that is being handled and taken care of.

I've been trying to assess how the structure works, because this is a very different structure the way in which JACL operates. I believe that we're at a time where we have to seriously rethink how we do things so I'm going to look carefully at how things are done and whether or not they are the most efficient way to do things. But right now I have no specific plan. But the emphasis is we need to provide quality, we need to operate the organization in a more business-like manner. And you need to understand when I say business-like I don't mean operat-

ing as a business. Because I feel there is a distinct difference between non-profit organizations and for-profit organizations. The fundamental difference is that for non-profit organizations the bottom line is mission; whereas private business the bottom line is the bottom line profit and loss issue.

Let's see what can be accomplished with what has been started. . . . We need to assess how the (JACL) structure works. In nonprofits, its mission. In business, it's the bottom-line.

**PC: What are your action priorities? Let's first address JACL as an organization. What do you need to tend to first?**

**YAMANISHI:** Membership. Get the members back into the organization. And that can be done a number of different ways, but we've got to first get the organization's credibility back in place. We have to get off the matter of blame placing and dwelling on the past and get to more serious and important matters. As Asian Americans, Japanese Americans, we're all faced with a new dawn here, right? In human rights in this country, and what's the role that we're all going to play in this changing agenda that's being sort of politically being developed at the national level but also being driven by economics. That's key.

So we have to get the membership revitalized, back in place. I mean, when we have 22,000 members, or thereabouts, out of a population of almost 850,000 people in the United States, it's pretty small and we should be able to do a lot better than that.

'So we have to get the membership revitalized, back in place. I mean, when we have 22,000 members, or thereabouts, out of a population of almost 850,000 people in the United States, it's pretty small and we should be able to do a lot better than that.'

Then, we need to look at things like the educational curriculum that's being developed. We need to make sure that that piece goes forward. Where I come from out here, people are surprised that there was an internment. In California and the West, people are more aware of that. We sort of speak to the choir here. To avoid this from happening again, we need to be making sure that the programs, the curriculum changes, are made as far as we can get it.

**PC: You've touched on this earlier, but looking more externally, what are the key issues facing Japanese Americans today in your view?**

**YAMANISHI:** Well, it comes down to identity, partially, and I understand that you are doing a *hapa* issue, and that is part of what is being discussed, is what is the identity of the Japanese American today. We've experienced what I characterize as being similar to the diaspora of the Jewish population. That diaspora caused Japanese Americans to spread out and take other approaches to survival in American Society. And one of those was to either not marry or to marry *hapa*, and that's changed our identity, changing our identity, and it's a struggle that we're faced with—how do we do that? How do we give ourselves a clear identity and a place in American society that we feel we're contributing and we're appreciated. So that's the philosophical struggle that I think we've got to deal with.

**PC: How do you view your relation to the National Board and the organization? What do you think the national director's role is in that regard?**

**YAMANISHI:** The national director in any nonprofit organization is the one employee of the board, and so I am beholden and responsible to the board. I would

hope that they view their responsibility to make sure that the national director does what they want accomplished. But it's only that one member. I believe in a representative form of government. That's the way nonprofit organizations in most states are organized by law, usually, and it makes sense, because if boards are responsible for more than just the executive director they can...they expose themselves to losses and many other problems far more broadly, I think. That's the reason why most nonprofit law is created that way, to limit the exposure, but then to give focus on where the responsibility needs to lie.

**PC: Recently, great strides have been made in communication between and among chapters at the National level. Historically, however, this has been a major problem in JACL. How can we move forward programs and better communicate with each other?**

**YAMANISHI:** Well, you've got a complicated matter because you've got a 115 chapters. We need to make use of—start to think of ways of—because of the limited funds, it's going to make it difficult for folks to meet face to face in any way, so I think we will have to look at other ways of communicating. We have to make better use of the *Pacific Citizen*, better use of technology. We need to start exploring some of these other ways, at least from the regional district councils levels, just among the staff of JACL need to communicate better, and I think that'll eventually work its way throughout the chapters as well. But part of it—you know, if people don't want

mechanism within the JACL network to address that. I think the board was kind of stuck there. I can see why they maybe wanted to take action.

I think this will be an ongoing matter because this is the kind of issue, again, that while we view this as being something unique to JACL, it's not. It may actually have been stimulated by what's been going on in the country. We forget that that's sometimes what—we all have our own view of what we see on TV and hear on the radio and read in the newspapers. That's how we react.

**PC: So, you're saying basically that you believe it should go back to the membership if it's a significant issue.**

**YAMANISHI:** Somehow you need to get the membership involved, get their buy-in. If you want to be successful and get things accomplished. I don't know what the answer is. I need to study the structure a little bit more, but—because every time I thought it was fairly clear as to how decisions are supposed to be made one way, then I find out, well, you can do it another way.

**PC: The interim staff has straightened out much of the organization's financial processes. What other things need to be done in this area?**

**YAMANISHI:** Yes, I think it's already being done. How it's managed has to do with its financial structure, how decisions are made, how purchases are made, how you contract, how you bid. All of that has to be looked at, and if it wasn't, if procedures weren't being followed, we have to look at why weren't they followed. I don't think JACL is totally out of the woods,

mean in terms of focused attention, I think you need to start exploring some other avenues as soon as possible.

**PC: Would that include corporate fund raising?**

**YAMANISHI:** Sure. Corporate.

**PC: The majority of JACL members are over the age of 55, and yet the organization is faced with the need to attract a new and younger membership. How do you maintain one group and attract another?**

**YAMANISHI:** With patience. That's a tough question. With the youth, we have to have the programs that are going to attract them. The other thing that is typical of young people today, they are not joiners. You look at virtually every organization, service club, Rotary club, Kiwanis, you name it, they are all grayer now. We don't have a lot of young people joining. But there will come a time when they start to come back again. There has been some federal effort trying to get people to volunteer, to join things and get back into doing things as a public service, and I think that's going to come, so we have to be prepared for that. First of all, make sure that we have our structures in place. The other thing is that you just have to ask people. I find that an awful lot of these young people aren't being asked. Or, it's like my kids, I have to tell the teachers my kids are kind of quiet sometimes, so you have to call on them, ask them questions, get them to start opening up, and then you find out that they can be very active in the class. Well, they can be very active in the organizations as well if you give them the opportunity. You have to ask first.

We will have some other programs. There are—I'm just assuming again because I haven't seen any demographic data—young people in general, Japanese Americans, who are probably a little bit better off financially, and jobwise as well. And you have to do some things to start targeting this population as well. Maybe planned giving programs might be appropriate for this group.

**PC: This comes back to credibility. How would you create and maintain a positive public image of JACL?**

**YAMANISHI:** By being positive and out there for JACL. It sounds simple. I don't want to be flip, but we have to maintain a positive attitude ourselves and quit blame-placing. As long as there is a tabloid mentality about who we are and the sort of flailing of ourselves, that is not good for our mental health as individuals, and it's not good for the organization and for our image. Maybe we need this, to take the lustre off the model minority image but I don't think it served us well. We need to put our best foot forward and we've got lots of history.

Understanding our history is important. If the history is our strength, then we ought to at least start using that a little, figuring out ways of using the history as a positive.

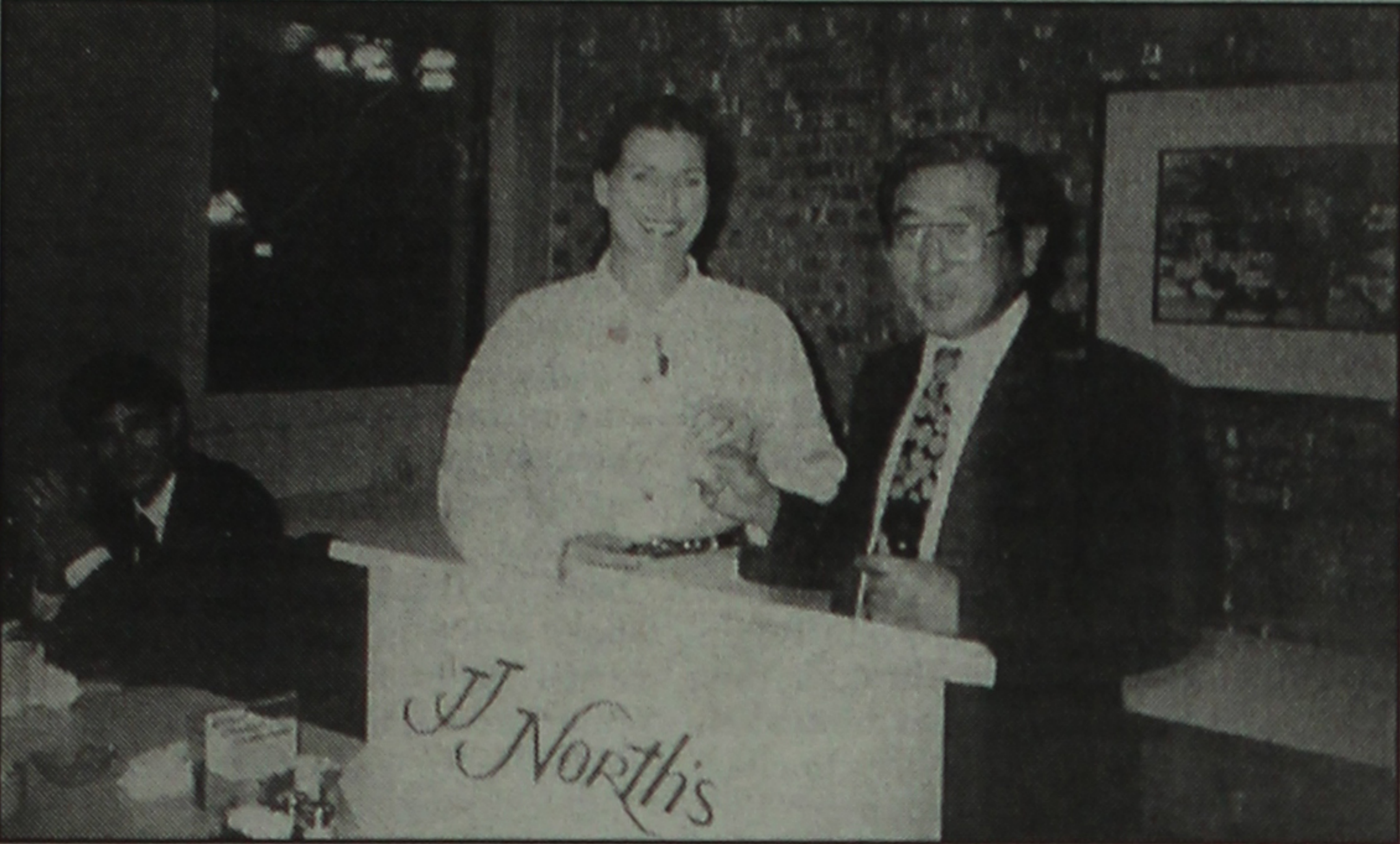
**PC: You've used the phrase "blame-placing." That's one way to characterize what's been going on, but others would say there's also the element of accountability, and that we can't just do something, anything, and do it poorly or at the expense of the organization as a whole.**

**YAMANISHI:** Accountability means there has to be monitoring, recording, and there has to be some kind of way of measuring whether or not this is good or bad, because everybody has their opinions about what's good or bad. I mean, welfare is good and welfare is bad. So you have to set some kind of standard of measurement to make it accountable, to have accountability in the process. That's what I'm talking about. But to not know what the standard by which people are measuring and to say that that fails, well, I don't know if it

See YAMANISHI page 5



Mr. Olympus, JACL, donates to Topaz Museum



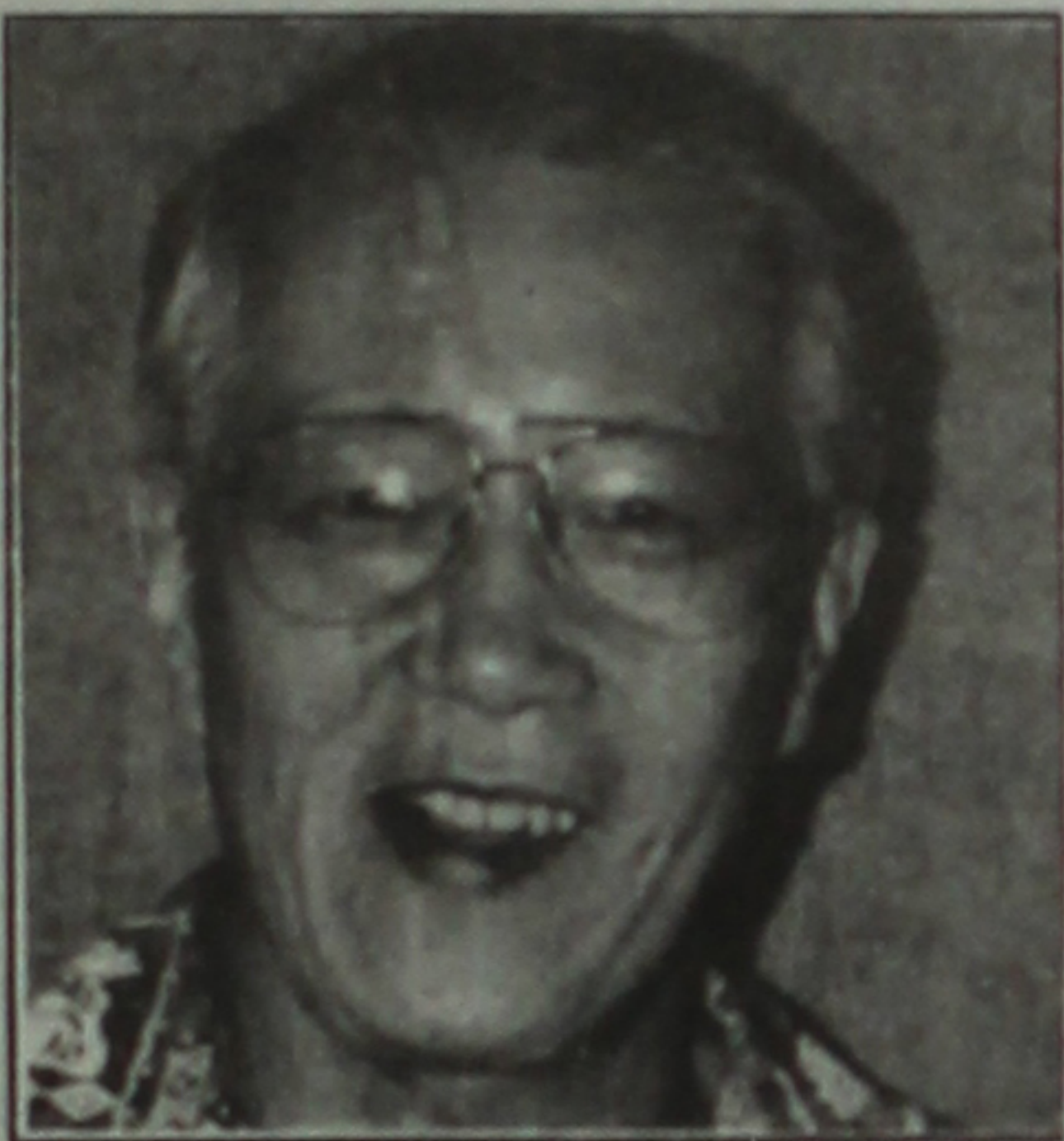
**HISTORY**—The Oct. 5, 1994, Mt. Olympus Chapter, JACL, held a workshop featuring a seminar on the Topaz internment camp. Chapter member Floyd Mori poses with Jane Beckwith, who shared her research and expertise on the camp near Delta, Utah. The speaker has been an advocate of maintaining the history of the Topaz camp. She was presented with a check for \$2,000 as a donation to the Topaz museum.

**CHAPTER BUSINESS**—Mori presents a check for \$1,500 to Terry Nagata, chairman of the 1994 JACL national convention and a member of the Salt Lake Chapter, with a check for \$1,500 for its support and assistance to the Mt. Olympus Chapter in the planning of the 1994 JACL convention in Salt Lake City. The funds were from the proceeds of the convention.



Japanese government honors Tanaka

Henry Tanaka, former JACL national president from 1972-74 and a member of the Cleveland Chapter, JACL, was honored by the government of Japan in recognition of his "outstanding dedication to the improvement of the Japanese American community's welfare." Consul General Takeshi Kagami bestowed upon Tanaka the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, during a ceremony in Cleveland in December. Tanaka, a Nisei, was born in Salem, Ore., in 1922. He has been involved with the activities of the JACL regionally and nationally for more than 40 years. He was also one of the JACL leaders in-



**HENRY TANAKA**  
strumental in the national long-term effort to gain redress from

the U.S. government for the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Tanaka has also received recognition for his work for nearly 30 years as the executive director of Hill House, the first community-based mental rehabilitation agency in Ohio, and for his initiative in establishing the International Association of Psychological Rehabilitation Services. Additionally, the JACL leader has been a member of the board of trustees of the Japan Society of Cleveland since its creation in 1992. The organization is dedicated to promoting a strong U.S.-Japan friendship.

JACL, OCA plan D.C. conference

The JACL Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference provides a broad understanding of the decision-making process at the federal level. Participants hear from a variety of key players in Washington, D.C. from Congress, agencies and advocacy organizations. They discuss the current issues facing the Asian Pacific American community, addressing hate crimes and handling the media. This year, the program will run jointly with the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA). The

participation of OCA gives JACL participants the opportunity to network and interact with other community leaders. The proposed dates for the event are March 2-6, 1995. Attendance at all sessions and events are mandatory. Participants are expected to participate in active discussions with the speakers. Criteria for admission to the program include demonstrated leadership in the JACL at the Youth Council, chapter or district levels; strong personal initiative

and motivation; and a genuine desire to continue to actively contribute to the JACL and the Asian Pacific American community at large. Selection: Each JACL District Council will select two participants for the Conference. Applications should be submitted to your JACL District Governor no later than Jan. 12, 1996. For applications or additional information, contact your JACL regional director, or the National Headquarters at 415/921-5225.

YAMANISHI

(Continued from page 4)

failed or not, or if that person did wrong—I don't know. It's hard to judge. And even—it's kind of unfortunate, it's a prevailing attitude in society. **PC: Yes, To point fingers.** **YAMANISHI:** We're all about doing that right now. I don't know why. It's sort of the in thing to do in American society is to point at everybody else except oneself. Frankly, I believe that we are our own worst enemies in that regard. As far as the way the government has gone, we all—I mean, the government is us, and JACL is us. If we were not participating and involved, and asking the questions at the outset and all along, then we are almost as much to blame for what went wrong for the

federal deficit and anything else. *Let me ask you a question now: How are you feeling about the Pacific Citizen at this point?* **PC: Well, our biggest goal has been to return to a weekly, that's our basic perception from members. Obviously, that's a financial issue and not a philosophical issue. We think the members still do miss that I would encourage you to use PC to communicate your thoughts and programs. We have E-mail, and we are exploring an on-line program.** **YAMANISHI:** I know, basically that's what's happening to the *Detroit Free Press* and the *News* out here in Michigan. That's what they're faced with, will it be a printed press or electronic. It's really a fundamental communications issue.

**PC: It's just the industry is changing, and we are experiencing some of that.** **YAMANISHI:** But I can understand that if the majority of the JACL members are over the age of 55, they're still interested in the printed medium. **PC: Probably.** **YAMANISHI:** But if you're looking at trying to reach other people in other ways, maybe we need to do both. My daughter and her husband, as bright as they are, they don't read the newspapers. They are on the Internet all the time, now. They get all of their information via computers. **PC: And TV. Some of the major daily newspapers in this country are having a difficult time because people turn to CNN get their news—24 hours a day. That's tough competition.**



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Thanks to the generosity of PC cartoonist, Pete Hironaka of Dayton JACL, the first 100 who contribute \$100 or more to support the Pacific Citizen will receive a signed full-colored lithographed poster, "Issei". It measures 21x28 inches.

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## JACL Annual Giving campaign

# A letter to members: support for JACL continues

By GRAYCE UYEHARA  
Chair, JACL Annual Giving  
1995-96 JACL Annual Giving

The JACL Annual Giving program, instituted in November 1994, experienced an unfortunate and unexplained glitch in its second year of fund-raising. I learned about our glitch in mid-December when Lillian Kimura, Mae Takahashi, and Gwen Muranaka told me in telephone conversations that they never received the JACL Annual Giving letter.

The Annual Giving concept was

developed to provide an opportunity for the JACL membership to donate additional financial support over membership dues. JACL has not increased its dues for four bienniums.

Annual giving is a common fund-raising program of numerous non-profit organizations. The United States Post Office must have had much too many annual giving letters to deliver this year; perhaps that is the reason for the failure of JACL's appeal to reach all of its membership.

The 1995-96 Annual Giving, as

of Dec. 28, has received \$51,544 from 1,252 contributors. The list of contributors will be published in the following edition of *Pacific Citizen*.

To initiate a quick recovery action, with no idea of the number of members who did not receive the appeal letter, I have asked *Pacific Citizen* to publish the 1995 Annual Giving letter with the return coupon. The contribution is to be sent to: JACL National Headquarters, P.O. Box 7144, San Francisco, CA 94120-7144.

Without adequate funds to

mount the priority Program for Action, the bottom line would be to limit JACL to a maintenance program. That will not do at this time when our nation is faced with a traumatic struggle to solve mounting problems, and there is no doubt our Nikkei community will be affected in many ways.

Voluntary organizations have been and are the lifeblood of American communities through their memberships. Through our generous financial support to charities and nonprofit groups, we have an opportunity to share in meet-

ing unmet needs and improving personal and chapter services, and to ensure effective advocacy for a better America for all Americans.

Choice is fundamental to taking responsibility for what happens to us. I hope to discuss at another time the power and importance of choice to get JACL back on track with vitality. For now, will you choose to support JACL so funds are available to finance national programs that only JACL, with its structure of 112 chapters and 23,500 members, can do best?

## Annual Giving letter

November, 1995

Dear JACL Supporter:

On his epochal march on civil rights, Martin Luther King Jr. used the phrase, "...until justice rolls down as waters and righteousness as a mighty stream." We are not there—the march must go on.

The JACL has weathered a year of upheaval and there are good signs of dawn ahead. The budget was pared down and sound management policies and procedures to improve accountability were established. We are pleased to report that the organization is slowly on its way back to stability and financial recovery.

All of us recall with pride the accomplishments of the JACL for over 65 years—always looking after the general welfare of our community. The JACL has an enviable record of impacting the nation's political process to eradicate discriminatory laws. Our government apologized to those of us who lost our freedom and redressed our grievance with the symbolic payment of \$20,000.

The Department of Justice's Office of Redress Administration is moving to conclude the program. The JACL's goal was to see that every eligible victim was identified for redress. From October 1990 to August 30, 1995, 79,832 eligible individuals have been sent checks.

However, we must not be lulled into complacency, as positive change does not just happen. It is the result of hard work of leaders and staff, dedicated volunteers, and financial resources from our membership and chapters. All of the parts provide the backbone of the JACL to make the difference for the organization's ability to carry on with its mission.

There is still much to be done to make the American dream a reality for our community and all Americans. What happens in Washington, with our economy and the changes in the workplace, impacts our membership and families. There is no doubt that we need a strong JACL. Our strength is our unity for our common cause.

At PSW's Quarterly Meeting, Denny Yasuhara said that the JACL stands at the crossroads of her destiny. A destiny that we hold in our hands. At a time when anti-Asian violence is spreading across America and hard-fought civil rights gains and legislation determining the opportunities Asian Pacific Americans now have are slowly eroding, we must not forget the priceless legacy our grandparents and parents have left us. They struggled, they were discriminated against, they were interned, they went to war to fight for a country that disowned them, and then they came home and rebuilt their lives from the ashes they left behind. They persevered even when it seemed hopeless. They have left us the only things that really matter: their genes, their dignity and their will to persevere. It is not the numbers nor the money that will ultimately determine our future. It will be our hearts.

The JACL now must go forth with high priority placed on its Program for Action. But keep in mind, this objective has a price tag. The program needs much larger funding to be effective. The 1995 budget is one of maintenance only. In order to balance the 1996 budget, scarce funds were available for programs.

The JACL's Curriculum and Resource Guide: *The Japanese American Experience—A Lesson in American History*, could suffer from lack of funds. A thousand (the JACL currently has less than 100) copies of this guide should be made available to chapters to enable them to work with educational leaders and systems to train teachers to change American education to one that is inclusive in its focus rather than Eurocentric. America is truly a mosaic made up of people who have immigrated from all over the world, and our school curricula should reflect this rich diversity.

The National Board is most appreciative of the generosity of the JACL supporters whose contributions help to keep the JACL operational during some very trying times. Review of our financial status and operation has been completed, and corrective measures such as internal control procedures, an automated financial system, a newly developed membership system, and crucial policy and procedures have been implemented.

The JACL is ready to move into the 21st Century and we need your full support. Please take time for thoughtful consideration of your contribution to the Annual Giving.

The future of the younger generation and the generations to follow depends on the JACL moving forward positively and aggressively on its mission, involving the chapters and its membership. To keep pace with the changing times, the JACL is moving toward the challenging issues of immigration, affirmative action, welfare reform, plus the changes taking place in the workplace—all concerns which impact our community and the quality of life in America.

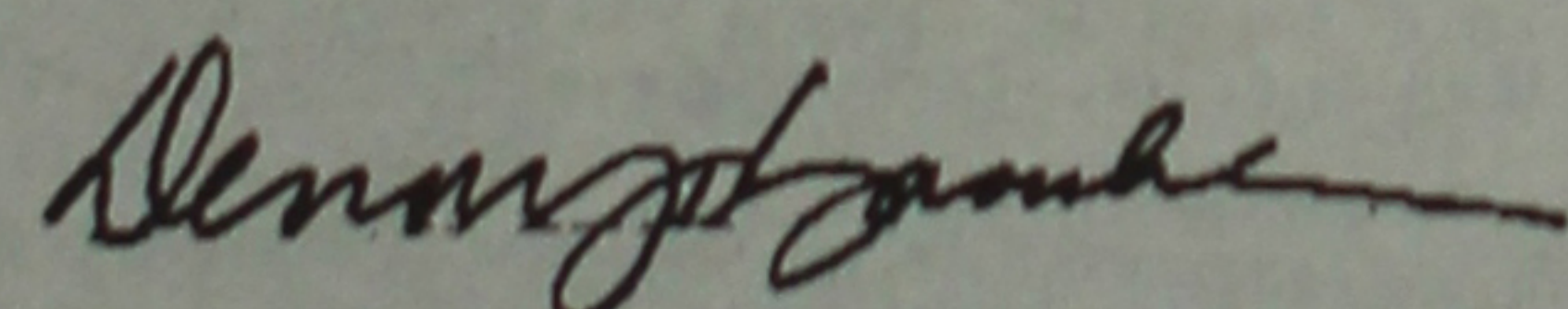
Last year, over 2,000 donors responded to the first Annual Giving.

Contributions totaled \$100,282. Expenditures for fundraising were \$7,197 for a net of \$93,085. This support gave the JACL the funds to continue its work.

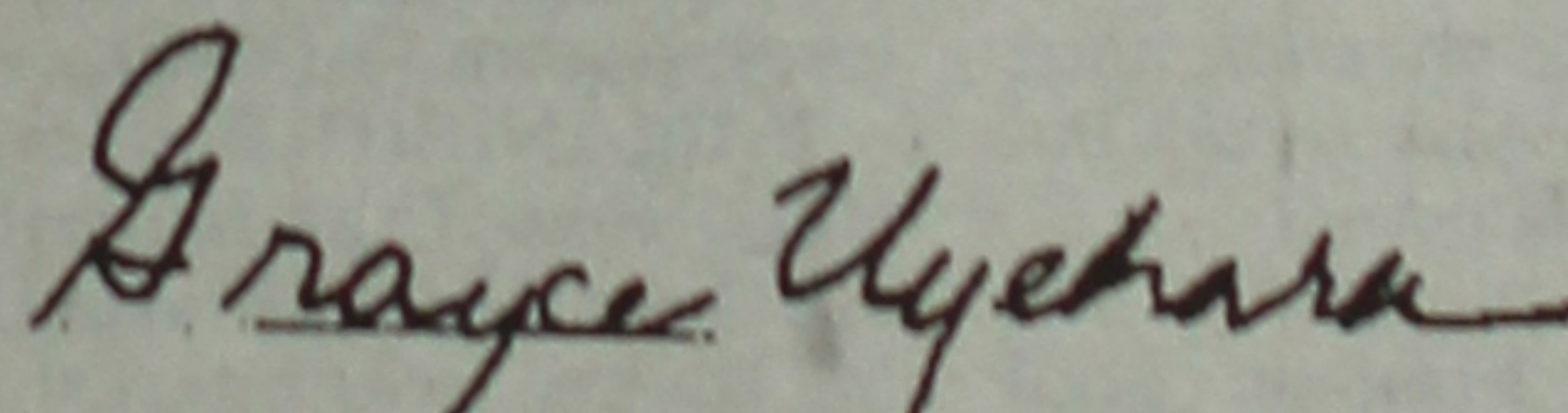
Your generous support and commitment will help the JACL more than you will ever know. We ask you to join dedicated JACL supporters such as Toko Fujii, Les Hata, Helen Kawagoe, Lillian Kimura, Cherry Kinoshita, Etsu Masaoka, Cressey Nakagawa, Roy Nishikawa, Mae Takahashi, Hank Tanaka, Izumi Taniguchi, Shake Ushio and Betty Waki in helping to keep the JACL's mission alive. Please don't delay, send your contribution today.

Many, many thanks.

Sincerely,



Denny Yasuhara  
National President



Grayce Uyehara  
Development Chair

### JACL Annual Giving

Please take a moment to give this request your personal attention.

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## Books

# A sweet and flavorful story

More than a story about peaches, David Mas Masumoto's book chronicles a way of life

By SACHI SEKO

Ours was a brief encounter on a late September night. I can't exactly explain why it happened at all. There were too many logical reasons why it never should have occurred. Since the death of my dearly beloved in April, already an apprehensive driver, I had become much more reluctant about driving, especially at night. The idea of being alone in a car was terrifying after having a companion so long. I tossed the idea around in my head all afternoon, debating whether it would be worth the risk to drive over to a nearby bookstore for David Mas Masumoto's reading from his book, *Epitaph for a Peach*. It had rained most of the day. It was also cold enough to drag out the fall's first sweater. The kind of weather more seductive for settling in with a good book.

And this is probably the worst admission I must make about my hesitation in going to the reading. One part of me, the ingrained-since-childhood, the conscientious Japanese part refused to be silenced. That squeaky, not to be easily stifled voice reminded me I am part of a community that supports any of our own, especially in aesthetic endeavors. We purchase paintings we may never understand. We buy books we may never read. Some of the finest people I know are illiterate but their houses are full of books.

But the not-so-nice part of me was also having her say. She reminded me there have been times when I almost fell asleep reading a book by a Japanese American author. And what about the times I've been known to mutter, "same, same, same," under my breath? Indications I have grown weary of the pervading sadness and forbearing anger expressed in some literature. It can get heavy. Often, after a long siege of focusing on weighty material, I need to regain my equilibrium by resorting to reading something written by that wicked and funny Frank Chin. I know, he isn't even Japanese. Shame on me.

Could this revolt against sad-

ness be symptomatic of my age? Old age. Speaking of age, I found myself describing Masumoto as a "kid." Asked to be more definitive, I said, "Anyone under 50 is a kid." Next year, I will probably change that to "Anyone under 60." As our own seasons pass it is amazing how effortlessly we make these mathematical adjustments. It is pure magic.

Now, I must confess the probable reason I went to hear Masumoto give his reading. I called the bookstore to ask how many they expected to attend. The clerk said she couldn't estimate, particularly since the weather had turned cold and wet. That did it. I happen to have a son, who is a professional writer, meaning he earns his keep by writing. I thought to myself if my son ever wrote a book—fat chance, he says—I'd bet Masumoto's parents would come to hear him, even on a dark and stormy night.

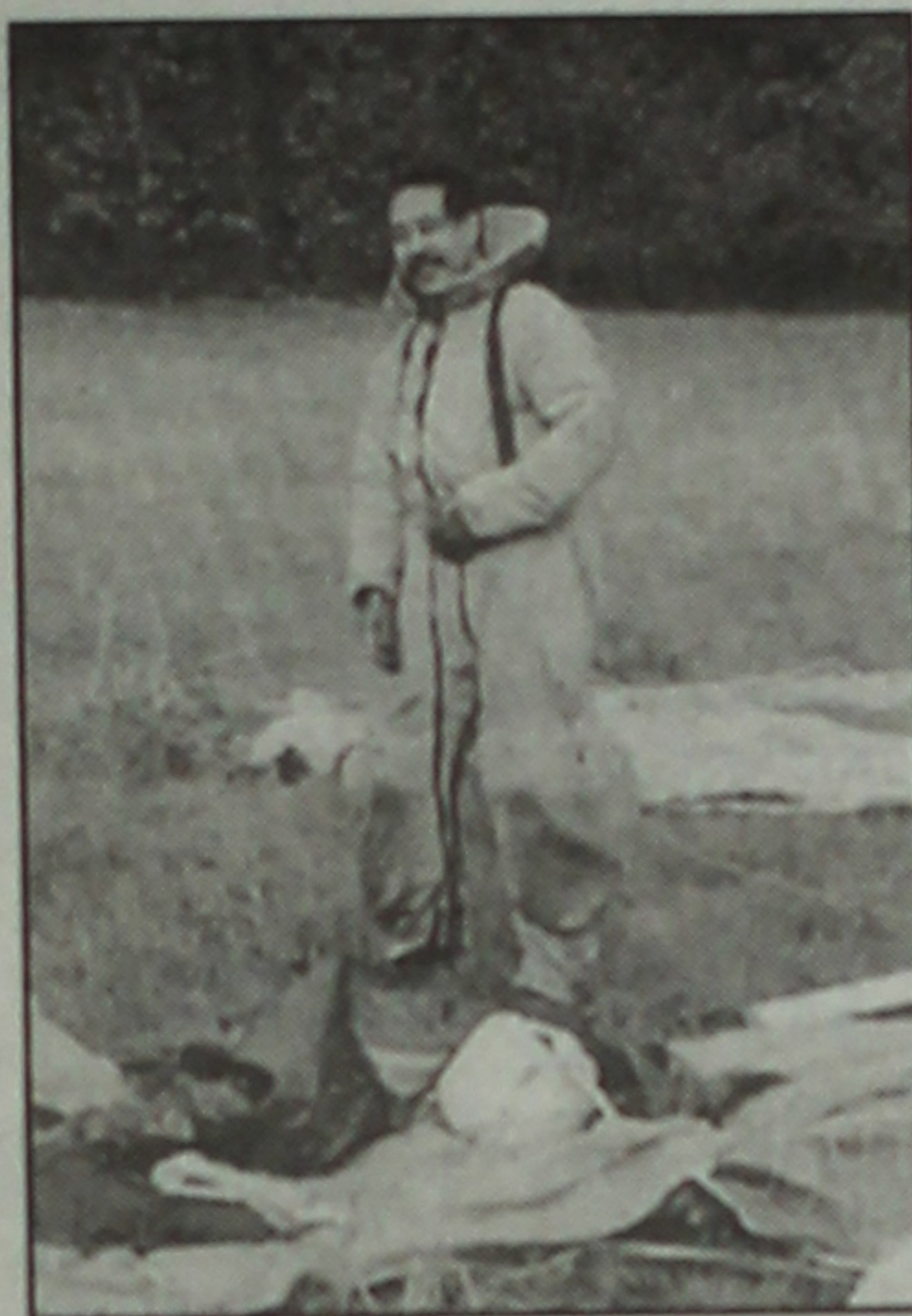
Masumoto was being introduced when I tried to quietly slither across the threshold of the store. He noticed. So did everyone else. It was one of those terrible moments when you wish to be invisible, just disappear. He smiled. He could have given me one of those dagger looks that some of us have perfected into an art form. I liked him immediately. I take that back, I thought I would like his parents immediately if I ever met them because their son is a tribute to them.

Masumoto is unique in several ways. He gave me his calling card which identifies him as "farmer & writer." There is tremendous pride and unabashed joy in his dual professions. He has found the almost perfect balance in life, of tending the land and arranging thoughts. A zest for both produced this book. Now into its fifth printing, *Epitaph for a Peach*, has received tremendous and deserved national recognition.

As Masumoto tells us, it began with a story to the *Los Angeles Times* about his Sun Crest peaches. Those were the peaches his father planted over 20 years ago. With time and progress they have become obsolete, rejected for

newer varieties. But Masumoto has a strong attachment to this fruit. "Sun Crest is one of the last remaining truly juicy peaches. When you wash that treasure under a stream of cooling water, your fingertips instinctively search for the gushy side of the fruit. Your mouth waters in anticipation. You lean over the sink to make sure you don't drip on yourself. Then you sink your teeth into the flesh, and the juice trickles down your cheeks and dangles on your chin. This is a real bite, a primal act, a magical sensory celebration that summer has arrived."

The story to the *Times* brought unexpected response, including syndication of the article and letters and phone calls from strangers urging him to keep the Sun Crests. So Masumoto stops the



DAVID MAS MASUMOTO

bulldozer from digging up the Sun Crests for another season. He writes, "This year will witness not only the possible death of this peach but also the continuing slow extinction of the family farmer. A fruit variety is no longer valued and a way of life is in peril."

Masumoto comes from a family of farmers in Del Rey, Calif. They grow peaches and grapes for raisins. "I'm a third-generation Japanese American farmer but am quite sure my lineage in agricul-

ture dates back centuries. The Masumotos are from a solid peasant stock out of Kumamoto, Japan, rice farmers with not even a hint of samurai blood."

He continues, "I farm the land my father and mother farmed, land where my grandparents probably labored as farm workers. My family is typical of the majority of farm families in California. We come from foreign soils to settle and work lands that have a relatively short history of cultivation. I know well the family who owned our farm before the Masumotos and can talk to some of the first pioneer farmers in the area. Agriculture in California is only a hundred years old."

As individual farm ownership across our land diminishes, Masumoto may well become one of a few of his kind. He performs an invaluable service through his book because it is an excellent record of a year in the life of a farmer. His book is divided into the four seasons, beginning with spring planting. His prose is as clear and clean as a spring sky.

"My fields have become a crazy quilt of cover crops, a wild blend of patterns, some intended, some a product of nature's whims. The different plants grow to different heights and in different patterns, creating a living applique... From the roadside, it often looks like irregular growth, bald spots, breaks in uniformity. But the farmer walking his fields can feel the changing landscape beneath his boots, he can sense the temperature changes with the different densities of growth and smell the pollen of blooming clover or vetch or wildflowers."

Masumoto also has a strong sense of family. "I grew up knowing my father's work. He left in the early morning for places I often visited. Rarely did he return late, in darkness or at night, or weary with problems I could not imagine... My children will know the work of their father, too." *Epitaph*, contains many references to his grandparents, particularly his grandmother, "Baachan." During our brief visit after the reading Masumoto said that when he

is working his farm, occasionally out of the corner of his eye, he sees a fleeting image. He thinks it is the essence of his grandmother, now gone ten years.

He writes, "When World War II entered the final days, the military began closing the relocation camps and issuing tickets to return home. My grandparents were confused. Three sons were either dead or still in the military. (Their eldest son, George, was killed in the war.) My grandparents were one of the last families to leave camp. They had no farm, they had no home. As I dream and plan to make the farm my own, I have inherited this family history as my legacy, part of the baggage that comes with my land." I wish more people, particularly Japanese Americans, could have enjoyed the privilege of listening to Masumoto read his own words. But later, another thought crossed my mind. Perhaps the fact I was the only Japanese American in his audience that night was a point to ponder. That our next generation of writers is making that great leap into a larger arena. That their productivity and republication are not dependent on a select ethnic group. That the general public wants to read them. I rejoice it will be writers like Masumoto who will continue to convey our history but only "as part of the baggage." It is time we moved on without forgetting.

Weeks after our brief encounter, I pull *Epitaph for a Peach*, from a pile of books on a bedside table. These are my treasure books, some I have been reading and re-reading for five decades or more. Words are my pleasure, a lifelong infatuation. They are my music. I never tire of listening.

Listen to Masumoto with me. "We understood the rhythms of farming. Spring meant work, summer meant harvest, fall a time for gratitude and winter a pause for reflection. We were exposed to nature and witnessed the birth of seeds and animals, their eventual death from time and age, and how the cycle repeated each year. We visualized the fruits of hard labor and the true flavors of harvest."

## Stanley Kubota: smokejumper

Stanley Kubota is a smoke jumper for the U.S. Forest Service. Based in Redding, Calif., he has fought forest fires all over the western United States including California, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico and Alaska.

The 33-year-old Sansei, the son of Hiroshi and Yayoi Kubota, Chula Vista, lives with his wife and family east of Redding in Shingletown. In an interview by Yuki Kawamoto, Historical Society secretary, he said he started his fire-fighting career in 1981 with the Forest Service conservation crew, then spent two years on a "hot shot" crew.

He was accepted in 1984 as a smoke jumper even though he had no previous experience with parachutes. "Most smoke jumpers don't have any jumping experience before they become one," he noted.

"We don't fight a fire like most people envision—with fire hoses. In most cases there's no water available, so we construct a hand line by removing fuel and letting the fire burn itself out," Kubota explained. "Most fires are small,

started by lightning. If just the top of the tree is burning, we cut down the tree and let it burn itself out or cover it with dirt."

Getting to a fire depends on wind conditions and a safe jump spot, usually a mile away. "When we jump, we carry a little food, a fire shelter, a hard hat and chest bag. The parachute is worn on our back. The jump suit is made of Kevlar, and we wear a motorcycle helmet with a wire cage."

In viewing a fire from the air, the crew can assess its extent, determine how to extinguish the fire and how best to get in and out. The first one to jump is the crew leader, who has been briefed on the

equipment and the number of men being brought in to fight the fire, the map coordinates, radio frequencies and other instruc-

tions. Kubota said that as a crew leader, which he has been, "There's a million things going through your mind, but you have to keep

your cool and concentrate on getting the job done."

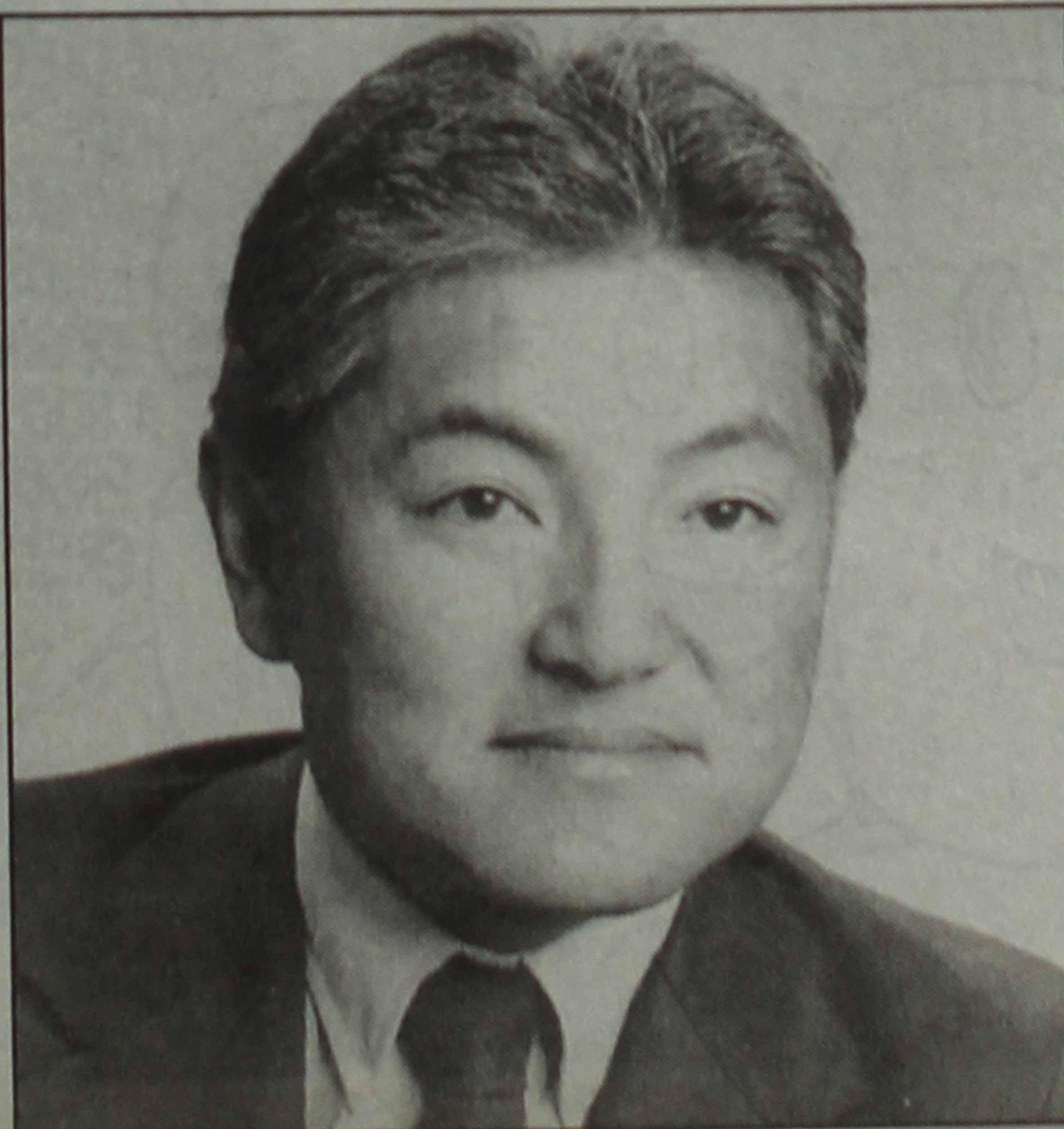
The Forest Service uses a round parachute with steering toggles. The equipment is parachuted down in a cargo pack. "We have to be good tree climbers, too," said Kubota. "Sometimes the cargo pack will get caught up in a tree and we have to climb up to retrieve it." They usually spend no more than 24 hours on the line, but in isolated areas it may be longer, typically two days. "In a big fire, we stay on the line for a week. Then, our food is

brought to us by helicopter or parachuted down from a plane."

At the base between fires, they maintain their personal equipment, sewing and repairing their bags and parachutes, sharpening their crosscut saws. To be allowed to pack his own parachute, Kubota said, he had to pass an FAA test and be licensed as a Class A parachute rigger.

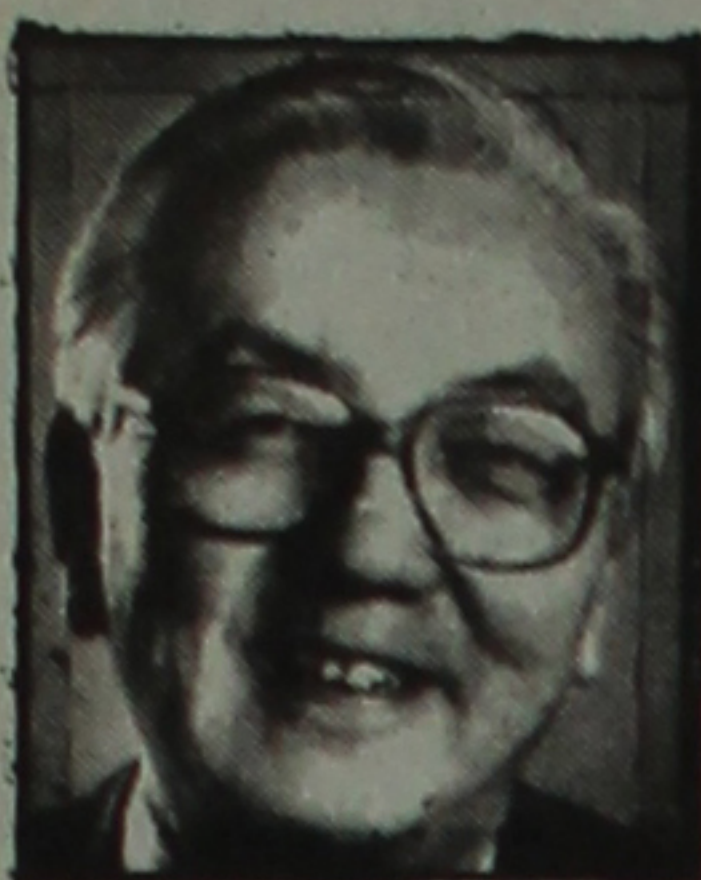
He says that every state presents different problems in fire-fighting. For example, California is rough because of the terrain, and Alaska is unique because of the tundra. "Neat thing about being a smoke jumper is not just the travel, but meeting a variety of different people," he said. But he doesn't like to fight fires in Southern California. "It's mostly brush, and we have to interface with city crews."

Smoke jumpers work the fire season from March and get laid off in November. During the off-season, Kubota does odd jobs.





## Opinions



## From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

## The face is familiar . . .

In his novel *Hawaii*, published in 1959, James Michener noted the large number of inter-racial families in the Islands and predicted that before long everyone would be tea-colored. Of course, that hasn't happened yet. While the mixing of bloodlines no doubt continues, the overall effect has been slowed by a large influx of whites from the U.S. mainland.

Inter-cultural and inter-racial marriages involving Japanese Americans are no longer rare on the mainland. A scholarly study some years ago indicated that well over half of Sansei and Yonsei marriages are with partners outside the Japanese American racial community.

This situation isn't without its problems, particularly for the half-white, half-Asian offspring of such unions. The subject was the theme of this publication's Holiday Issue last month with scholars and *hapa* and parents of mixed-race children addressing the subject in frank, articulate and often moving fashion. Certainly the material in this Holiday Issue was the equal of if not superior to previous Holiday Issues when the subject matter tends to be thoughtful and often provocative.

While the *hapa* theme can be serious, it

needn't be morbid. I knew mixed-blood kids in my youth who, depending on their inclination, fit nicely into either Japanese American or totally American societies. These friends were of a rare breed because in many states miscegenation—what a harsh sounding word that is—was illegal. It took a Supreme Court case, in which Bill Marutani, former JACL legal counsel, was involved, to outlaw anti-miscegenation laws. In a sense, inter-racial marriages were given a legal boost when Congress passed the so-called Soldiers Brides bill which enabled American servicemen to bring their Japanese spouses to the United States.

There are a couple of interesting *hapa* cases in Denver. One is, a blond-haired, blue-eyed male who has a Japanese surname inherited from his grandfather. His own Nisei father married an American woman with primarily North European antecedents. It doesn't seem to bother this Sansei, if he can be called that, that his last name is obviously Japanese while he looks Nordic.

But it did provide some problems when he was working for a company that had many foreign visitors, some of them Japa-

nese. When Japanese guests show up, he was summoned to escort them around the plant and explain what was going on. Since he spoke no Japanese at all, there was some confusion until the situation could be explained.

The other story has to do with the co-anchor of Denver's leading TV news team. Her name is Adele Arakawa and her mother, as I understand it, is a Nisei from Hawaii. Adele came to Denver several years ago from Chicago where she was a well known TV personality. Aware of her exotic beauty, Adele has chosen to use her Nisei mother's maiden name for professional purposes although her father is Caucasian and she herself is married to a Caucasian.

This seems to be another case where a Japanese background and a Japanese name are assets. Can you imagine sculptor Isamu Noguchi, a *hapa*, having been handicapped by his Japanese name after he had established his credentials?

See HOSOKAWA/page 11

*Hosokawa is the former editorial page editor for the Denver Post. His column appears in the Pacific Citizen.*

## Come-on sense

BY KARL NOBUYUKI

## The right thing to do

In Los Angeles a smoldering issue has resurfaced. It has to do with the building of a "memorial" monument for veterans of the second World War, and is intertwined with the "appropriateness" of listing the names of all those who served in that conflict versus solely those who made the ultimate sacrifice in each of the conflicts from the Spanish American war.

For many whom I have spoken with, the issue seems more like a family argument. Few wish to take sides, but would rather that the issue would just go away. However, it won't. In a community the size of Los Angeles a memorial to the Japanese American veterans of the WWII conflict cannot be left to the whims of political infighting and "goodguy-badguy" roles. Rather, it is a matter of doing what is right.

Just about everyone will agree that the contributions of the Nisei through their military service was the key to the advancement of the JA community overall. Their legacy is the foundation of today's advance of the Nikkei. Consequently, it is the *giri* of today's Nikkei to set the matter to rest.

On a personal basis, I cannot forget the impact I had when I stood before the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. Its impact is virtually indescribable and one that is felt rather than articulated. The sheer power of absorbing the vast number of Americans who gave their last breath to pursue their country's mission is breathtaking. It is a humbling experience that forces one to reflect very deeply and personally, and give thought for those who gave it all, so we can reflect on history.

None of those engraved on the Vietnam Memorial will be able to reconstruct their lives and work towards the future. Their future was frozen in that moment in time. Their memory will be left up to those of us who choose to remember.

While I support a monument to all the Nisei who served during WWII, I believe that we first and foremost must memorialize those who made the supreme sacrifice. The achievement of the Nisei veteran was a milestone for all Japanese Americans and was so achieved when most Nikkei were interned. Those MIAs and KIAs will never

benefit from that legacy.

First things first.

I contend that after we pay proper homage to those who gave their lives to enhance ours, that we then honor all who were engaged in the effort. Subsequently, a national organization, such as the JACL, should dedicate its walls to properly and proudly engrave an honor roll listing each and every veteran that served in defense of their homeland.

The bottom line is: a memorial to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice; and an honor roll to memorialize all who served.

**Come-On Sense:** It's the right thing to DO.

*Karl K. Nobuyuki is the director of Visual Education for the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. He has created more than 20 nationally released productions.*

## On-line letters

## Reader suggests stories on Kibei

Good to know that P.C. is on-line. I'm retired and wondering how many of us are on-line. Incidentally, as a matter of interest, thousands of Kibei returned to the U.S. mainland and Hawaii and were initially shunned by the Nisei society . . . However, after the Korean conflict, many Kibei either matriculated in higher education on their GI bill and became professionals or applied their bilingual skills effectively and climbed the ladder of success in business, especially in Japanese companies as the companies required persons with language and technical skills. From the mid-'60s the Kibei were gradually assimilating with the general Japanese American community. Have you ever explored this subject? Just a thought.

## Hiroshi Matsumoto

Los Altos, Calif.

Matt929@aol.com

(Ed.—P.C. has one coming up on the MIS linguists, many of whom were Kibei.)

## New JACL members wants to help out

Hello. My name is Michael Cibenko and I'm a relatively new JACL member. Currently, I'm a senior at the University of Montana (major in literature/minor in Japanese). Japanese related courses this semester for me include Japanese (language) 201 and a course on Japanese fiction.

I'm writing today in an attempt to become more involved with JACL. Living in Montana, it's difficult to maintain contact with other members. Perhaps the information superhighway will provide better opportunities for people like me and I'm glad that you're now on-line. I'd like to take this chance to make a few inquiries if I may.

I'm wondering if there is any work that I might be able to do for JACL from my home. Also, as a member of The University of Montana's Japan Club, I have many contacts amongst the Japanese foreign exchange students and faculty members. Perhaps I could be instrumental in helping to shape some ties between the Japanese community here and JACL. Please get back to me regarding this matter.

Lastly, it is my goal to travel to Japan after graduation in May '96. I'm currently applying for various work opportunities both through my college's Japanese department and the JET organization. Any information you could provide that might be useful would be greatly appreciated.

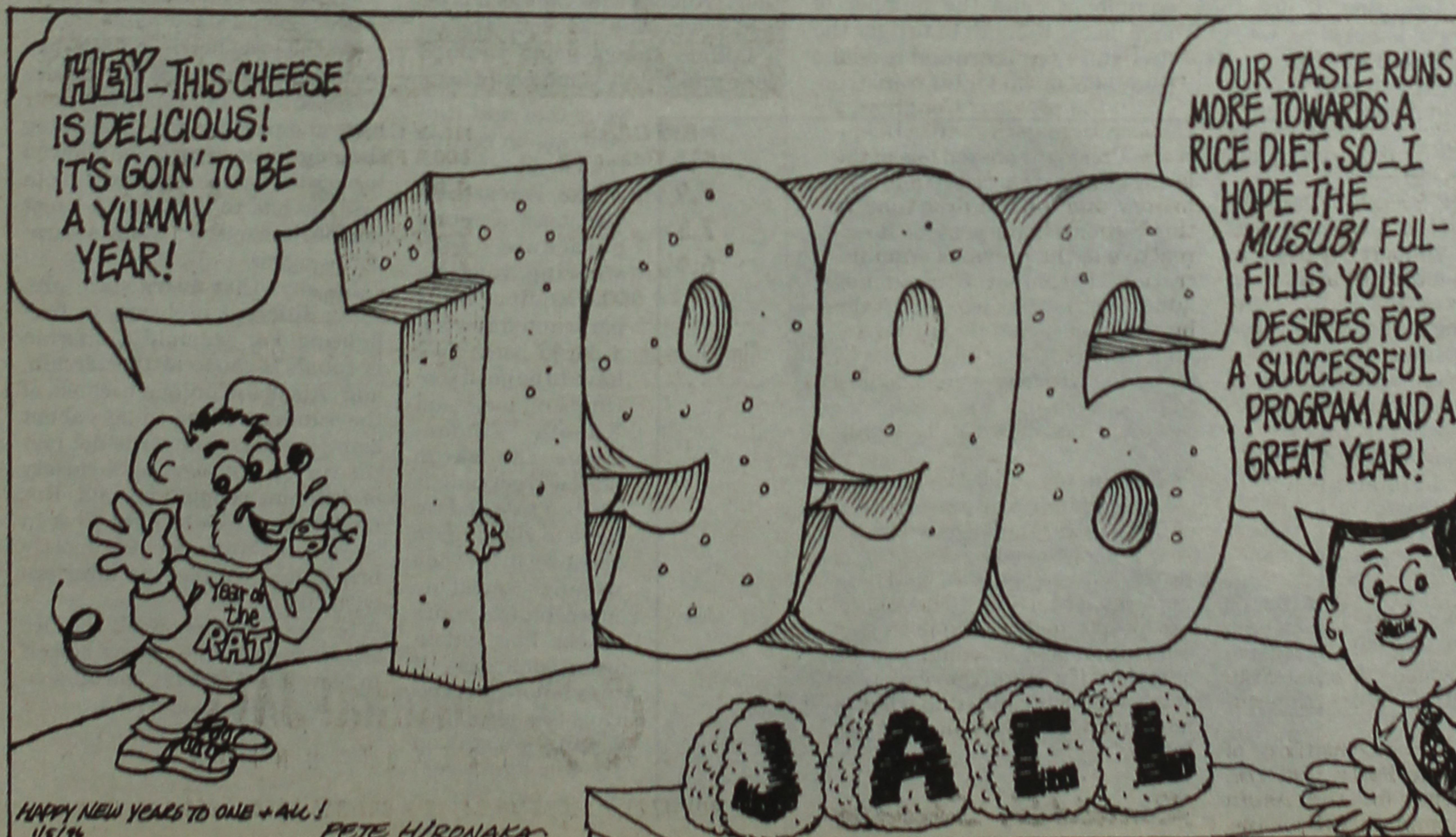
I thank you for your time and this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. I hope that I'll be able to take further advantage of this means of communication in the future.

## Michael Cibenko

Huson, Mont.

masaru@slway.umd.edu

See LETTERS/page 9



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## Voices

# The silent warriors

More stories on the MIS from an Alaskan JACler

By SYLVIA KOBAYASHI

Fifty years ago, we Americans with "look alike" enemy faces endured the most humiliating and difficult years of our lives. The country that we loved took us at face value and herded us into internment camps.

There, from behind barbed wire fences, came eager young men volunteering to prove our loyalty. They offered their lives for their country and joined many who had already answered the call.

Early in 1941, the War Department had surveyed Japanese language capabilities within the armed services and discovered an alarming shortage of linguists. They also discovered that the only source of competence were in the Japanese American Nisei (the second generation born Japanese).

The Department asked for volunteers. How ironic! The Selective Service had changed the status of Niseis from 1-A to 4-C in January 1942. However, volunteers would be accepted for intelligence work, and in February 1943 the Nisei were allowed to volunteer for the famed 442nd Combat Regiment, which had its beginnings in Hawaii nine months earlier as the 100th Battalion.

The first class began at the Presidio in San Francisco with 60 students. On November 1, 1941, my husband and I joined veterans of the MIS to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Military Intelligence Service Language School. We gathered at the Presidio in Monterey where the school is currently located and renamed The Defense Language Institute. The veterans were honored with a 21 gun salute and the Army, Navy, and Marines paraded, marched, and saluted them.

The second class of all volunteer Nisei soldiers began training on June 1, 1942 at Camp Savage, Minnesota. The school soon outgrew Camp Savage and was transferred to Fort Snelling. The men had proven themselves loyal and valuable in Alaska and Guadalcanal. This May, Koby and I will be joining MIS graduates all over the nation for a Sentimental Journey to Fort Snelling and Camp Savage.



Sylvia Kobayashi

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the Aleutian Campaign, the "Forgotten War." Forgotten, also, are the young Japanese American linguists of the Military Intelligence who served side by side with the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marines in Alaska (approximately fifty). So valuable were these men that they were assigned bodyguards. Alaska Scout Sgt. Joe Kelly was Don Oka's bodyguard on Kiska.

One such G.I. was Henry Suyehira of Emmett, Idaho. His story needs telling. Henry answered the call in 1940. In November, 1941 he was sent to the Presidio in San Francisco, California, to attend the hastily organized Military Intelligence Language School. The school began with a \$2,000 budget and operated out of an abandoned airplane hangar on Crissey Field. Henry was there on December 7, 1941.

In May, 1942, Henry arrived in Anchorage. He was immediately shipped to Umnak. The colonel greeted him with, "Boy, I'm sure glad to see YOU!" As the enemy bombed Dutch Harbor, Henry watched the dogfights in the sky. Then the enemy came searching for the U.S. land-based station, Umnak. Henry watched as the Zero out-manuevered the U.S. aircraft. In order to come out winners, the U.S. had to fight two-on-one.

From Umnak, Henry was sent

to Attu as fierce fighting continued. He was in headquarters when the final Banzai attack came roaring through the valley. He was ready with the records. The engineers of the construction crew stopped the attack just 300 yards from headquarters.

After Alaska, Henry served in Australia, New Guinea, and the Philippines. Henry Suyehira passed away three months after my interview with him in 1991.

My husband "Koby" was also part of the Military Intelligence Service. However, compared to Henry's story, Koby's service years are dull but, nonetheless, it needs mentioning.

Koby was drafted five days before Pearl Harbor.

He was one of four Kobayashi boys to serve. After basic training in Texas, Koby was sent to Camp Robinson, Arkansas, where he stayed for over two years. He was eligible for furlough more than once but visiting his parents in internment camp was off limits to him as a Japanese American. He could not see his parents for a year and a half.

Although Koby was assigned to the cadre unit and was qualified to train recruits, he was never allowed to train or go on bivouacs. He was never allowed to carry arms. However, he was allowed to do menial chores. He was working as a mail clerk when the captain spied him typing one day. From then on, he was the company clerk.

Although Koby's I.Q. was four points higher than his German American buddy, the latter was sent to Officers Training School and Koby remained the company clerk for two years with a corporal's rating.

One day, Koby was told that he must go to the European Theater or to the Pacific. Europe meant the 442nd all Japanese American combat regiment. Koby had two brothers there. The Pacific Theater meant attending Military Intelligence Language School to learn the Japanese military language.

See WARRIORS/page 11

ness the signing ceremony.

3. The administration of a Republican President, George Bush, carried out the vast majority of the payments as required by the Redress Legislation.

4. When Senator Pete V. Domenici R-NM, made the commitment to support Redress in 1984, it became a Bi-Partisan issue which assured its passage. Without being asked, he later took steps to see that Redress Payments became an entitlement like Social Security Benefits. In a personal conversation with Pete, he indicated to me that President George Bush had called him to question this move. en Pete told him that it was only right that these payments be an entitlement, President Bush concurred.

5. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the architect of the NEW DEAL signed Executive Order 9066 which led to one of the greatest civil injustices of this century.

6. It was the insensitivity of the Democratic Party that created problems for the Asian American Community in Spokane, Washington which National Presi-

dent Denny Yasuhara had to deal with pretty much on his own.

7. In the previous Congress, a Democratic majority with a Democratic President passed one of the largest tax increases in American history and for the first time in this Nation's history, made it retroactive to the previous administration. President Clinton has admitted that this was a mistake but has not asked that it be undone. Thus, we are being deprived of more of our hard earned dollars to fund programs which past experience has shown to be a failure.

So, lets take some time to see who our friends really are. In light of these facts I sometimes wonder why some Japanese Americans think that they have to belong to the Democratic Party. The American people in 1994 came to this realization and I would not be surprised if many of the readers of this paper contributed to what is now called "The Republican Revolution."

**Ronald S. Shibata**  
Albuquerque, N.M.

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## LETTERS

(Continued from page 8)

Over the past few months, I have observed in the P.C. how many of the members are bashing the Republican Party and predicting doom and gloom for the programs of the JACL because of the Republican Majority in both Houses of Congress. This was very evident in the coverage of Congressman Noman Mineta's resignation from Congress. How short our memories are. Let's look at the historical facts.

1. A Republican President, Gerald Ford, issued an Executive Order to rescind Executive Order 9066 which initiated the whole tragedy of the relocation of Japanese-Americans in 1942.

2. A Republican President, Ronald Reagan, signed the Bill authorizing Redress to Japanese-Americans and Alaskan Aleuts in 1988. Many JACL members left the National Convention in Seattle that year to catch a quick flight to Washington, DC to wit-



## In memoriam—1995

PC presents the second part of its "In memoriam—95" report.

**Iwamatsu, Atsushi** (aka Taro Yashima), 85, Los Angeles, June 30; Kagoshima-born artist, author and WWII-OSS veteran, was PC's first political cartoonist ('43), co-authored with his wife and illustrated children's books based on their lives in Japan; founded Yashima Art Institute, Los Angeles '53, won 13th Grand Prix for painting award from Deauville, France.

**Iwatsu, Peter O.**, New York, Feb. 6; San Francisco-born, MIT civil engineering graduate ('38), WWII veteran, Lt.

Col. in Army Corps of Engineers.

**Kagiwada, Frank Eiho**, 99, Los Angeles, Feb. 6; Kanagawa-born So. Calif. Issei leader.

**Kasama, Shigeru**, 74, Los Angeles, May 24; artist-journalist.

**Kashiwa, Herbert K.**, 63, Seattle, Dec. 28, '94; Hawaii-born University of Washington School of Medicine and Dentistry professor for 25 years.

**Kato, Kazuo**, 72, Seattle, Aug. 9; Portland-born 442nd veteran, Co. K, Boeing mechanical engineer, instrumental in building Seattle Betsuin's Wisteria Plaza.

**Kato, Tsujio, DDS**, 56, Oxnard, Feb. 20; Oxnard-born, mayor, councilman, president of Oxnard Buddhist Temple, Noontimers Lions, Ventura County

JACL, founder-chair Calif. Strawberry Festival.

**Kawamoto, Mitsuo**, 73, Omaha, Neb., Feb. 20; Fowler, Calif.-born landscape urban planner, Omaha JACL pres. ('72-'73), Mountain Plains district governor ('75-'80), nat'l v.p. research & development ('80-'82).

**Kawasaki, Zesei**, 90, Oxnard, April 24; Buddhist minister emeritus.

**Kikunaga, Jitsuo J.**, 82, Los Angeles, March 2; Miyazaki-born Japanese editor, Kashi Mainichi.

**Kikuta, Hideo**, 81, Fowler, Calif., Sept. 6; Fresno-born, Fowler JACL president '64.

**Kishi, Fred**, 73, Livingston, Sept. 8, '94; Livingston-born farmer with brother

Sherman since '50, WWII MIS veteran, Livingston-Merced JACL pres. ('67), 20-year plus Livingston Unified School District board member.

**Kobayashi, Roderick T.**, 63, Downey, June 17; Hawaii-born founder of AIA / Seidokan Aikido.

**Koizaku, Asamatsu**, 95, Loomis, Dec. 2, '94; Kumamoto-born Placer County JACLer.

**Kono, Hisako**, 82, Seattle, Dec. 23, '94; widow of Rev. Juhei Kono, pastor emeritus of Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church.

**Konoshima, Isaku**, 70, New Rochelle, N.Y., March 7; Tokyo-born principal at Isaac Young Jr. High School, Santa Clara, Calif., 1924-1942, at New Rochelle school system 1953 as math teacher.

**Kubo, Cho**, 103, Sacramento, Feb. 15; Yamaguchi-born.

**Kumamoto, Frank 'Match'**, 83, Los Angeles, Jan. 20; Glendale-born WWII-MIS veteran, pharmacist, first Nisei L.A. Bowling Assn. board member.

**Kunimura, Tony**, 72, Lihue, Kauai, Aug. 28; organized ILWU '40s, Kauai county supervisor, 1954-62; State House Representative, 1962-1982; Kauai mayor (D), 1982-1988, patron of the arts.

**Kuyama, Paul Y.**, 75, San Diego, Feb. 26; San Francisco-born WWII veteran (of first MISLS graduating class from Presidio of San Francisco), compiled history from Japanese military data 1947-1952, a 30-year title search officer, VFW Post 4851 commander, Kiku Gardens president.

**Kyono, Ko**, 103, El Cerrito, Calif., Sept. 6; San Francisco pioneer.

**Maesumi, Rev. Hakuyu**, 64, Los Angeles, July 2; Japan-born abbot of the Zen Center, Idyllwild, Calif.

**Marumoto, Judge Masaji**, 89, Honolulu, Feb. 10; Hawaii-born jurist, WWII veteran in Judge Advocate General Corps in Okinawa, nominated by President Eisenhower to Hawaii territorial supreme court in 1956, served in '60 and '67 term in Hawaii state supreme court, decorated by Emperor Hirohito with Order of Sacred Treasure 2nd Class.

**Maruyama, Paul**, 88, St. Louis, Mo., April 2; Yamanashi-born naturalized U.S. citizen, Keio University graduate, pre-war Sacramento and WWII Japanese language instructor, opened St. Louis's first Japanese import store, St. Louis JACL founder, Japanese Botanic Gardens leader, awarded Japan's 5th Order of Merit of Sacred Treasure.

**Maruyama, Tamaki**, 106, Los Angeles, April 13; Nagano-born, naturalized U.S. citizen and Glendale resident.

**Matsumura, Clarence**, 74, Yorba Linda, May 13; Green River, Wyo.-born WWII 522nd chronicler and Korean Conflict veteran.

**Matsushima, Miya**, 104, Los Angeles, Aug. 21; Kumamoto-born.

**McLaren, Dallas Carlton**, 92, Honolulu, March 4; Illinois-born high school principal at Poston Camp 2, Hawaii teacher since '26 (Hilo, Kauai), retired in '76 from Kawanakao Intermediate School.

**Miyamoto, Hoshito 'Oyster'**, 76, Monterey, Nov. 22, '94; Monterey Peninsula JACL pres. '57. **Miyamura, Kay Kazuto**, 76, Penryn, May 22; Placer County JACL president '82-'83.

**Mochizuki, Edward S.**, 93, Santa Barbara, Feb. 21; Hiroshima-born, USC graduate in architecture in '20s, returned postwar from New York architectural firm to family vineyards in Madera.

**Mori, Kazuo**, 91, Bellflower, Feb. 25; Fukuoka-born supermarket industry pioneer with his partner Kikuro Hada.

**Mukaeda, Katsuma**, 104, Hemet, Calif., Nov. 4 following a September automobile accident in Hemet, Calif; Kumamoto-born naturalized U.S. citizen, Downtown L.A. JACL (the second Issei) president in 1960, lobbied for Issei naturalization, rallied national support for JACL's Japanese American Research Project, thrice decorated from Japan.

**Murakami, Kiyo**, 102, Los Angeles, Feb. 18; Kumamoto-born.

**Nakada, Maki**, 102, Azusa, Jan. 24; Okinawa-born pioneer.

**Nakamura, Dyke**, 80, Tokyo, March 15; Portland, Ore.-born WWII MIS and Korean War veteran, stock broker, Yamakichi Securities.

**Nakamura, Hisaye**, 89, Los Angeles, March 17; Wakayama-born naturalized U.S. citizen and widow of Gongoro, National JACL's first naturalized Issei chapter president, Downtown L.A., '59.

**Nakashima, Mitsuteru 'Mits'**, 85, & **Mikiye**, 75, Watsonville, July 8 in auto accident; wholesale flower growers.

**Nicholson, Goldie**, 88, Medina, Ohio, March 31; Ohio-born Baptist missionary in Japan and Sacramento, WWII Tule Lake school teacher.

**Nishi, Dick**, 73, Davis, March 15; Sacramento-born civil engineer with Caltrans of 37 years, Yolo County grand juror.

**Nishi, Midori, Ph.D.**, 74, Monterey Park, July 8, Los Angeles-born professor of geography, Cal State L.A.

**Nishida, Ichiro**, 75, San Lorenzo, Calif., Aug. 17; Wapato, Wash.-born, 45-year employee for Kawahara Nursery, Inc., San Lorenzo; Eden Township JACL president ('71-'72, '76-'77, '82-'84, '90), founding member of East Bay Japanese for Action ('71), named JASEB (Japanese American Services of the East Bay), Northern California Japanese American Senior Centers president since '89.

**Nishida, Ura**, 101, Los Angeles, Feb. 19; Kumamoto-born.

**Nomura, Bob Shoichi**, 69, Oakland, July 3; Delano-born Kibei, East Bay representative of Hokubei Mainichi.

**Obata, Hatsuye**, 101, San Lorenzo, June 14; Wakayama-born.

**Okubo, Mabel**, 78, Stockton, Feb. 6; Walnut Grove-born, Stockton JACL president ('75-'76).

**Omachi, George 'Hats'**, 72, Fresno, May 27; San Fernando-born major league baseball talent scout of 27 years (last five for Houston Astros).

**Oyama, Tsuneko**, 100, Los Angeles, June 8; Tokyo-born.

**Ozamoto, Isamu, MD**, 81, Denver, Jan. 11; physician, WWII army medical officer.

**Sakada, Shizuko**, 75, Chicago, Aug. 28; wife of the late Dr. Randolph Sakada, National JACL president ('50-'52).

**Sakahara, Yosh**, 75, Ontario, Ore., Feb. 4; Fife, Wash.-born auto mechanic, Snake River JACL president 1961.

**Sakai, Roy**, 82, El Cerrito, Jan. 29; longtime rose grower.

**Sakata, Hisako**, 73; Cheyenne, Wyo., Aug. 27; Casper, Wyo.-born Washington, DC JACL pres '59, budget analyst with U.S. Public Health Service and the Environmental Protection Agency.

**Sakata, Kiyoko**, 91, Burbank, Feb. 27; founding member of Glendale Japanese Free Methodist Church.

**Sakioka, Katsumasa**, 96, Costa Mesa, Calif., Oct. 28; Shikoku-born farmer and landowner, named one of America's 400 richest by Forbes Magazine in '91, pre-war celery grower in Venice.

**Sasakawa, Ryoichi**, 96, Tokyo, July 18; Japanese philanthropist, twice nominated for Nobel Peace Prize because of his world-wide charity, made his millions in the legal race gambling empire.

**Shibata, Welly T.**, Tokyo, Jan. 4; pioneer English section editor with Mainichi newspapers in Japan, University of Washington graduate, prewar journalist with Japanese American Courier, Seattle, and Pacific Citizen.

**Shimoda, Takezo**, 87, Tokyo, Jan. 22; Japan ambassador to U.S. '67-70; supreme court justice, '71-77, Japan baseball commissioner '79-85.

**Shohara, Tom Naoichi**, 93, Fresno, Oct. 27; Hiroshima-born pioneer fruit and vineyard grower.

**Sprung, Murray**, 92, New York, Oct. 30; attorney (1929-1994), old Hebrew Orphan Asylum (one alumnus and columnist Art Buchwald referred to him as "our Father Flanagan," Manila and Tokyo war crime trial counsel, lifelong New York JACLer.

**Suehiro, Rev. James Eiji**, 89, Los Angeles, Jan. 20; Yamaguchi-born Holiness Church minister.

**Taira, Kenmyo**, 84, San Francisco, Feb. 2; Hiroshima-born Nichiren Buddhist minister, taught Japanese to U.S. military during WWII at New Haven, Conn.

**Terasawa, Toshikazu**, 72, Los Angeles, Sept. 6; Little Tokyo community and civic leader, USC graduate in architecture ('49), L.A. City Building and Safety commissioner, 18 years, L.A. Harbor commissioner, JACCC board chair, L.A./

**Nishi, Midori, Ph.D.**, 74, Monterey Park, July 8, Los Angeles-born professor of geography, Cal State L.A.

**Nishida, Ichiro**, 75, San Lorenzo, Calif., Aug. 17; Wapato, Wash.-born, 45-year employee for Kawahara Nursery, Inc., San Lorenzo; Eden Township JACL president ('71-'72, '76-'77, '82-'84, '90), founding member of East Bay Japanese for Action ('71), named JASEB (Japanese American Services of the East Bay), Northern California Japanese American Senior Centers president since '89.

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**Shohara, Tom Naoichi**, 93, Fresno, Oct. 27; Hiroshima-born pioneer fruit and vineyard grower.

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**Suehiro, Rev. James Eiji**, 89, Los Angeles, Jan. 20; Yamaguchi-born Holiness Church minister.

**Taira, Kenmyo**, 84, San Francisco, Feb. 2; Hiroshima-born Nichiren Buddhist minister, taught Japanese to U.S. military during WWII at New Haven, Conn.

**Terasawa, Toshikazu**, 72, Los Angeles, Sept. 6; Little Tokyo community and civic leader, USC graduate in architecture ('49), L.A. City Building and Safety commissioner, 18 years, L.A. Harbor commissioner, JACCC board chair, L.A./

See OBITS/page 11

## SHIOZAWA

(Continued from page 1)

Shiozawa said, "Troy told the judge, 'I didn't do it. I don't want to plead guilty to something I didn't do.'"

Speaking to the *Idaho State Journal*, Mark Hiedemann, Bannock County prosecutor, said, "We've been working on this plea bargain for some time. We believed it to be a reasonable compromise."

Shiozawa's father said that Troy is currently working on his MBA in accounting during the day and returning to the jail in the evening. He said that Leslie, contrary to terms of the plea bargain, had indicated she may file a civil suit against Shiozawa.

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### DEATH NOTICE

#### KAY K. KAMIMOTO

Kay K. Kamimoto, 78, passed away on Dec. 22 in San Juan Bautista, Calif. He is survived by wife, Yoshiko; son, David of Santa Cruz, Norman of San Francisco, Howard of Palo Alto; daughter-in-law, Barbara of San Francisco; sister, Teruko Takeda of Fresno, Toyoko Masui of Lodi, Mary Yamamoto of San Jose and many numerous nieces and nephews.

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**Qualifications:** Bachelor's Degree or two-three years experience as an administrative assistant; strong writing and PC skills; and proven interpersonal and organizational skills.

**Duties:** Responsible for providing administrative secretarial support to the National Director as well as staff support for ongoing programs; coordinate and prepare materials for national board meetings; write press releases, and interface with regional offices on legislative and administrative issues.

Please submit resume to:

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Japanese American Citizens League  
1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA, 94115



## WARRIORS

(Continued from page 9)

Koby's background hardly qualified. He was fluent in Spanish but knowledge of the Japanese language was almost nil. He could not read or write and could barely speak Japanese. He protested and asked to be sent to combat.

Well, the military does strange and wonderful things. Koby was sent to Camp Savage, Minnesota, in December, 1943, to learn the Japanese military language and was transferred to Fort Snelling in 1944. (The school at the Presidio was moved inland since the west coast was off limits to those of Japanese ancestry.)

After a year of intense studying, Koby graduated and was able to read, write, and translate as well as interrogate in Japanese. He was shipped to the Philippines and from there he landed in Tokyo in September, 1945. After a winter assignment in Hokkaido, still in his summer fatigues, he was finally allowed to return home.

Koby's worries about home were justified. He returned to find the family businesses (melon farming and trucking) in ruins. The family home was looted and burned. His aged parents were living in a tent.

In 1943, fourteen MIS graduates volunteered into Merrill's Marauders and trained with British General Wingate's guerrilla units in India. They were in North Burma behind enemy lines as part of General "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell's Second Burma Campaign. General Frank Merrill told his Marauders, "Study each of these Nisei well, guard and protect them in battle. The success of our campaign depends on the intelligence work of these men. One Nisei is worth 10,000 GIs."

Henry Goshio of Merrill's Marauders was nicknamed "Horizontal Hank" as he was shot at so many times. (Henry and I shared the same address in 1942: Puyallup Assembly Center and Minidoka Internment Camp, Idaho).

Sgt. George Nakamura was a member of the U.S. Dixie Mission in Yenan, North China, the Headquarters of the communist Chinese forces under Mao Tse Tung and Chou En Lai. George was given a party by Chou En Lai on his 21st birthday which was attended by Chairman Mao.

In Burma, on April 5, 1944, Sgt. Roy Matsumoto stood up in the midst of enemy assault and called out an all-out BANZAI attack on their position. This exposed the enemy and the Americans opened fire. Matsumoto saved 600 lives. He was not recommended for the Medal of Honor because he was "an enlisted man doing his duty."

Frank Hachiya of Hood River, Oregon was killed on Leyte during intelligence reconnaissance behind enemy lines. Although he was born and raised in the Hood River Valley, he was not permitted to be buried there.

It is said that the Japanese American soldiers in the Pacific shortened the war by two years. They were in combat on Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Philippines, China-India-Burma, and Australia. They were in the U.S. Army Paratroops and they were with Merrill's Marauders...and they were in Alaska. President Truman called them "our human secret weapon." It is one of the best kept secrets of WWII. Their story is virtually unknown to most Americans. They were the "Silent Warriors."

WWII seems far away and long ago today. Koby and I have become part of history now. We are proud of our Japanese heritage that taught us values and a code of living that emphasizes high standards. We are prouder yet, to

be Americans, to live in the good old USA, the land that the men of our generation were willing to die for, to prove beyond a doubt that our enemy faces cover pure American hearts.

*Sylvia K. Kobayashi is a freelance writer who is currently researching and writing a book entitled, Americans with Enemy Faces: Alaska's Japanese Americans in World War II. She has given permission to the Grains of Rice to reprint this article.*

## OBITS

(Continued from page 10)

Nagoya Sister Cities Affiliation.  
**Togasaki, George K.**, 96, Tokyo, Feb. 6; San Francisco-born, WWII veteran, JACL pioneer, postwar Japan Times publisher, Rotary International president 1968-69, International Christian Univer-

sity founder.

**Uejima, June N**, 58, Azusa, June 9; Illinois-born school psychologist, artist, San Gabriel Valley Life JACLer.

**Umemoto, Kaz**, 66, Los Angeles, Feb. 29; Los Angeles-born architect, Democratic National Committeeman 1988-1991, 442nd veteran.

**Uno, Osako**, 101, Salt Lake City, Aug. 21; Okayama-born graduate from Women's University in Tokyo, husband Clarence, a U.S. Army veteran who fought during WWI in France, predeceased while they were interned at Heart Mountain, Wyo.

**Uyematsu, Niroku**, 97, Brigham City, Utah, Feb. 19; Hiroshima-born naturalized U.S. citizen.

**Uyeoka, Tetsuyo**, 100, Saratoga, Calif., Dec. 28, '94; Hiroshima-born.

**Uyesaka, Caesar**, 79, Santa Barbara, June 10; Santa Barbara-born auto parts businessman, civic sports promoter, successfully initiated to have L.A. Dodgers farm club in '63, JACLer of Bien-nium, UCSB baseball stadium dedicated in honor in '94.

**Watanabe, Taul**, 75, Bellevue, Wash., Dec. 28, '94; Salem, Ore.-born business

executive, philanthropist and benefactor.

**Weglyn, Walter M.**, 69, New York, Aug. 22 in San Diego, Calif.; creator of perfumes, husband of author Michi. The Weglyns worked together to research the Japanese American internment experience during World War II, *Years of Infamy* (1976).

**Yamaguchi, Dorothy A.**, 74, Seattle, Feb. 9; Seattle-born, author of "This Was Minidoka," based on 1985 slide-show on WWII camp life.

**Yamakoshi, Noboru 'Noby'**, 69, Chicago, Oct. 15; Menlo Park, Calif.-born, chairman-founder of Nobart Group, honored in '91 by U.S. Small Business Administration, active with Buddhist Churches of America, Governor's Committee of Illinois Asians; trustee, Japanese American National Museum.

## HOSOKAWA

(Continued from page 8)

The Holiday Issue is packed with substance. If you don't get

around to consuming all of it, make it a point of reading at least a part of Sandra Mikesell Buscher's essay on page A45. A young woman of Japanese. English, German and Italian background, she tells of experiencing racial remarks in a Colorado high school for being Asian, then hearing negative comment on a visit to Hawaii for being "white." She writes:

"To face prejudice for being Asian in a mostly Caucasian world one week, and then face prejudice for being Caucasian in a mostly Asian world the next week was a liberating experience for me. It helped me to understand that prejudice is not limited to any group of people. We all are capable of developing prejudices and acting on them. It freed me from harboring resentments against either group for the occasional remarks I received. I was able to understand prejudice as a human problem."

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CANADIAN ROCKIES/ VICTORIA (Banff Spr Hill, Lake Louise, 8 days)	JUN 19
IRELAND/ BRITAIN (15 days)	JUL 6
PRINCESS ALASKA GLACIER CRUISE (7 days, Discount for early booking)	AUG 17
NIKKEI CANADA/ NEW ENGLAND CRUISE (10 days, JCCNC Fundraiser)	SEP 8
TENNESSEE/ BRANSON/ KENTUCKY (Shoji Tabuchi Show, 9 days)	SEP 14
EUROPEAN ESCAPE (Italy/ Switzerland/ France/ England, 12 days)	SEP 18
DISCOVER SHIKOKU (10 days)	SEP 23
EAST COAST & FALL FOLIAGE (8 Penn. Dutch, 11 days)	SEP 29
BEST OF HOKKAIDO (Sounkyo & Nobonbetsu Onsen, 12 days)	OCT 1
JAPAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE TOUR (11 days)	OCT 14

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**AUG 29 GRAND EUROPEAN TOUR** - 18 Days - \$3795

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