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Feb. 16-29, 1996

## JACL convention

### Host city San Jose features Japantown rich with history

By MICHELLE LAU  
San Jose Chapter Convention Committee

Some might say that as Japanese Americans have assimilated into the American mainstream, the need for ethnic neighborhoods no longer exists. The war is long past. The blatant racism is no longer that blatant. And tofu can be found just about anywhere at the local grocery store.

Yet, even though times have changed, it's not just the California roll and tonkatsu that keep generations of Asian Americans from coming to Japantown, at least that's how it is in San Jose, Calif.—the site for the 1996 JACL National Convention, Aug. 6-11.

Some Japantown communities no doubt died during internment, but San Jose Japantown survived those turbulent times. Conne Shaw, director of the San Jose Japantown Business Association, says it's the deep-seeded roots that keep this community alive. "Everyone needs roots," she says. "Japantown is the root of this community. It's an anchor that supports and continues the Japanese American culture."

Today's San Jose Japantown not only carries the legacy of the early Japanese bachelors who became migrant workers, but also it is a reminder the bigotry and hatred for Chinese immigrants who settled in San Jose as well. In fact, San Jose Japantown is built on the same site as the former San Jose Chinatown, which was constructed during the anti-Chinese period. History books note that after the second San Jose Chinatown was burned to the ground and suspected to be foul play, a man named John Heinlen offered his own land, which now is Japantown, to house the Chinese.

Although San Jose Japantown no longer exists for the same reasons it began, Shaw says the community is still the social point for Japanese Americans in the entire Santa Clara County, if not for the South Bay. It is the meeting place of many Japanese American social clubs and the home to a variety of annual cultural festivals, she says.

But the stories don't just lie in the people and events of San Jose Japantown, the buildings have a history all their own.

For example, San Jose Japantown has two churches—the Wesley Methodist Church, which is the largest Japanese American congregation in Northern California, and the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. The Wesley Methodist Church was founded in 1895 as the Japanese Methodist Episcopal Church. The Buddhist Church, designed by George Shimamoto and built in 1937, is also prized as well, especially because it is noted as the most authentic Buddhist temple in the country.

Across the street from Wesley is the home of the San Jose JACL office in the Issei Memorial Building—the historic Kuwabara Hospital from 1910-34, serving the Japanese American community. Next door is the childhood home of former U.S. Rep. Norman Mineta, which is still owned by the Mineta family.

Another not-to-miss historical site is Okita Hall, which served as the old Japanese stage theater. Back in the early 1900s, the theater showcased comedies, magicians, vaudeville shows, silent movies and later talkies. Back then, the theater was the focal point of the community. In 1975, however, it became a martial arts school—the Aikido of San Jose.

As part of the Early Bird Special of the 1996 JACL National Convention, the San Jose Chapter invites anyone to tour San Jose Japantown first hand. Leading the tour will be the unofficial historian of San Jose Japantown—Dr. Tokio Ishikawa. The tour is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 6.

## Key National Board, convention committee appointments filled

### Staff reports

Two key positions on the National Board and the 1996 convention committee chairs of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) have been announced, according to Denny Yasuhara, president.

Paul M. Shinkawa of Austin, Texas, an attorney with the Texas State Parks and Wildlife Department and a member of the Houston Chapter, has been named vice president of operations, succeeding Jim Miyazaki who resigned in January. Shinkawa is a longtime JACL member and former chairman of the *Pacific Citizen* Board of Directors.

Karen-Liane Shiba of Anaheim, Calif., an employee of the Turville Photography Studio of Orange and a member of the SELANOCO Chapter, has been named vice president of the membership services and the Thousand Club.

In other important positions, Yasuhara announced the following appointments for the 1996 JACL National Convention scheduled for August 6-11 of this year:

■ **Resolutions Committee chair:** Reid Tateoka, Mt. Olympus Chapter.

■ **Credentials Committee chair:** Karl Nobuyuki, San Fernando Valley Chapter and Greater Los Angeles Singles Chapter.

■ **Nominations Committee chair:** Elaine Akagi, Seattle Chapter.

■ **Japanese American of the Biennium Committee chair:** Eileen Otsuji, Florin Chapter.

■ **Awards and Recognition Committee chair:** Harvey Watanabe, White River Valley Chapter.

Commenting on the National Board appointments, Yasuhara said, "Jim Miyazaki resigned as vice president of operations and Paul M. Shinkawa has been ratified by the National Board as his replacement. Miyazaki, who was one of the few people on the National Board with a business background, will be missed. He played a key role in the organizational restructuring in December of 1994.

"The new vice president of membership services and the Thousand Club is Karen-Liane Shiba. She served as the interim PSW governor prior to her appointment and is known to be a doer. We are pleased that she is willing to



PAUL M. SHINKAWA  
V.P., Operations



KAREN-LIANE SHIBA  
V.P., membership services/1000 Club



REID TATEOKA  
Resolutions chair



KARL NOBUYUKI  
Credentials chair

undertake this job. Both she and Paul Shinkawa bring exceptional work habits to the National Board."

On the naming of both the board members and the convention chairs, the JACL president said that "with

these appointments we are now moving forward in our preparation for the National Convention and our JACL advocacy role. We are happy to such an outstanding group of people accepted the challenge of these new positions."

## Sandbags save Portland's J.A. historical plaza

George Azumano was lucky to fly out of Portland Thursday, Feb. 8, when the rain-gorged rivers threatened the airport. He was en route to the annual meeting of the Japanese American National Museum over the Feb. 9-11 weekend in Los Angeles.

Asked about the condition of the Japanese American Historical Plaza, Azumano told *Pacific Citizen* that it was all right. "Thanks to the thousands of sandbags in place along a one-mile stretch at the (Tom McCall) waterfront park," he said.

The memorial plaza was created and dedicated in August, 1990, to remember the history of the Japanese in Oregon.

Azumano, a JACL pioneer in the Pacific Northwest, was bestowed the JANM Founder's Award at the luncheon Saturday.

## AP leader Lim Youngberg, Lorna Onizuka featured at JACL youth conference

Francey Lim Youngberg, the newly appointed executive director of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Institute, and Lorna Onizuka, wife of the late Challenger astronaut, will be special guests at the JACL National Youth Council, Feb. 23-24 in San Francisco.

Lim Youngberg, will deliver the keynote address. Onizuka will accept the the JACL Youth Council's Vision Award on behalf of her husband who died tragically in the explosion of the Challenger space mission 10 years ago. Lorna Onizuka, who currently serves as associate liaison to the National Space Development Agency of Japan for G.B. Technology, Inc., serves on the boards of directors for three foundations: the Challenger Center for Space and Science, the Houston Escape Center for the Abused, and the National Japanese American Museum.

The theme of the JACL National Youth Conference is "Faces of the Future. Information: Patricia Tsai, JACL, Central California Regional Office, 209/486-6815, E-mail, jaclccro@aol.com.

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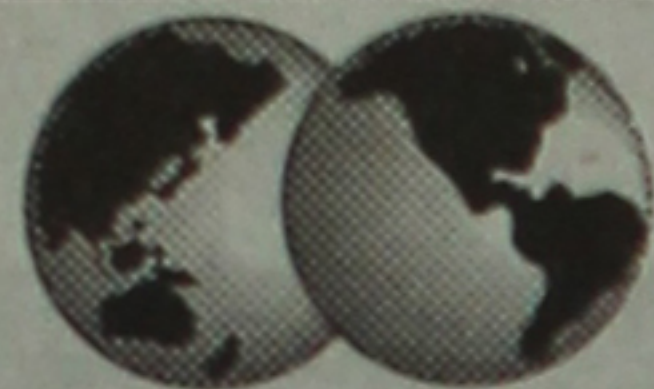
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## Pacific Citizen

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## JACL calendar

### National JACL

**AT SAN JOSE**  
Tue. Aug. 6-11—34th biennial National Convention, Fairmount Hotel, 170 S. Market St., San Jose, Calif.; info: JACL Office, 408/295-1250. NOTE—Scheduled thus far: Workshops all day Sat. Aug. 10; Nihonmachi walking tour with Dr. Tokio Ishikawa; booster tours to Yosemite, San Francisco Bay, Monterey-Carmel; Whing-Ding/Homecoming (formerly the Old Timers Reunion).

### Midwest

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Fri.-Sun. Feb. 16-18—MDC Spring session, Novi Hilton, 21111 Haggerty Rd. off of Eight-Mile Rd., Novi, Mich.; registration \$30 p/person, info: Bill Shay 313/936-1773, for rooms 810/349-4000;

**CHICAGO**  
Sun. Feb. 18—Annual JACL/JASC "Day of Remembrance" program, 2 p.m., Heiwa Terrace, 920 W. Lawrence, info: JACL Office, 312/728-7171. NOTE—Film, *From Hawaii to the Holocaust: a Shared Moment in History*, will be shown, regarding the WWII liberation of Dachau concentration camp by Nisei soldiers. Please park in People's Church lot across the street.  
Sat. June 8—Annual scholarship luncheon, noon-3 p.m., Terrace Garden, Wilmette; info: JACL Office, 312/728-7171.

**CLEVELAND**  
Thu. Feb. 22-April 4—Smithsonian's "A More Perfect Union," Heights Public Library, info: Judith Soppel 216/932-3600, Hank Tanaka 216/229-2491, or Yoshiko Ikuta 216/694-4774. NOTE—

### IMPORTANT

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

Grand opening program, Sun. Feb. 25; JACL youth group visit on Sat., March 16; Story telling for children on Sun., March 17; Films (*Honor Bound*, *Days of Waiting*, *Family Gathering*) on Wed. March 27, 7-9:30 p.m., at Cleveland Museum of Art.

### DETROIT

Sat. Feb. 17—50th Anniversary Detroit JACL dinner-dance, 5 p.m. social hour, 6 dinner; Novi Hilton, info: Valerie Matsumoto 313/482-3778, Mary Kamidoi 313/522-7917, Toshi Shimoura 810/356-3089. NOTE—George Takei, keynote speaker.

Sun. Feb. 18—Author George Takei book signing party, 4-6 p.m., Borders Books & Music, Ann Arbor; info: Borders 310/668-7652.

### 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.

Sun. Feb. 25—Twin Cities' 49th annual JACL installation banquet, noon social hour, 1 p.m. lunch, Holiday Inn West, 9970 Wayzata Blvd., Minneapolis; RSVP Feb. 16, \$18.50 per person, Kathy Koch 612/884-1560. NOTE—Prof. Rita Nakashima Brock, Endowed Chair in the

Humanities, Hamline University, St. Paul, speaker, "Life in the Interstices: Bi-Racial, Bi-Cultural Americans." (She is also a JACL member.)

### Mountain Plains

#### DENVER

Sat., Feb. 24, 6 p.m., Milt Hi Chapter, JACL, Organization of Chinese Americans, Chinese New Year dinner, Palace Restaurant, 6265 E. Evans Ave. Per person \$30. Call Tom Migaki, 303/922-9593.

### Intermountain

#### SALT LAKE CITY

Fri. March 29—National JACL Credit Union annual dinner meeting, Little America Hotel; info: 801/355-8040. NOTE—This year's program format changed towards young families and their children.

Sat. Aug. 24—"J.A.s in Utah Centennial," program includes Asian history/Kanojo fashion show, banquet, Salt Lake Hilton; info: 801/359-2902. NOTE—Co-sponsored by Intermountain DC, JACL chapters, Nat'l JACL Credit Union, and other Nikkei church and community organizations.

### 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; Chapter is arranging a 5-day/4 night

See JACL CAL/page 6

## Community calendar

### East Coast

#### NEW YORK

Fri.-Sat. March 1-2—Academic Symposium on WWII Asian American Experiences, Museum of Chinese in the Americas, 70 Mulberry St., New York 10013, 212/619-4785.

Fri. April 19—Yamada-ryu Koto Ensemble concert/Lynn Wakabayashi, 8 p.m., The New School/Tischman Auditorium, 66 W. 12th St. Info: World Music Institute, 212/545-7536.

Thu.-Sat., May 2-4—"Bridges with Asia: Asian Americans in the U.S." national conference, Info: Asia Society, Asian American Federation of New York; LEAP (Los Angeles) 213/481-1422; Asian American Institute (Chicago) 312/553-6170.

#### WASHINGTON

Sat. April 20—Yamada-ryu Koto Ensemble concert/Lynn Wakabayashi, 7:30 p.m., Eugene-Agnes E. Meyer Auditorium, Freer Gallery of Art. Info: 202/357-4880.

### Midwest

#### CHICAGO

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

Sun. March 17—Issei Ogata's solo performance, "A Catalog of City Life," 2-4 p.m., Rubloff Auditorium, Chicago Historical Society, Clark at North Ave.; info: Japanese C. of C. & Industry, 312/332-6199. NOTE—Chicago JACL co-sponsor; Ogata, through over 200 distinct characters, portrays contemporary Japanese people with incredible body language, wit and satire.

Sun. April 28—Yamada-ryu Koto Ensemble concert/Lynn Wakabayashi, 2 p.m., Fullerton Auditorium, Art

Institute, 111 S. Michigan Ave. Info: 202/357-4880. NOTE—In conjunction with special exhibit of Japanese byobu (screen) from Idemitsu Collection.; Ensemble will also perform at the Arts Center student body workshop on Friday, April 26, 10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Chicago Public School's only arts magnet school, Marie Curie Metropolitan High School, 4959 S. Archer Ave.

### Gulf Coast

#### NEW ORLEANS

Tue. April 23—Yamada-ryu Koto Ensemble concert / Lynn Wakabayashi, 7:30 p.m., New Orleans Museum of Art, City Park, New Orleans. Info: 504/488-2631.

### Pacific Northwest

#### SEATTLE

Fri.-Sun., April 26-28—21st annual Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival, Seattle Center; info: Northwest Nikkei, 206/624-4169, 625-1424 (fax). ersity / Center for World Music.  
Sat. June 22—50th anniversary Nisei Veterans Committee celebration, Sea-Tac Red Lion Inn. Info: Harry Kataoka, reunion chair, 1212 S. King St., Seattle WA 98144.

#### TACOMA

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 6-8—Tacoma & Vicinity Nisei Reunion, info: Tacoma—Joe Kosai 206/474-1650, Tadaye Fujimoto 206/564-9485; Chicago—Kaz Horita 312/260-3550; Minneapolis—Gilbert Miyazaki 612/420-8724; Los Angeles—Ryo Munekata 213/732-4834; San Francisco—Fusaye Yoshida 415/591-9505.

### Nevada

#### LAS VEGAS

Sun.-Sat., Feb. 25-March 2—22nd annual Japanese American Nat'l Bowling Assn. tournament at the Showboat, Sat. award dinner, 7 p.m., Showboat Hotel; info: Ozzie Shimada, P.O. Box 2516, Watsonville, CA 95077; Jeff Okumura, JANBA pres., 801/451-8030 day, 268-3463 eve. NOTE—Nisei bowling pioneers will be honored at the dinner. This tournament originated in 1947 under National JACL/Intermountain DC sponsorship to eliminate the white-only membership clause in the American Bowling Congress. After JACL relinquished sponsorship, Nisei participants continued to meet annually during the first week of March. Over 200 teams (1,000 individuals) are competing in the 1996 meet.

### Arizona

#### PHOENIX

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 24-25—12th annual Festival of Japan, 10:30 a.m.-4:30, Heritage Square, 6th and Monroe; info:

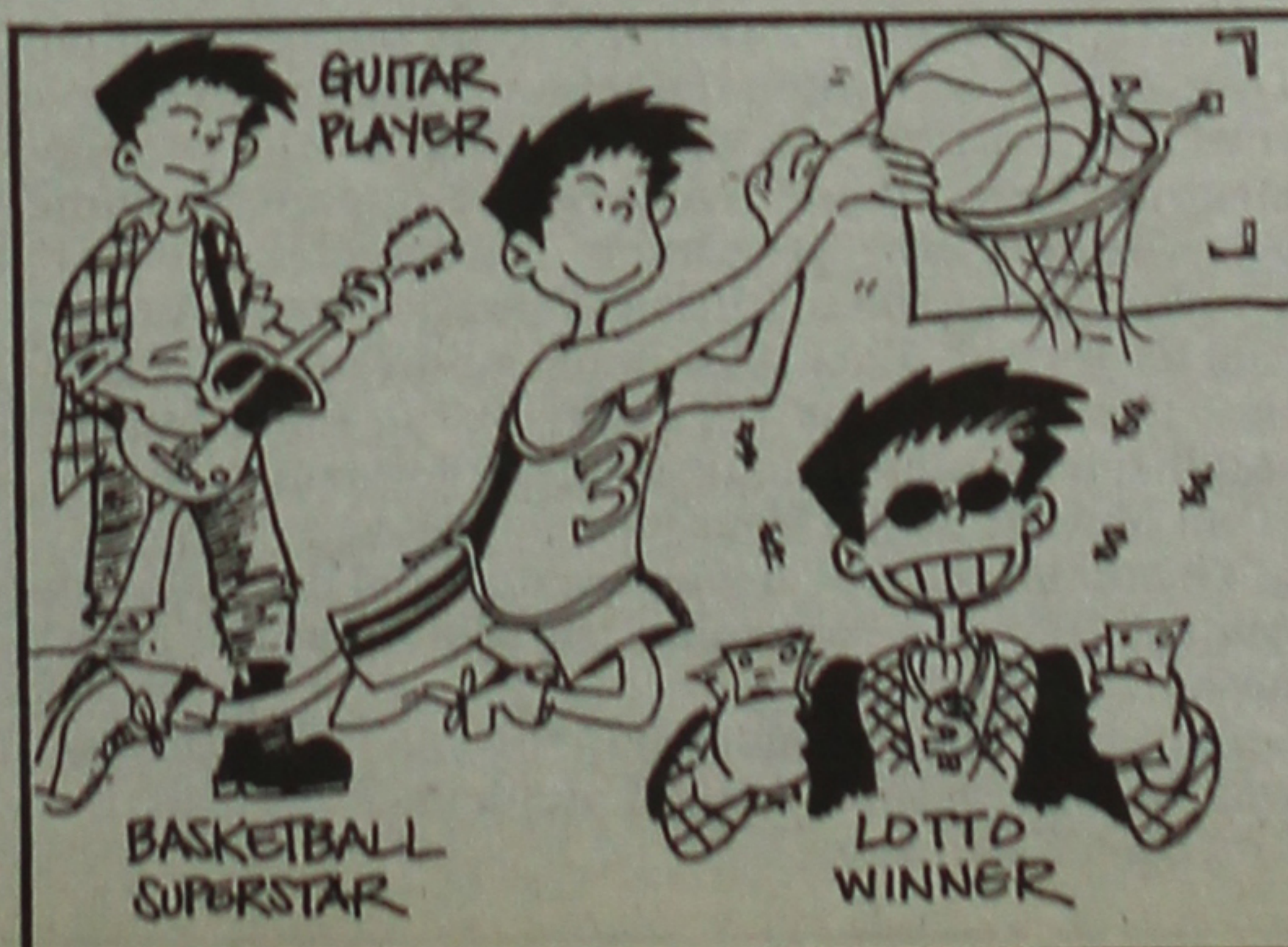
See CALENDAR/page 8

### For the record

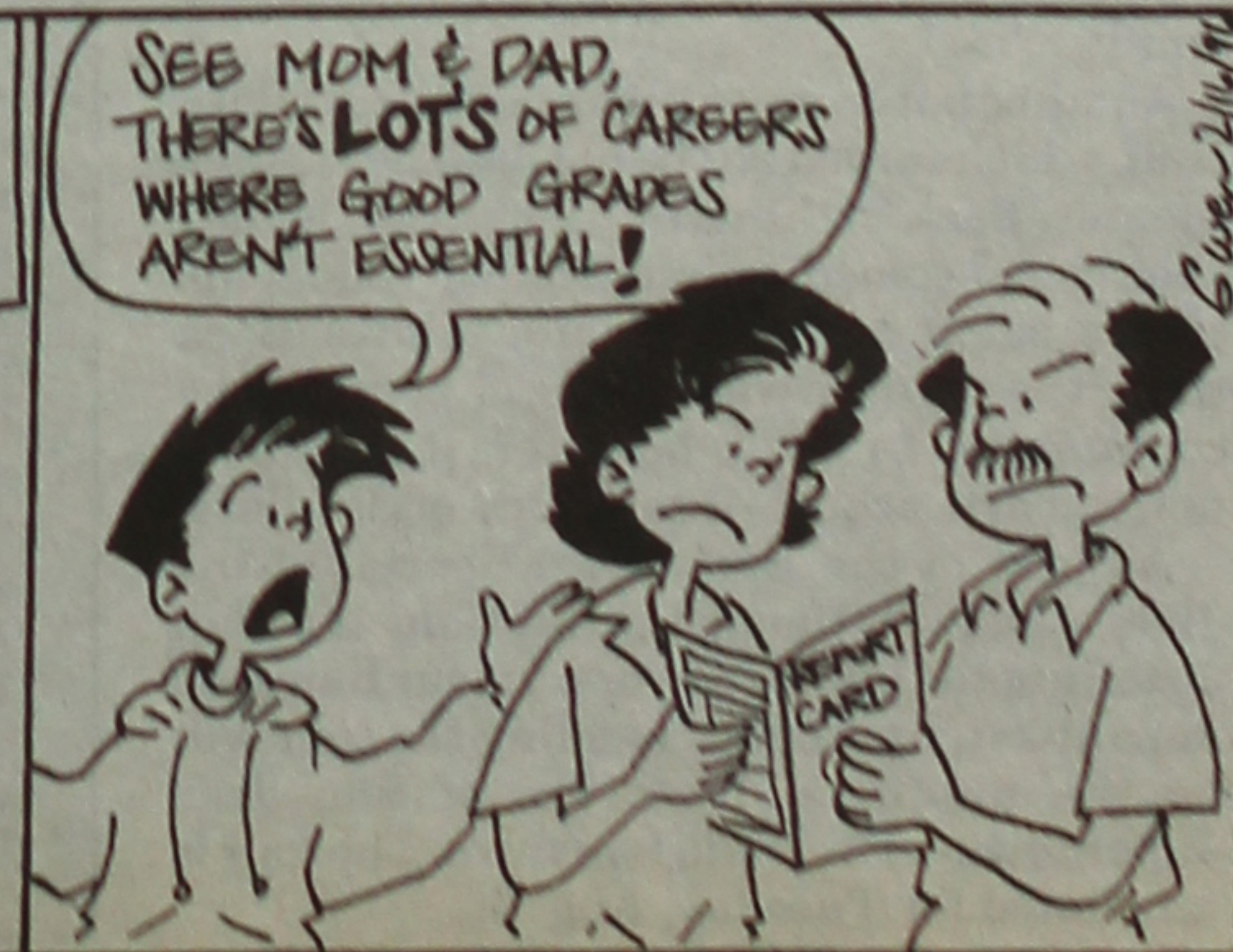
■ The radio station and phone number were incorrect in the news brief on the Tanforan Assembly Center video in the Feb. 2-15, 1996 issue. The correct information: KCSM-TV60; 415/574-6586.

■ In the article on the installation dinner of the San Mateo Chapter, JACL, the date was listed Jan. 24 in the information box. The correct date is Feb. 24.

## Small kid time



## Gwen Muranaka





## From the president

By DENNY YASUHARA  
JACL National President

### Unsung, unrecognized, unappreciated

We have often stated how hard the Issei had to work to establish their lot in America and some never could, because of the obstacles placed in their path. This is not about them, not because they were unimportant, but because for many years chapters such as mine, the Spokane Chapter, have long honored our parents, the Issei.

This piece, instead, is about the first of a generation that followed them, the older Nisei. For the most part, they didn't receive the accolades of the Issei or their younger siblings, who went on to college and made a good living for themselves and their families. . . . This is about the other 42% who didn't or couldn't go on to college. . . . although some did, despite their responsibilities at home.

Why were these older Nisei special? Few would dispute that the recognition of Issei was appropriate, because of the hardship they had to endure and persevere to make a place for us in a foreign land. Yet, little mention is ever made of the sacrifices and pain the older Nisei had to bear. They worked and toiled at home on the farm, at gas stations, in small mom and pop stores and hotels, laundries, and the railroad, to bring home money to help their families to survive. Their toil helped send their younger siblings to college and training so that they could make a better life for themselves. Many, particularly the women, delayed their marriages to care for their families and their ag-

ing parents. This was especially true of the eldest daughter. In any case, the burden of the eldest daughter or son was considerable in helping their families and their younger siblings.

Coupled with all of this, they provided social activities for the younger Nisei, who had nowhere to go for social and sports activities during and prior to World War II. Many of us remember who chaperoned our dances or coached our athletic teams and taught us judo. This is all we had in the "old days" that really kept us out of harm's way. They didn't have baby-sitters like the younger generation have today, so they couldn't get away for carefree vacations. Their vacations were visiting relatives with their children. Most Issei were too old or too busy to baby-sit for them. The role older Nisei played in our lives was critical to the success and well-being many of the younger Nisei and older Sansei enjoy today.

This is to say nothing of the record of the M.I.S. (Military Intelligence Service) and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team that helped to pave the way for the acceptance of the Japanese American in the '40s, '50s, '60s and even into the '70s. Their reputation was crucial in Congress in getting Redress legislation passed, because many veteran groups were vehemently opposed to Redress. It was these older Nisei veterans who neutralized this sizable opposition and eventually obtained support from most of the veteran groups. The legacy of ser-

vice and sacrifice they exemplified should not be forgotten by those of us who follow.

Almost all of the older Nisei participated in some kind of community activity and were leaders in their respective communities. They were the ones who were there, when we needed their help in whatever needed to get done. They were also the ones who belonged to the JACL, where there were chapters, who provided financial and moral support to local activities as well as to National JACL. They provided financial and moral support for repealing the alien land laws and other discriminatory statutes and laws that abridged the rights of Japanese Americans.

Even today, they were the major contributors to Grayce Uyehara's Annual Giving Program. Their spirit of community service, their demonstration of obligation and commitment to others less fortunate than they, must be kept alive. They have done their jobs well. It remains for us to carry on their spirit and their inspiration in JACL or in any other organizations we might belong to.

Come and join us in an effort to rise to new heights in the 21st century. It will be your membership dollars that will dictate how much and how well we will be able to meet our members' needs.

*Denny Yasuhara's column appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.*

## Masaoka intern candidates sought

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund is currently seeking applicants for its fifth Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Intern Program for the 1996-1997 term.

"The successful candidate will serve his or her internship in the office of an Asian Pacific American U.S. senator or member of the U.S. House of Representatives," said Dr. H. Tom Tamaki, chairman of the fund.

The internship of approximately three-and-one-half months includes a stipend of \$6,000 funded by the fund. The term will be open for September through December of 1996 or February through May of 1997.

The choice of fall or spring term will be arranged by the member of Congress and the awardee. The deadline for applications is May 1, 1996.

Candidates must be American citizens, who are in at least their third year of college or in graduate or professional programs. Preference will be given to those who have demonstrated commitment to Asian American issues, particularly those affecting the Japanese American community. Communication skills, both writing and speaking, are important.

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund honors the late Mike M. Masaoka for a lifetime of outstanding public service promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity. The major goal of the fund, which will continue in perpetuity, is to encourage public service, granting awards to educate or train recipients for leadership in public service.

The first Masaoka fellow was Joe Horiye of San Diego, Calif.

who served his internship with Rep. Norman Y. Mineta of California. Dean Hojo Matsubayashi of Culver City, Calif., was the second intern and served his term with Sen. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii. The third recipient was Karen Emiko Makkreel of San Francisco, Calif., who served in the office of Rep. Robert T. Matsui of California. The current awardee, Traci M. Endo of Sunnyvale, Calif., will be serving her internship with Rep. Patsy T. Mink of Hawaii.

Interested candidates should contact the National JACL Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115 for application forms. They may also call: 415/921-5225 or fax: 415/931-4671 for information and application forms.

## JACL president eulogizes Katsuma Mukaeda

LOS ANGELES—National JACL president Denny Yasuhara of Spokane joined Little Tokyo community leaders in eulogizing the late *genro* (elder statesman) Katsuma Mukaeda, 104, at a memorial program held Feb. 7 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center's Japan America Theatre. Almost 250 attended the afternoon service chaired by Minoru Tonai, JACCC board chair.

One of the five who delivered eulogies, Yasuhara recounted Mukaeda's role in promoting the welfare of Japanese Americans, especially in the arena of civil rights.

"Because of his knowledge of the law (Mukaeda had attended Southwestern Law School 1917-1920 but as an Issei alien he was prohibited from taking the state bar examination), he quickly saw

that the greatest barrier to the progress of Issei and Nisei were the laws and statutes restricting their opportunities in employment and business," Yasuhara said as he cited two landmark cases in which Mukaeda had assisted JACL.

An important prewar case which the JACL civil rights committee handled, in which Mukaeda was counselor and Japanese language liaison, was the Torao Takahashi case against the California Fish and Game Commission which, in 1938, tried to deny Issei commercial fishing licenses. The U.S. Supreme Court held for Takahashi, declaring he had a right to earn a living.

An important postwar case, in which Mukaeda had a similar role, was the Fred Oyama Alien Land Law case (1946), when the state of California attempted to escheat

land purchased in his name by his father, which the state contended was illegal. The U.S. Supreme Court held for Oyama, declaring the statute violated the 14th Amendment, that Oyama, a minor, was deprived of the equal protection of laws and of his privileges as an American citizen.

"I think the memory of people like him needs to be kept alive," Yasuhara added, "by people like us. . . . He made an impact on the kind of life we have today.

"For an Issei to go through USC and law school and not being able to practice because he was an alien ineligible to citizenship and yet to accomplish all those things, it's a wonderful legacy that he left us."

Flower grower and market executive Frank Kuwahara, the first JACCC president, paid tribute to

See EULOGY/page 12

## IN REMEMBRANCE

This is my story, from a faraway place,  
And because of what had happened, it can  
never lose its trace.

This is my story, which continues to come  
from out of the past;

This is my story, and there are so many  
who appear in the vivid cast.

This is my story of all those who were there,  
yet remained so brave and  
unflinching true;

This is my story, and this is my praise,  
to all who were there, who will continue to  
be in bright and shining view.

Dr. Mitsuo Miura  
Pismo Beach, California

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# In Indiana, immigration, internment exhibit gets good reviews

"A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the U.S. Constitution," a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit, recently ended its premiere run in Lafayette, Ind. The exhibit, which will tour 19 additional cities over the next three years, opened in Lafayette on Nov. 9 and closed on Dec. 21. It is part of the permanent exhibit of the same name which opened in 1987 at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. "A More Perfect Union" chronicles the history of Japanese immigration to America and the events leading up to the evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The exhibit's co-sponsors in Indiana, the recently formed Asian American Network of Indiana (AANI) and the Tippecanoe County Public Library were pleased with public response to the exhibit. "Nearly 60,000 people,



**SOX KITASHIMA**  
Talks about internment

including hundreds of school children, visited the library during the exhibit's run," said Joy Morimoto, AANI coordinator. "We received a great deal of positive

feedback from people, especially teachers and students."

The AANI developed a series of public educational programs in conjunction with the exhibit, beginning with a free screening of *Picture Bride* in October. More than 4,090 people turned out to see the film and to hear from Los Angeles-based filmmaker Kay Hatta, who was flown in as part of the program.

Prior to the exhibit's opening, members of the AANI, with assistance from local teachers, held a free teacher training workshop for Indiana educators. Twenty-six elementary, secondary and university educators from throughout the state participated in the half-day session.

The keynote speaker at the exhibit's opening reception was Sox Kitashima of San Francisco. A standing-room-only crowd included the mayors of Lafayette and West Lafayette, county commissioners, and Indiana State

Assembly members, who heard firsthand about Kitashima's experiences as an internee. She later visited a rural elementary/middle school in Monticello, where she spoke to more than 300 sixth and seventh graders about life in an internment camp. During a subsequent question-and-answer session, one of the students called Kitashima his "hero" because of her desire to educate others about what happened to Japanese Americans during the war.

In a two-part lecture series held at Purdue University, Dr. Gary Okihiro, history professor and director of the Asian American Studies Program at Cornell University, presented a talk/slide show titled, "Whispered Silences: Japanese Americans and World War II." Dennis Hayashi, director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, followed with a lecture on "Affirmative Action and Higher Education" on Dec. 7.

Other exhibit programs included a video series, panel discussions, and a children's storytelling hour. In a first for Lafayette, Japanese American war veterans Victor Abe and Frank Wada, both of Los Angeles, and two veterans from the Lafayette community reflected on their respective experiences during World War II, following a screening of Wendy Hanamura's TV video, *Honor Bound*. A panel discussion on the internment, with participation from Kitashima, Abe and Wada, and moderated by Dr. David Asai, a Purdue University professor, attracted a capacity crowd.

Speaking about the event, AANI member Nancy Wada-McKee, a Sansei originally from Los Angeles, said, "It is critical to educate and expose people in this part of the country to the history of Asian Pacific Americans because there exists a great deal of ignorance about who we are."

## OCA praises senator for immigrant support

The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) commended U.S. Sen. Spencer Abraham (R-Mich.) for his support for legal immigrants, especially for those who come to this country to reunite with their families.

When introducing S. 1535, "The Illegal Immigration Control and Enforcement Act of 1996," on Jan. 30, Sen. Abraham stated that legal and illegal immigration are two very distinct issues that should not be blurred, and that the "overwhelming majority of legal immigrants are law-abiding, hard-working people."

In addition, Sen. Abraham said that Sen. Alan Simpson's (R-Wyo.) immigration bill, S. 1394, goes too far by restricting family reunification and eliminating entire immigration categories.

Dr. Marisa Ming, president of OCA's Detroit Chapter, said, "We are very pleased that Sen. Abraham recognizes the contributions of legal immigrants to the state of Michigan, as well as to the rest of the country, and the fact that he and virtually all Michiganders either are descendants of or are immigrants."

Vicki Shu, OCA's Immigration Project coordinator, also praised Sen. Abraham.

"Americans are seeking a return to strong family values. Immigrants bring these values, along with their skills and enthusiasm, to play an active role in making the United States an even better place to work, live and raise families."

OCA has 40 chapters across the country and is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Information: 202/223-5500.

## Group plans S.F. national convention

The Organization of Chinese Americans will hold its national convention June 27-30, 1996, at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. President Clinton and the Republican presidential nominee will be invited to make the keynote addresses, according to OCA President Michael C. Lin.

The program includes honoring Chinese American pioneers, as well as a visit to Angel Island. Highlights of the convention include: Youth Day, Youth Leadership Training,

First Asian Pacific American College Student Summit, Senior Citizens Day, Second Asian Pacific American Leadership Summit, health fair, awards banquet, tribute to pioneers, and "Flavors by the Bay" charity fund-raiser.

Workshops: Immigration, Chinese American History, Family, Business Symposium, "One-on-One with the Pioneers," Health, Empowerment, and Affirmative Action. Information: 415/362-5150, or 202/223-5500.

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## Steven Nakano to run for superior court

Sansei trial attorney seeks Santa Clara, Calif., seat

Steven H. Nakano is a candidate for the office of Superior Court Judge of Santa Clara County, Seat #23. This seat is currently held by Judge Taketsugu "Tak" Takei, who has recently announced his retirement.

Nakano attended Los Altos High School where he was a scholar, athlete and musician. After high school Steve went on to the University of California, Berkeley, and received his law degree from the University of San Francisco.

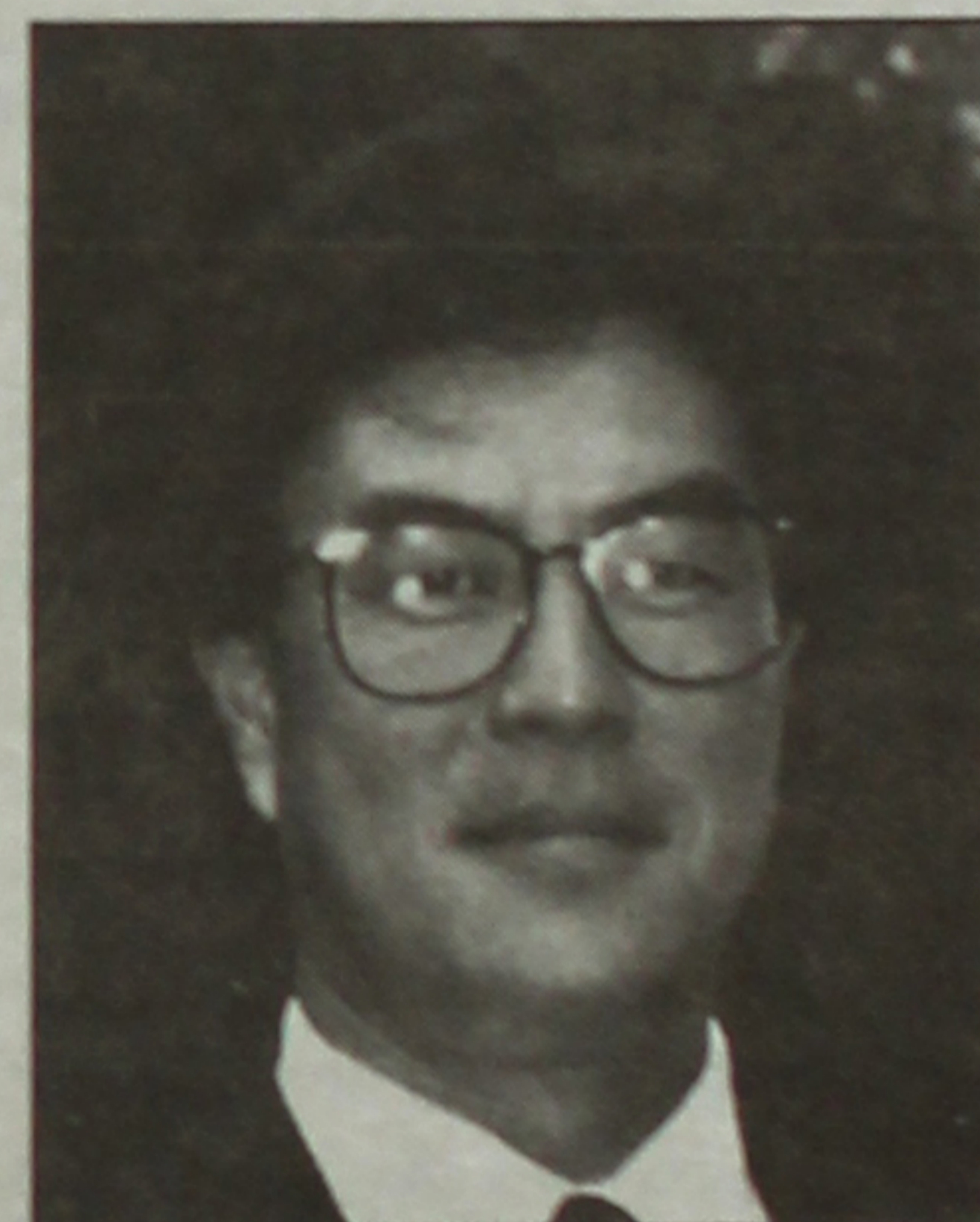
Nakano has practiced law for

15 years in Santa Clara County. He was a county trial attorney and has been in private practice for more than 10 years. He has special expertise in the areas of family child dependency, juvenile delinquency and criminal law.

In addition to maintaining a successful practice, the candidate is also active in the community, having served on various boards including Moriah Recovery Program, Asian Americans for Community Involvement and the San Jose Taiko Group, to name a few.

By serving as superior court judge, Nakano said, he hopes to help restore public confidence in the legal system, to make neighborhoods safe, especially for seniors and children, and to return common sense to civil judgments.

In addition to Judge Takei, Nakano has received the endorsement of 23 currently seated superior court judges.



**STEVEN H. NAKANO**  
Vying for bench

Various communities of Santa Clara County are showing support for Nakano.

Information: Steven H. Nakano for Superior Court Judge, 408/998-1985 or FAX (408) 998-1921.

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Information: JACL National Headquarters, Membership Department,  
1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA, 94115; or call Stephanie Roh, 415/921-5225.

## YOU NEED JACL

## Condemns French nuclear testing

Rep. Patsy T. Mink (D-Hawaii) and other members of the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus led a boycott of French President Jacques Chirac's address to the joint session of Congress, Feb. 1.

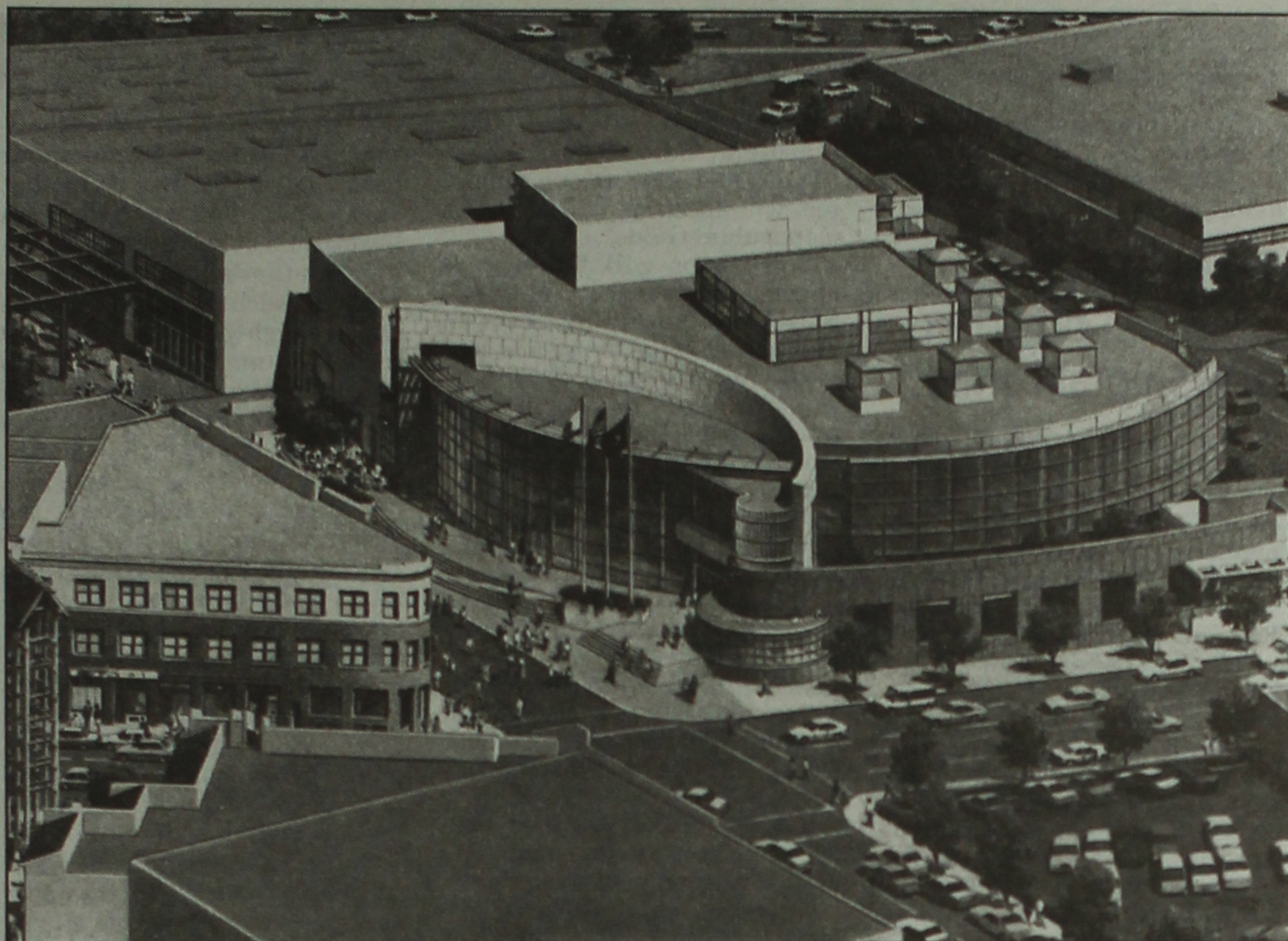
The boycott was called to protest France's recent series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific. The French have conducted a series of six nuclear tests at the Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls, becoming the only nation in addition to China to violate the global moratorium on nuclear testing since 1992.

According to Mink, France recently acknowledged that radioactive materials from its tests have leaked into the sea. The safety and health of the residents in nearby islands may be endangered by the radioactive materials. The

nuclear explosions have also cracked the coral reef where the French tests occurred.

France's nuclear testing has been done in spite of protests from 167 countries, including the United States. Only recently did the country announce that it is ending its current series of tests.

"Notwithstanding the fact that France has precipitously announced the end of their nuclear activity in the South Pacific, this boycott is essential in demonstrating our outrage that France would breach the moratorium on nuclear testing. The fact that these tests took place goes against the very principle of nuclear non-proliferation that the global community has been striving for," said Congresswoman Mink.



A view of the Phase II Pavilion (center) of the Japanese American National Museum from Gyo Obata's architectural design. The V-shaped building (left) served as Nishi Hongwanji for nearly 50 years and was vacated in the '60s. The temple now serves as the museums' headquarters and Phase I facilities.

## 'Brick-laying' dedicates Japanese American museum's Phase II pavilion site in Los Angeles

By HARRY K. HONDA  
Editor emeritus

Japanese Consul General Seiichiro Noboru, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Rita Walters and Convention-Visitors Bureau President George Kirkland were unanimous in predicting a bright future for the Japanese American National Museum last Saturday, Feb. 10, as it dedicated the ground for its Phase II Pavilion going up on the spacious parking lot across the street east of the museum.

When he was posted at the Embassy in Washington, Noboru said he always encouraged his friends from Japan to visit the Smithsonian American history museum to learn of the Japanese American WWII internment experience. Now he has been saying, "There's no need to go to Washington because the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo has that story," and

"more can be expected with the pavilion." He happily recalled that it was June 1994 when Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited Little Tokyo and the museum.

Walters called Pavilion II "an important addition to the Los Angeles cultural scene." The new 85,000 square foot structure, designed by St. Louis architect Gyo Obata, rises adjacent to MOCA's (the Museum of Contemporary Art's) "Temporary Contemporary" art museum—converting the block facing East First and Alameda Streets into a cultural walk.

Kirkland stated that 22.5 million visitors, including a half-million Japanese, pass through Los Angeles each year, which translates into \$9 million and 4,000 jobs. "Phase II Pavilion assures that growth," he remarked.

Mistress of ceremonies Wendy Tokuda, KNBC-TV news anchor, mentioned that groundbreaking

in the usual style can't happen on the hard-surfaced parking lot, as she introduced Bank of America executive vice president R. Thomas Decker, a member of the JANM Board of Trustees, who called up a parade of generations, supporters and youngsters to each lay a symbolic "brick"—actually brown-colored blocks of styrofoam—forming a wall about 3-foot square.

"The real bricks will be coming up," Decker assured, as \$16 million in pledges and gifts have already been raised of a \$22 million budget for the pavilion. It is destined to "a part of the proud tradition of Japanese Americans," Decker contemplated.

Chris Komai, JANM public relations/media director, said construction is expected to start this spring. The city of Los Angeles is contributing the one-acre site to the museum at \$1 per year on a 99-year lease.

## Scholarships

### Chicago Chapter, JACL, JASC scholarships

The Chicago Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) annually sponsors numerous scholarships based on financial need, academic achievement and school/community service.

Scholarships are awarded to those pursuing a variety of disciplines including the arts. In 1995, awards given to students ranged from \$300 to \$1,200.

Eligibility is limited to 1996 graduating seniors planning on attending accredited institutions of higher learning in the fall of 1996. Applicants or their parents must be members of either the JACL or JASC (Japanese American Service Committee) to qualify. Membership to either organization may be made at the time of application.

In addition, the National JACL is sponsoring scholarships in amounts averaging \$500. Those students interested in either the Chicago Chapter or National scholarship may obtain an application form from the Midwest JACL office, 5415 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640, or by calling 312/728 7171.

Deadline for all application materials is March 29, 1996.

The Chicago Chapter, JACL, Annual Scholarship Luncheon

honoring all high school graduates will be held Saturday, June 8, 1996, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at the Terrace Garden in Wilmette.

### Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund

The Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, Inc., is now accepting applications for its 1996 scholarship program. Scholarships will be awarded to New York City Southeast Asian refugee students graduating from high school in May 1996. The fund was established in 1980 by Nisei in honor of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, which assisted more than 3,500 young Nisei during World War II in continuing their educations. The war time council consisted of non-Japanese Americans helping Japanese Americans who had been interned in U.S. concentration camps.

Since 1983, the fund has awarded more than 120 scholarships to Southeast Asian immigrants. "While ethnic and racial divisions seem to be mounting in this country, we are making an effort to build bridges between ethnic groups while making a positive impact on young people's lives," said Lafayette Noda, president of the fund. "The scholar-

ships are awarded to Southeast Asian (Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian) immigrants as they have also experienced detention camps and had their lives and educations disrupted by war. . ."

### Asian American Journalists Association

The Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) announces its 1996 National Scholarship Program. Each year, AAJAA offers scholarships and internship grants to outstanding high school seniors, undergraduate and graduate students pursuing careers in print, broadcast or photo journalism. Since 1981, AAJA has awarded more than \$260,000 in scholarships to 254 students.

Students are generally selected based on the following criteria: commitment to the field of journalism; sensitivity to Asian American issues as demonstrated by community involvement; journalistic ability; scholastic ability; and financial need.

In addition, applications are available for week-long internships in newspaper, radio, and television which AAJA offers at its national convention in August, 1996. Many AAJA chapters operate their own, separate competitions for students in their areas. Information: 415/346-2051.



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## Pacific Citizen

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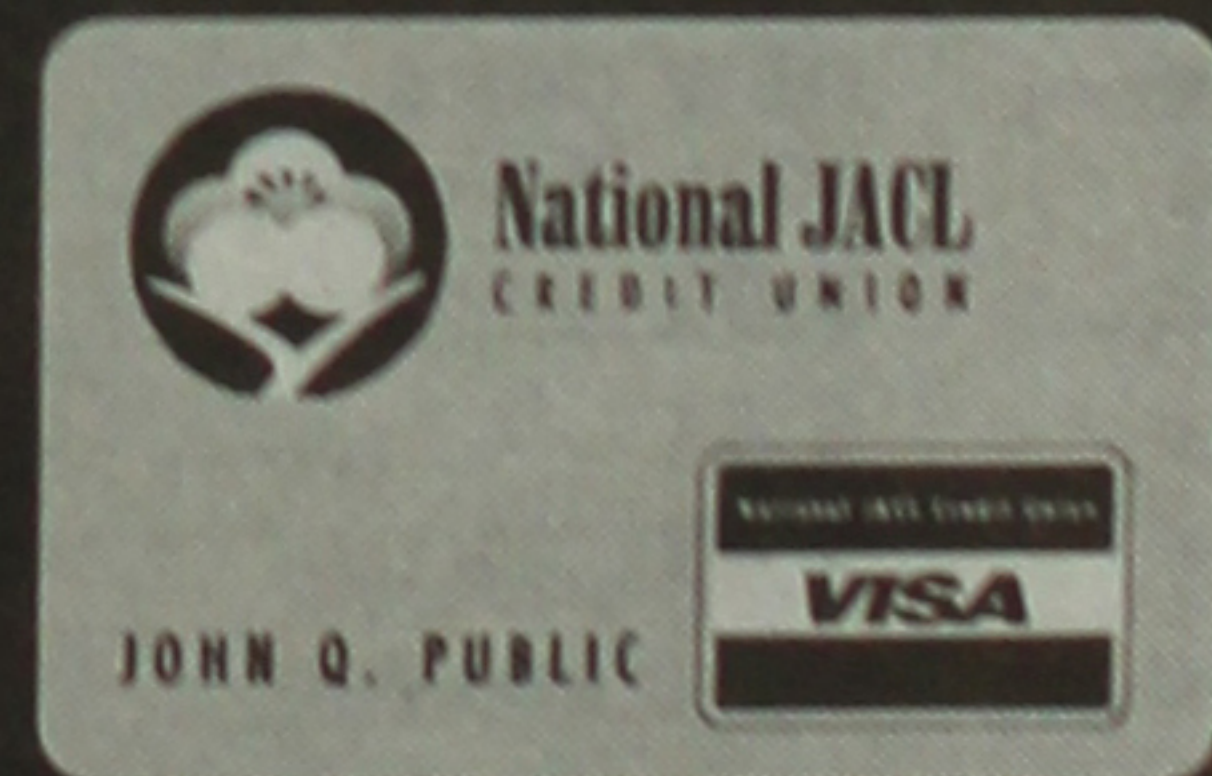
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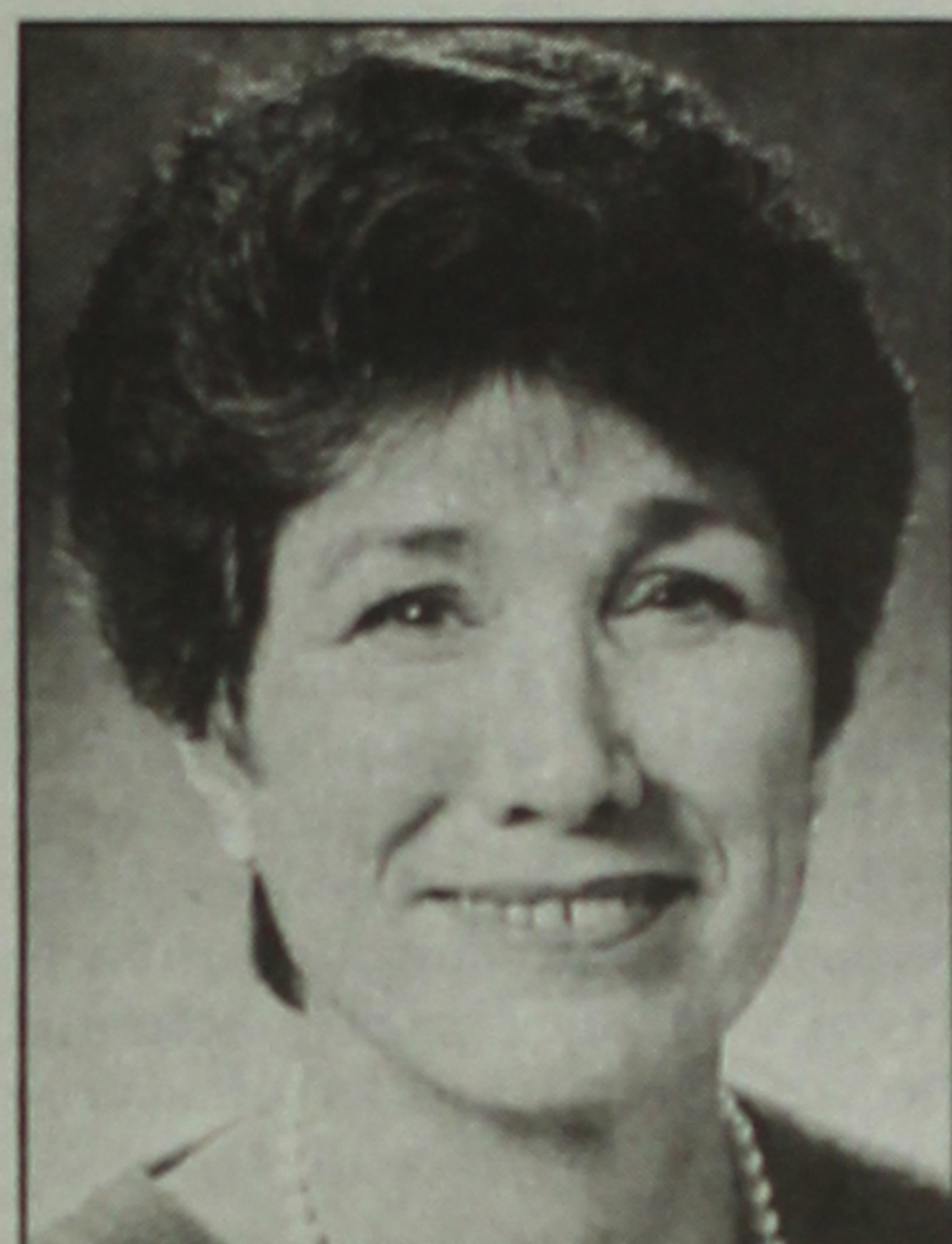
**Agenda**

Agenda is a roundup of chapter news from the Japanese American Citizens League and other associations and organizations.

**Florin to present program on 'Time of Remembrance'**

"Our Legacy: A Tradition of Dedication and Perseverance" is the theme of the Florin Chapter, JACL, 14th Annual Time of Remembrance program, Saturday, March 2. It will begin at 6:45 p.m. at Florin YBA Hall, 7235 Pritchard Rd., Sacramento, Calif.

Georgiana White, veteran California State University, Sacramento, Library archivist and curator, will be the featured speaker. Working with Florin JACL and the CSUS Library Archival Committee, she was instrumental in starting the Japanese American collection in 1994 with the initial acquisition of the Mary Tsukamoto collection of historic documents, photos, camp artifacts, the 75-year-old Florin Buddhist Church Butsudan and Florin JACL's 55 completed oral histories.



**GEORGIANA WHITE**  
Florin guest speaker

A \$100,000 Japanese American Collection Endowment Fund was also subsequently launched by President Don Gerth to receive, preserve and maintain the collection and make it available for study and display. About 75% of the fund has been raised so far from proceeds of the recent 60th Florin Chapter, JACL, Anniversary Celebration.

White has been with CSUS for 30 years, with 25 years as archivist. She has been a speaker on history and cultural diversity of Sacramento at several Japanese American gatherings. She is a member of the Society of American Archivists, California Archivists and the JACL.

White has attended several JACL and community functions, speaking on behalf of the Archival Collection and Endowment Fund.

A Time of Remembrance Workshop will be held all day, March 2. Registration and continental breakfast is at 8:30 a.m., with "welcome" talk by Mary Tsukamoto, educator, author and

community activist. Greg Marutani, San Francisco National JACL Education Committee, will speaking on the "JACL Curriculum Guide".

Workshops will follow with three presenters: Marlene Shigekawa, San Francisco, author of *Blue Jay in the Desert* and *Succeeding in High Tech: A Guide to Building Your Career*, will lead a workshop on stereotypes, teacher expectations and student self-esteem.

Jennie Yamasaki, student at San Francisco City College and Center High School will talk about her state and national award-winning Japanese American Internment exhibit.

Richard Simas, M.Ed., Jennie Yamasaki's former teacher at Center High School, Antelope, Calif., will discuss "History Day Projects."

Sacramento VFW Nisei Post 8985 members will participate with slides and exhibits.

Japanese box lunches will be served. Videos and a literature table will be available. Additional resources are Florence Hongo of the Asian American Curriculum Project of San Mateo with books for sale. Marion Kanemoto is the coordinator of the Florin Chapter, JACL Oral History Project.

Exhibits are open to the public Saturday, March 2, 1-3 p.m. and Sunday March 3, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Mail request for workshop registration material to Joanne Iritani, c/o Florin Chapter, JACL, P.O. Box 221090, Sacramento, CA, 95822.

**Japan Chapter features L.A. Times reporter**

In 1995 several long-standing myths about Japan were dramatically shattered, according to Theresa Watanabe, Tokyo correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*, who was the keynote speaker at the Japan Chapter, JACL's installation dinner, Jan. 24 in Tokyo.

The devastating Hanshin earthquake in January 1995, which left the city of Kobe, Japan, in shambles, destroyed the myth that Japan's superior technology had made her buildings and transportation "earthquake proof," said Watanabe. Many Japanese engineers and designers, who visited the scene of the Los Angeles earthquake that struck one year before the Hanshin earthquake, had stated at that time that the same thing would never happen to Japanese-built roads and bridges. They were, of course, to be proven tragically wrong.

Watanabe also recalled seeing once-affluent and stylish residents of Kobe suddenly transformed into homeless people, clinging in desperation to a few clothes and personal possessions in a struggle to survive, following the earthquake.

Shortly thereafter, the surprise

poison gas attack on Tokyo's subway system during the rush hour peak laid to rest the myth that Japan was a country immune from terrorism. The country is still dealing with that aftermath.

Events such as these have made Japan a highly newsworthy place today, Watanabe said, in sharp contrast to several years ago, when articles on Japan were about "Zen Buddhism," rather than earthquakes and subway terrorism.

Watanabe also referred to the ouster in Japan of the Liberal Democratic Party during 1995, after some 40 years of their uninterrupted control over Japan's Diet, and the subsequent signs of movement towards deregulation.

Watanabe further commented on the sometimes differing roles played by the American and Japanese press. Many American reporters view the pursuit of truth as the primary purpose. By contrast, some members of the Japanese press view their role as providing support for the government and government authorities, said Watanabe.

On the lighter side, Watanabe referred to a very special *yaki-imo* or baked sweet potato that she received as a gift during one of her newspaper interviews. Watanabe, who still keeps the *yaki-imo* in her freezer, received it when she interviewed a leader of one of Japan's reputed gangs about the victim relief efforts being performed by that group following the Hanshin earthquake.

Watanabe, who works 18-hour days as a matter of routine to meet press deadlines, is a Seattle native, and has been assigned to the *Los Angeles Times* Tokyo bureau since 1991.

**Sacramento sets Feb. 17 'Day of Remembrance'**

The Sacramento Chapter, JACL, scheduled its Day of Remembrance Saturday, Feb. 17 in Sacramento. Scheduled keynote speaker for the event was Hiroki Sugihara, son of international humanitarian Chiune Sugihara. The speaker introduced *Visas for Life*, the recently translated memoirs of his mother, Yukiko.

Hiroki Sugihara, who attended Sacramento City College in 1957-58, returned to the city to share the story of his family's experience during World War II.

In existence for more than 65 years, the JACL is a national non-profit organization comprised of more than 22,000 members dedicated to the protection of human and civil rights of all Americans. The purpose of the Day of Remembrance program is to educate the community and to remember the internment of the 115,000 Americans citizens of Japanese ancestry.

**JACL CAL**

(Continued from page 2)

Alaska package (May 23-27: Anchorage city tour, Kenai Fjords National Park cruise; 26 Glaciers cruise (with train and motorcoach) to Prince William Sound; Optional: Mt. Kinley tour. Tour reservation: Feb. 29 deadline; travel to Alaska not included in land tour package, for choice of other tours, contact local travel agent.

**NorCal-WN-Pacific**

**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.

**MONTEREY PENINSULA**  
Sat. Feb. 17—Author reception/book distribution of "The Japanese of the Monterey Peninsula" by David Yamada,

2 p.m., JACL Hall, 424 Adams St., info: JACL Hall, P.O. Box 664, Monterey, CA 93942.

**SACRAMENTO**

Tue., Feb. 20—Asian Pacific Americans for Affirmative Action/JACL general meeting, 7 p.m., Nisei Hall, 4th and "O" St., info: JACL Office, 916/447-0231. NOTE—Both Florin and Sacramento chapters are among the AAPA sponsors.

**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. Feb. 24—Installation dinner, 6 p.m. reception, dinner at 7, Airport Hilton. Info: JACL Office, 415/343-2793. NOTE—Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Honda, Herbert Yamanishi, Karyl Matsumoto, speakers.

**SAN JOSE**  
Chapter Board on 2nd Fridays; '96 Convention Committee on 3rd

Tuesdays, info: 408/295-1250.

**Pacific Southwest**

**ARIZONA**

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

**GREATER L.A. SINGLES**  
Sat. Feb. 17—Bingo casino night, 7 p.m., Nisei VFW Hall, 162nd & Gramercy, Gardena; info: Miyako Kadogawa 310/839-1194. NOTE—Co-sponsored by Gardena Valley, Carson and South Bay chapters; \$10 ticket includes games, refreshments.

**IMPORTANT:** Contact person and phone numbers are necessary for listing, including "Save the Date" notices in the Calendar. Next deadline: Feb. 23.

## Books

## Sugihara's heroism in saving Jews chronicled by his widow

Review by NANCY SHOJI

**Yukiko Sugihara. *Visas for Life, Edu.-Comm Plus, 236 W. Porter Ave #219, San Francisco, CA 94127 (1995) 167pp, \$26.***

I remember it clearly. It was Jerusalem, March 1961, I had just completed a six-month stint on a *kibbutz ulpan* in the Sharon Valley and was spending *shabbat* with the religious family of a friend in New York. It was through a brother, with his ties to Mir Yeshiva, that I first heard about that August in 1940. Oskar Schindler had yet to start his list, and it would be another five years before Raoul Wallenberg left for Budapest.

Some 10,000 (as approximated by some authorities today) Jewish lives had been saved by a lone Japanese diplomat in Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania, acting against specific orders of his government. There was at first a burst of personal pride, based on our

common roots; then, an overwhelming sense of awe! The sudden realization of what phenomenal independence of spirit such an act would require in a man of his background! A culture where, especially then, it was not considered in any way a virtue, but cause for denigration!

*Visas for Life* is a story of Chiune Sempo Sugihara, Japanese deputy consul general to Lithuania (1939-1940), as told by his widow through her autobiography. Written and published in Japan in 1993 when she was 79 years old, it now available in English, translated by Hiroki Sugihara, who in the preface writes:

"This book was difficult for my mother to write... raised in an era when people did not talk about their accomplishments. In my mother's time, people were also taught to keep their feelings to themselves. So my mother tells her story here a bit reluctantly and humbly."

Whether it is the original or in its translation, *Visas for Life*

clearly could have used the guidance and strong editing hand of a skilled professional—the writing is uneven and often repetitive, and lacks the clarity and structure associated with autobiographic/biographical writings covering individuals of historical significance.

However, Mme. Sugihara's commitment to the memory of her husband and her own personal belief in the righteousness of his act is movingly clear throughout. And in sharing hitherto unknown facts and intriguing details, and giving us important insight into her husband, she has done an admirable job.

*Visas for Life* is a "must" read for anyone interested in the nature and faces of heroism during the Holocaust. It is the first relatively in-depth accounting we have of Chiune Sugihara, whose face of heroism has long been recognized in Israel alongside side those of Wallenberg and Schindler, and who has received her highest tributes and honors.

Chiune Sugihara died on July 31, 1985, having witnessed, much to his constant amazement, his survivors having held true to their words. They had not forgotten! They had searched for him (and he was located in Moscow by an economic attache at the Israeli Embassy in Tokyo in 1968 who was one of the benefactors) and when it was all over, they feted him and honored him with their grateful tributes in Jerusalem, where the state of Israel expressed its eternal gratitude to this stranger among them and paid him its highest honors. [Sugihara, upon his return to Japan after WWII from Russian internment in Romania, was summarily dismissed from the Foreign Service for what had come to be known within its inner circles as "The Incident in Lithuania." He returned to Russia representing a Japanese trading firm.]

With the poetic sensibility of the Japanese that is able to find significance even in the simplest of happenstances, Mme. Sugihara

writes of the tree-planting dedication in her husband's honor in the hills outside of Jerusalem:

"A cherry tree was originally selected for the planting. That decision was later changed to a cedar tree because cedar is more sturdy and can better withstand the harsh desert soil. The change was significant because Sugihara literally means "cedar grove." Cedar is considered one of the holiest of woods because it was used to build the first Jewish temple."

And with the Hill of Humanity monument dedicated to him by his hometown of Yaotsu, Gifu Prefecture, and the Nagasaki Peace Prize posthumously awarded him, Japan has at last begun to acknowledge the righteousness of Chiune Sugihara's act, and to honor him for the "Incident in Lithuania."

*Nancy Shoji, now a Seattle-area resident with Shoreline Community College, was a PC contributor from New York City in the early 1980s.*

## WWII pilot's son heals wounds

Review by DON ESTES

**Jerry Yellin. *Of War and Weddings: a Legacy of Two Fathers, Sunstar Publishing, 116 N Court St., Fairfield, Iowa 52556, (1995), 275pp, \$17.95.***

Jerry Yellin's book, *Of War and Weddings*, is both a compelling and troubling effort. The work carries the reader on one man's sometimes tortuous and at other times uplifting journey towards understanding. Like most journeys, this pilgrimage is not without its introspections, struggles and no small amount of pain.

The precis of Yellin's works is fairly straightforward. The author, who early in the first chapter writes that he had an "...obsession...to fly a fighter plane against the Japanese," enlists in April 1942 as an aviation cadet in the U.S. Army Air Corps ultimately assigned to the 78th Fighter Squadron, flying combat missions in P-51 Mustangs from Iwojima. This enable the author to fulfill his *obsession*, and vividly reminds us of the old saying, "Be careful of what you wish for—you might get it."

After the war, Yellin returns home to civilian life, marries, fathers four sons and becomes a

successful businessman. In 1982, he and his wife Helene have occasion to visit Japan. Five years later, their youngest son Robert, who is teaching in Japan, informs his parents of his intention to marry a Japanese woman, Takako Yamakawa. It subsequently develops that her father is also a WWII veteran. Both families harbor major reservations about the proposed union and must come to grips with the desires of their son and daughter respectively.

Compelling and well-paced, utilizing flashbacks, Yellin takes the reader from the present to the past and back again in a non-distracting manner. His language is vivid, descriptive and leaves little doubt of what's in his mind. Perhaps, that willingness to share his inner thoughts sustains the book's interest level.

Of Nikkei interest may be his observations about Japanese life, some of which are, unfortunately, flawed. He correctly infers that many Japanese American families hold severe restrictions about marrying into *Burakumin* families, or AINU, which he identifies as a *sect*. And there are others, misspelled words included, which bedevil Yellin's efforts. A hard lesson for any fledgling writer is certainly the importance of accuracy.

A startling reference to Hawaiian shirts as "Gook" shirts—even within the context of WWII—was insulting and a term not worth repeating. It is best left to die a silent death.

In the most personally disturbing instance, Yellin is asked by a Japanese friend about the Nikkei concentration camps. He responds that, "Sometimes governments make monumental mistakes... Sure they were American citizens, but our senior officials knew nothing about the Japanese and they thought they might be a threat." This, written in 1995, is another piece of telling evidence supporting the ongoing need to educate about the Nikkei experience.

This notwithstanding, *Of War and Weddings* is in its own way an engaging book, worth reading for no other reason than the personal insights into another human being it offers. There is much to be learned by following Jerry Yellin's difficult quest for understanding. It will touch many in different ways.

*Estes, professor of history at San Diego City College, is a contributor of San Diego Japanese community histories to the Pacific Citizen.*

## 50 years after the Hiroshima decision

Review by ED MITOMA

**Gar Alperovitz, *The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb, Alfred A. Knopf, 847 pp (1995), \$32.50.***

One of the most controversial issues absorbing America today is: Was it necessary to drop the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki? In this exhaustive and thoroughly documented study, the author makes plain why the U.S. did not need to deploy the bomb, how Truman was advised of alternatives by nearly every civilian and military adviser, and how his final decision was later justified by what amounted to a deception—the claim that the action saved half a million American soldiers who might otherwise have died in an invasion.

Intelligence intercepts had shown that Japan was close to surrender. The big point was the late clarification of the U.S. hesitation on the position of the Japanese Emperor.

With the advent of the A-bomb, the U.S. position on seeking Soviet entry into the war changed—as Russian occupation of Korea and parts of Japan would present another problem. Thus, Truman on the advice of Secretary of State James Byrnes opted to use the bomb.

The book is based on many years of archival research. It assesses who knew what and when, and who did what and why. Because it is the fullest account yet written, it is repetitive at times and reads like a text book.

■■■■  
**Ronald Takaki. *Hiroshima: Why America Dropped the Atomic Bomb, Little Brown, 193 pp (1995) \$19.95.***

Written on the same theme as the Alperovitz book, Takaki, author of the book, *A Different Mirror, Strangers from a Different Shore*, writes a very readable ac-

count of the events. He also considers the cultural context of race—the ways in which stereotypes of the Japanese influenced public opinion and policymakers—and also probes the human dimension.

Takaki argues that racism and personal insecurity played roles in Truman's decision to drop the bombs that killed nearly 200,000 civilians. He states that Truman knew that projected American dead from an invasion were fewer than 50,000—not 500,000 that he repeatedly cited long after the end of the war.

■■■■  
**James N. Yamazaki. *Children of the Atomic Bomb: an American Physicians' Memoirs of Nagasaki, Hiroshima and the Marshall Islands, Duke University Press, P.O. Box 90660, Durham, NC 27708, 200pp (1995), \$16.95 cloth.***

See HIROSHIMA/page 9

## Hard times: The lives of Japanese in Peru profiled

Review by JORGE SMITH

**Carlos Alberto Yrigoyen. *Setogiwa, in Spanish by Ediciones Haruki Abe Production, Lima, Peru (1994). An English translation is scheduled.***

*Setogiwa* or "Hard Times" is an impressive fresco, shaped as a historical novel about Japanese immigrants in Peru by Carlos Yrigoyen, onetime Peruvian diplomat who served in its Embassy in Japan on two occasions, once in the '70s and in the '80s.

In those years Japan had a very impressive economic growth. It became one of the first economic powers and at the same time an unchallenged leader in the most diverse field of technological development, especially in electronics. The Japanese didn't copy technology from somewhere else but started to release original products of very high performance and at prices that couldn't be matched. So they invaded the planet with their trademarks.

Behind that Japan, inflexible in negotiations, with a labor discipline that any other country could envy, existed another Japan that the emigrants of other times have carried within themselves.

It is that Japan, transplanted for various reasons to Peru, that the inexhaustible curiosity of Yrigoyen has helped us to discover. This volume brings us the history of a people, not in the moments of economical abundance but when they had to endure very difficult times. As individuals and as a community the Japanese immigrants had had to go through very hard challenges. Those "hard times" are periods when chronic poverty is combined with precariousness.

Given the circumstances and the search for new perspectives to make a living, many Japanese decided to leave Japan. Some of them decided to try their luck going to Peru.

It is about the saga of those immigrants who established themselves in different parts of coastal Peru which construes the plot of *Setogiwa*. It's illustrated by the various episodes of the life of individual Japanese as well as whole families. We see how little by little the Japanese community in Peru starts to define its own profile. We discover through this story the slow and difficult settling of a community with very deep-rooted traditional values in their effort to create for themselves a space inside the Peruvian society at the beginning of this century. Peru was also a society with very deep-rooted traditional values.

The big wave of Japanese immigration started in 1899. It was the start of very complex relations between the Japanese and the Peruvians.

The main character of the novel is Fujimoto Eisaburo, who incarnates the personality of the immigrant. Seeing through him the world in which he evolves, we find a very unusual and unexpected facet of the Peruvian society of those times, its virtues and defects as well as its luxuriant complexity. We understand better the incredible capacity of absorption that the Limeño society has on strangers of every origin. We see, thanks to Yrigoyen, from close up the contradictory mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion that were the stubborn social stratification of that society. We confront also the multiple egoisms and the various meageresses.

Like an exceptional chaperone, the author leads us to discover a world—the Japanese community—in its moment of birth, inside another one, like Peru, that has not yet achieved a defined shape as a nation, and that for this same reason is not able to metabolize yet the rich human mosaic that lives inside its boundaries. It is also for this reason that the dense 558 pages of this beautiful book

See PERU/page 9

Opinions



From the frying pan

By BILL HOSOKAWA

It's fiction but the characters are very real

Speaking very broadly, Japanese Americans don't seem to be great book-readers, not because they don't like to read (most of them read very well) but because they have too many other interests on their menu. This is a statement I probably will have to apologize for and eat without benefit of soy sauce and monosodium glutamate.

Anyway, as I started to say, in the last few weeks I have been asked more times than I can remember whether I've read a book titled *Snow Falling on Cedars*, by David Guterson. The latest inquiry was from my friend Chuck Hoonan of Moraga, Calif.

"If you have not read it," Hoonan wrote, "run—don't walk—to the nearest bookstore and buy the paperback copy. It is a magnificent mystery story. More importantly, it depicts accurately the first generation Japanese Americans in the Puget Sound area before, during and after World War II."

Well, as it happens, I know the book. My daughter Susan gave it to me a couple of

months ago and I read it. Once I got into the story it was difficult to put the book down, partly because I grew up in the area and was familiar with the setting on mythical San Pedro Island not far from Seattle and the kind of people who live there.

But it is more. It is, as Hoonan describes it, a magnificent mystery tale. It is a finely crafted story about Hatsue, Nisei daughter of an Issei strawberry farmer, and her touching but innocent and secret love affair with a Caucasian schoolmate named Ishmael which is ended by the Evacuation. It is about the murder trial of Kabuo, a salmon fisherman and Hatsue's Nisei husband, a stoic veteran emotionally scarred from the 442nd's savage battles in Europe. It is about wily attorneys matching wits in their search for the truth, whatever it may be, and the detective work through the snow and rain and blinding fog of the Northwest winter that leads to justice.

In evaluating a book it is customary, almost mandatory, to pick a few nits in the

characterization or the plot no matter how well the story is told. This being the case, in *Snow Falling on the Cedars* I could wish for a stronger role for Kabuo who, although he is the one on trial, is hardly more than a bystander in the narrative focused on Hatsue and Ishmael and sundry other very believable personalities.

But that would be carping. I am glad David Guterson wrote the book. It brings Japanese Americans to life as sympathetic human beings, sometimes with special problems, in a way that we ourselves may find difficult if not impossible to do.

Yes, Chuck Hoonan, I've read the book, and I don't hesitate to urge my non-reading friends to read it, too.

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



Very truly yours

By HARRY K. HONDA

The Hojun Maru survivors of 1832

Japanese who drifted across the Pacific Ocean in their boats in the 18th and 19th centuries and survived are very few and little known in the annals of history.

Here is one saga of three who survived for 14 months across the North Pacific, as recounted in both Japanese and English on a monument standing inside Fort Vancouver, Wash., by its Visitor's Center.

Some years ago Lake Washington JACLer Ken Nakano reported that a commemorative plaque, sponsored in conjunction with the Washington State Centennial Commission, National Park Service, and the Japanese American Citizens League, was going to be dedicated. It was natural (of me) to think it was being placed at Cape Flattery—a good day's drive from Seattle, where three Japanese survivors of the *Hojun Maru* were washed ashore and rescued by native Indians.

Ken invited both the *Stockton Record* columnist Barry Saiki and me to visit the historic site. We were attending the MIS-Northwest reunion last September. What a relief to learn it would be a nice two-hour drive, instead, from the Sea-Tac Airport area down Interstate-5 to the southern edge of Washington state at the Columbia River.

The *Hojun Maru* story predates familiar personalities like Manjiro (John Mung) of 1841 and Joseph Heco of 1850, who came to

America before Commodore Perry had opened Japan with his Black Ships in 1853.

As the monument relates, the *Hojun Maru* and its crew of 14 men sailed from Toba near Nagoya with cargo for Edo in October, 1832. The ship was disabled (losing its mast and rudder) in a storm off Enshu Nada, then drifted for 14 months, carried



The Commemorative Monument to the three Japanese survivors of 1832 are shown with Ken Nakano, the JACLer instrumental in its dedication in 1989.

by the Kuroshio (Black Current) to Cape Flattery.

The three survived by eating rice in the cargo and drinking rainwater. "They were the first Japanese to arrive," the plaque reads, "on the continent of North America." The three—Iwakuchi, Otokichi and Kyukichi—lived among the coastal (Makah) Indians before they were ransomed and brought to Fort Vancouver by the Hudson's Bay Company party (after learning of the event by "jungle telegraph.")

But the point here, while showing off the monument, is to bring up other interesting bits of history. These survivors were not the first Japanese "to arrive" on the continent of North America, so far as history says.

1607—Japanese, arrested earlier as pirates by the Spanish in Manila, were shipped from Mexico to Lima in 1607 as "slaves". In the 1613 census, there were 22 *indios japoneses* and *mestizo* (Spanish-Japanese) children in Lima. [Dr. Jose Antonio del Busto, Spanish colonial historian, 1989]

1610—After being shipwrecked and rescued by Japanese fishermen and women divers off the Wada coast of Chiba-ken and kindly treated at Edo by Tokugawa Hidetada (the son of Ieyasu), Spanish Gov-

See HOJUN/page 12

*Honda is editor emeritus of Pacific Citizen.*

CALENDAR

(Continued from page 2)

Arizona JACL, 602/931-1985.

Northern California

BERKELEY

Sat. March 2—Japanese Women Alumnae of UC Berkeley program, 10:30 a.m. registration, 12:15 luncheon, Holiday Inn Emeryville; RSVP by 2-10-96, 415/548-6362. NOTE—Beckie Masaki, executive director, Asian Women's Shelter, San Francisco, speaker.

SACRAMENTO

Sun. March 10—Japanese Food Festival, 10:30 a.m.-Sold out 4:30, Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd., info: Erin Komatsubara 916/374-1313. NOTE—Fujinkai and Adult Buddhist Assn. in charge.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat. Feb. 24—Nihonmachi Legal Outreach/National Asian American Team Trivia championships, 6 p.m., JCCCCNC, 1840 Sutter St.; info: NLO 415/567-6255. NOTE—Entry deadline Feb. 16 for first 25 teams of 12-members each, \$20 per member regis. fee, proceeds to NLO.

Sun. March 10—Nisei Widowed Group monthly meeting, 2-4 p.m.; info: Elsie Uyeda Chung 415/221-0268, Margaret Iwai-Ey 510/724-6247.

SAN JOSE

Sun. March 10—Yu-Ai Kai/Kanojo fashion show luncheon, Fairmont Hotel, tickets \$40; info: Yu-Ai Kai, 408/294-2505.

STOCKTON

Fri., Feb. 23—San Joaquin Nisei Farmers League 20th annual banquet, 6 p.m., Waterloo Gun and Bocci Club, info: Terry Paoletti 209/4654-1754. NOTE—Rep. Richard W. Pombo, keynote speaker.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Through March 7—"America's Smithsonian," 150th anniversary traveling exhibit from Smithsonian, Yorty Hall, L.A. Convention Center; info: 800/913-7687.

Sun. Feb. 18—NCCR / Day of Remembrance, 2-4 p.m., Japan America Theatre; info: NCCR 213/680-3484. NOTE—Norman Mineta, keynote speaker, reception follows.

Sat. Feb. 24—JANM Lecture: Lonnie Bunch, Smithsonian Institution associate director, 10:30-12 noon, JANM; RSVP 213/625-0414. NOTE—JANM joins in 150th anniversary celebration of the Smithsonian.

Tue. Feb. 27, March 5-12-19-26—JANM Educators' Workshop: "An Exhibition in Your Classroom," 6-9 p.m., JANM; RSVP by Feb. 16, 213/625-0414. NOTE—Flora Ito, Lloyd Kajikawa (Nat'l School Project coordinator), instructors, class limit to 35, designed for K-12 teachers.

Thu. Feb. 29—Monthly Performance: Cold Tofu Improv, 7:30-9 p.m.; JANM, must RSVP 213/625-0414.

ORANGE COUNTY

Sat. Feb. 24—OC Sansel Singles "An Anthology Affaire II," 6-11:30 p.m., Sambi Restaurant, 8649 Firestone Blvd., Downey; RSVP Feb. 17: Rodney Ichinose 213/293-5795. NOTE—Another night of good music, food and fun.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

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

IMPORTANT: Contact person and phone numbers are necessary for events, including "Save the Date" notices, to be listed in the Calendar.

Pacific Citizen Policies

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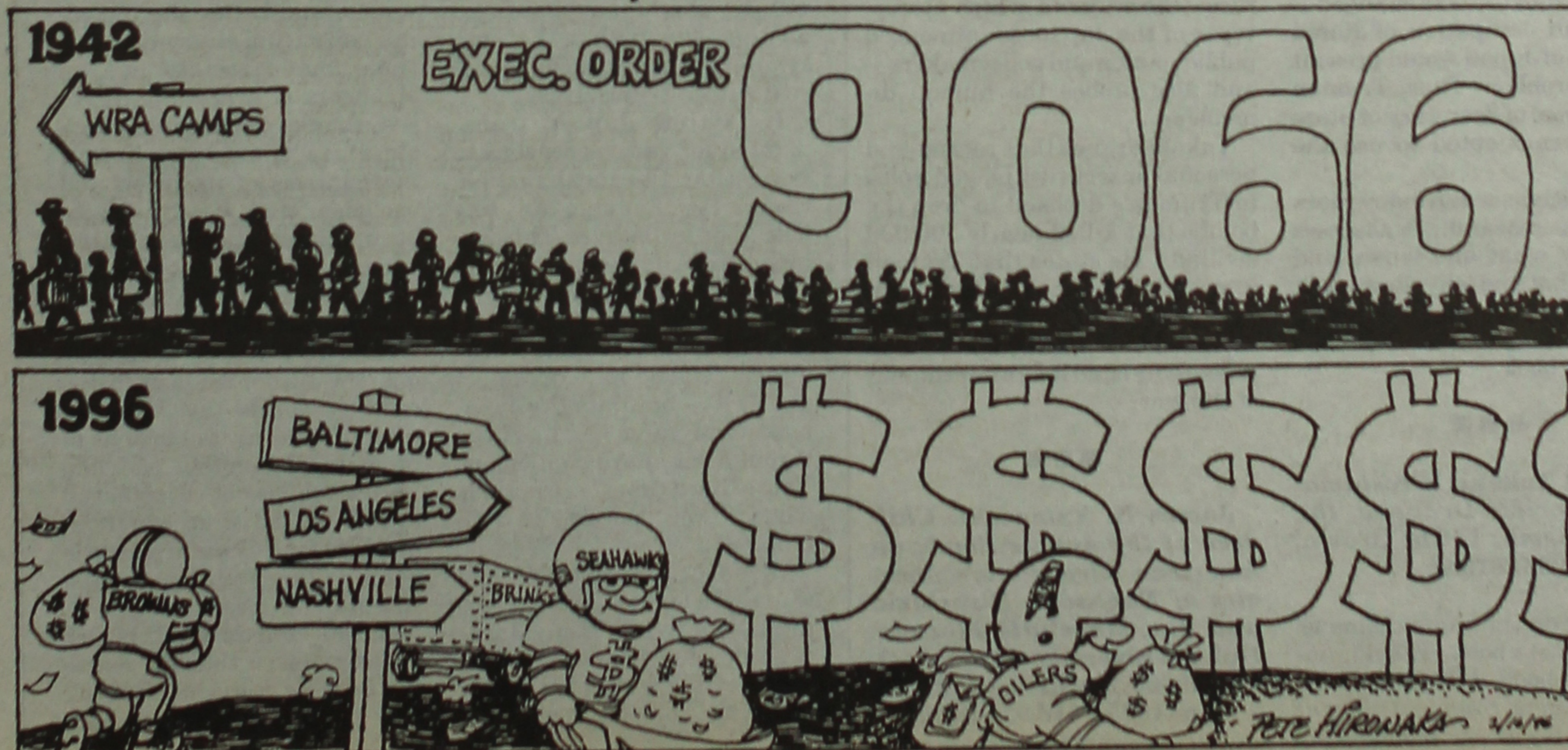
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Information: 1/800/966-6157

EVACUATION/RELOCATION BACKDROPS





## Books

## On the market: A list of recently published books

## Japanese American history

Brian Masaru Hayashi. *For Sake of Our Brethren: Assimilation, Nationalism and Protestantism among the Japanese of Los Angeles, 1895-1942* (May 1995), Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA 94305; 218 pp, biblio., index, \$35.00 cloth.

## The Evacuation

Francis Feeley. *A Strategy of Dominance: the History of an American Concentration Camp, Pomona California* (Oct. 1995), Brandywine Press, 1854 Baldwin St., Waterbury, CT 06706, 116 pp, \$14.50 soft.

Claire Gorfinkel, ed., *The Evacuation Diary of Hatsuye Egami* (Feb. 1996), International Productions, P.O. Box 94814, Pasadena, CA 91109; map of Tulare Assembly Center, 103 pp, \$15 postpaid, soft.

Dean Kohloff. *When the Wind Was a River: Aleut Evacuation in World War II* (Dec. 1995), University of Washington Press, P.O. Box 50096, Seattle, WA 98145, 234 pp, maps, photos, index, \$24.95 cloth.

## Nisei Stranded

Mary Kimoto Tomita, edited with introduction and notes by Robert G. Lee. *Dear Miye: Letters Home from Japan 1939-1946* (Dec. 1995), Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA 94305; 400 pp, index, \$45.00 cloth.

## Japanese in Canada

Gerard S. Sugiyama. *Ignomy: a novel* (March 1995); Jess Publication, P.O. Box 91373, West

Vancouver, BC, Canada V7V 3P1; 162pp paper, Can.\$8.30.

## Japanese in Hawaii

Edward Sakamoto, foreword by Franklin S. Odo. *Hawai'i No Ka Oi: The Kamiya Family Trilogy* (Jan. 1996); University of Hawaii Press, 2840 Kolowalu St., Honolulu, HI 96822; 142pp, \$17, paper.

Milton Murayama. *Five Years on a Rock: a novel* (1994), University of Hawaii Press, 2840 Kolowalu St., Honolulu, HI 96822; 144 pp, \$18 cloth, \$9.95 paper.

## Asian Indians in America

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. *Arranged Marriage: Stories* (July 1995), Anchor Books/Doubleday, 1540 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 308 pp, glossary, \$21.00 hard.

## Vietnamese in America

T.J. English. *Born to Kill: America's Most Notorious Vietnamese Gang and the Changing Face of Organized Crime* (Jan. 1995), William Morrow & Co., 1350 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019, 310pp, index, \$22.00 hard.

## Poetry

David Mura. *The Colors of Desire* (Jan. 1995), Anchor Books/Doubleday, 1540 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 106 pp, glossary, \$19.95 hard, \$10 paper. (His second book of poems).

Paul Mackintosh and Maki Sugiyama, tr. *The Poems of Nakahara Chuya* (March 1994);

Morehouse Publishing, 871 Ethan Allen Hwy, #204, Ridgefield, CT 06877; 122 pp, \$12.95 paper.

## Biography (World War II)

Solly Gaynor. *Light One Candle: a Survivor's Story of Holocaust Demons and Japanese Heroes* (Dec. 1995); Kodansha America, 114 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011, 355 pp, \$25.00 cloth.

Hyman Samuelson, Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, ed. *Love, War, and the 96th Engineers (Colored): the WWII New Guinea Diaries of Captain Hyman Samuelson* (Nov. 1995); University of Illinois Press, 1325 So. Oak St., Champaign, IL 61820; 319 pp, index, \$26.95, cloth.

## Children

Janet Mitsui Brown, text and watercolor drawings. *Thanksgiving at Obaachan's* (May 1994), Polychrome Publishing, 4509 N. Francisco Ave., Chicago, IL 60625; 34 pp, color, \$12.95 hard.

Sandra S. Yamate, ed., compiled on behalf of the Asian American Coalition featuring photography by Gene H. Mayeda. *Children of Asian America* (Dec. 1995), Polychrome Publishing, 4509 N. Francisco Ave., Chicago, IL 60625; 112 pp, 11"x11", \$18.85 hard.

Ken Mochizuki, Dom Lee, illus. *Heroes* (March 1995), Lee & Low Books, 228 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017; 32 pp, \$14.95 cloth.

Ken Mochizuki, Dom Lee, illus. *Baseball Saved Us* (March 1995), Lee & Low Books, 228 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017; 30 pp, \$5.95 soft. (Hardcover March 1993: a Parents' Choice Award).

Gary Kawaguchi. *Tracing Our Japanese Roots* (Jan. 1995), Publishers Group West, P.O. Box 613,

Santa Fe, NM 87504; 48 pp, archival photos, illus., index, \$12.95 hard.

Antonia Barber, drawings by Meilo So. *The Monkey and the Panda* (March 1995); Macmillan/Simon & Schuster, 806 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022; 28 pp, 8 1/2 x 11", \$15.00 hard, ages 4-7.

Naomi Shihab Nye, drawings by Yu Cha Pak. *Benito's Dream Bottle* (March 1995), Simon & Schuster, 806 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022; 32 pp, 8 x 10", \$15.00 hard, ages 4-8.

Carol Ann Williams, drawings by Tatsuro Kiuchi. *Tsubu, the Little Snail* (March 1995), Simon & Schuster, 806 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022; 32 pp, 8 x 10", \$15.00 hard, ages 4-7.

Janet S. Wong. *Good Luck Gold and Other Poems* (Sept. 1994), McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster, 806 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022; 48 pp, \$13.95 hard, ages 5-10.

## Cook books

Monique Kobayashi. *Food for Beauty, Happiness and Longevity* (1995), Monique Enterprise, P.O. Box 8131, South Bend, IN 46660. \$13 postpaid.

## Dance

Rusty Frank, foreword by Gregory Hines. *TAP! the Greatest Tap Dance Stars and Their Stories, 1900-1955* (May 1995), De Capo Press, 233 Spring St., New York, NY 10013, 336 pp, \$19.95 soft. (Biography of Wing and Toy, pp 102-110.)

## Drama/Asian American Studies

Edward Sakamoto, foreword by

Franklin S. Odo. *Hawai'i No Ka Oi: The Kamiya Family Trilogy* (Jan. 1996); University of Hawaii Press, 2840 Kolowalu St., Honolulu, HI 96822; 142pp, \$17, paper.

## Fiction/novels

Lensey Namioka, Kumi Yamashita, illus. *Valley of the Broken Cherry Trees* (Jan. 1996); Blue Heron Publishing, 24450 NW Hansen Rd., Hillsboro, OR 97124; 160pp, \$8.95 paper (Mystery, ages 10 & up.)

Lauren Lee. *Stella On the Edge of Popularity* (May 1994); Polychrome Publishing, 4509 N. Francisco Ave., Chicago, IL 60625; 184 pp, \$10.95 hard. (Young adult)

Andrea Louis. *Moon Cakes* (June 1995), One World/Ballantine Books, 201 E. 50th St., New York, NY 10022; 332 pp, \$21.00 hard. (Author is a member of the Asian American Journalists Association.)

## Modern China

Jung Chang. *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China* (Nov. 1992); Anchor Books/Doubleday, 666 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10103; 525 pp, family chronology, index, \$14, soft.

Anchee Min. *Red Azalea* (Feb. 1994); Pantheon Books, 201 E. 50th St., New York, NY 10022, 306 pp, \$21.50 hard. (Title comes from one of Mme. Mao's political operas.)

Dr. Li Zhisui with Anne F. Thurston. *The Private Life of Chairman Mao: the Memoirs of Mao's personal physician* (Oct. 1994); Random House, 201 E. 50th St., New York, NY 10022; 720 pp, maps, chronology, biographical sketches, index, \$30.00 hard.

## PERU

(Continued from page 7)

are not only the history but in a way also the anthology of the behavior of a country that receives immigrants to themselves. The author also gives us a very elaborate methodology to understand the behavior of the immigrants.

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*Setogiwa* could be read on very different levels, and each one of them conveys its own message. Nevertheless, what comes at the top of the iceberg persistently is the narrative of the loyalty of the immigrant to the land that receives him at a difficult moment and that in so doing offers the newcomer the chance to start out again with a new life.

During World War II, Peru takes side with the Allies, who were in a war against Japan. For this unexpected reason the destiny of the Japanese, who were living for some decades in Peru, took on a radical shift. Many Japanese were sent from Peru to a concentration camp in Texas—Camp Kenedy—where they had to wait to be sent to other camps in the United States.

When the war was over, and after the enduring and difficult experience of the camps, they found themselves in an absurd situation. As Yrigoyen so consistently remarks in his research in spite of the declarations that were affirming the contrary, the Peruvian authorities didn't make the return to Peru of the exiled Japanese easy. On the other side, the U.S. government was not always ready to accept the just-liberated Japanese to remain in the United States and start living on American soil. Also, many of the Japa-

nese themselves didn't want to go back to Japan.

Finally after evaluating all those "hard times," and once it was possible, many of the Japanese who were living in Peru before the war decided to go back there. That was the decision of Fujimoto Eisaburo, the main character of *Setogiwa* who, being already 91 years old and able either to stay in the United States or go back to Japan, decides to return to Peru, a country that for his inner soul he had considered already his new homeland.

Many of the remaining Japanese Peruvians in the United States established themselves in Seabrook Farms in New Jersey. It is a paradox that nowadays in the north of New Jersey, in Patterson, Passaic and Elizabeth, some of the biggest communities of Peruvian emigrants who left Peru in the '70s and '80s are established. These latter-year emigrants were pushed out by an economic crisis that seemed not to have an end and that happily seems to be over at least in its most despairing aspects—inflation and terrorism. Those Peruvians of New Jersey, no doubt, ignore that not so far from them are many Japanese who once lived in Peru and were forced into exile finished their days in New Jersey.

Those Japanese charged with memories of deceit and disappointment were forced to rewrite the tale of the immigrant.

This historical novel of Carlos Alberto Yrigoyen is not only a valuable literary product but also for its fascinating research it is a major contribution to various fields of interest, mostly to the always active and fertile debate about the diverse and even contradictory as-

pects that are part of the Peruvian cultural identity.

In the Peruvian ethnic and racial mosaic, Asian immigrants and particularly the hard-working and discreet Japanese community have already a very precise space, given the actual circumstances, especially because it is in that country that for the first time a Nisei, a son of immigrants, was elected president of Peru, and thanks to his proven efficiency even got re-elected.

Jorge Smith is associate editor of *Peru do los 90*, a monthly newspaper published in Los Angeles, Calif.

## HIROSHIMA

(Continued from page 7)

This book is Dr. Yamazaki's account of a lifelong effort to understand and document the impact of the nuclear explosions on children, particularly the children conceived but not yet born at the time of the explosions.

Assigned in 1949 as Physician in Charge of the U.S. Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in Nagasaki, Yamazaki had served as a combat surgeon at the Battle of the Bulge where he had been captured and held as a prisoner of war by the Germans.

In Japan he was confronted with violence of another dimension—the devastating impact of a nuclear blast and the particularly insidious effects of radiation on children. The horrors of radiation effects on humans are given, citing oral interviews during treatments.

Dr. Yamazaki is the brother of Father John Yamazaki of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Los Angeles.

Joseph Gerson. *With Hiroshima Eyes: Atomic War, Nuclear Extortion and Moral Imagination*, New York Society Publishers with American Friends Service Committee (1995), \$16.95.

*With Hiroshima Eyes* deals with the hard issues raised by the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It explores the complex relation-

ships between official history, collective memory, racism in foreign policy and moral imagination. The author goes on to reveal how the U.S. has used the threat of atomic weapons again and again (most recently in the Persian Gulf and North Korea) to intimidate nations and extend its control.

Gerson suggests that we, with the help of the *hibakusha* (A-bomb victims), can shake off the effects of denial and propaganda, look steadily at the horrors and hopes in our world, and find practical ways to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

## Reviewer's postscript

Although not discussed in any of these books, recent commentators have suggested that if the Soviet Union had occupied portions of Japan, Japan would have been partitioned as was Korea and Germany. They suggest that the A-Bomb kept this from happening. But, 50 years after the use of the A-Bomb,

accumulated evidence has shown that nuclear weapons are in the same class as bacteriological and poison gas weapons.

Francis Fukuyama stated in his book, *The End of History and the Last Man*, page 6, that in an earlier age, such bombings would have been called genocidal.—EM

Other books published recently on the A-Bomb and the end of World War II include:

*Dark Sun: the Making of the Hydrogen Bomb*, by Richard Rhodes, Simon & Shuster, 731 pp. (1995), \$32.50

*Hiroshima in America: Fifty Years of Denial*, by Robert Jay Lifton & Greg Mitchell, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 425 pp. (1995),

\$27.50

*The Last Great Victory: the End of World War II, July/August '45*, by Stan Weintraub, Dutton, 730 pp. (1995), \$35

Ed Mitoma is a member of the South Bay Chapter, JACL, and the JACL U.S.-Japan Relations Committee.

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**All aboard**



Mile-Hi Chapter officials are, standing, from left, Tom Masamori, Legacy Fund/legislative; Andy Hamano, scholarships; Richard Hamai, treasurer; Peter Kanda, secretary; and Paul Koto, newsletter. Seated, from left, are: Mark Shimoda, programs; Frank Sakamoto, representative at large; Sumi Takeno, membership/hospitality; Tom Migaki, president; and Carol Arata Nichols, newsletter editor.

**Local senator highlights Mile-Hi installation**

"Through the Generations" was the theme of the recent Mile-Hi Chapter JAACL, installation dinner attended by nearly 100 members. Guest speaker freshman Colorado State Sen. Stanley T. Matsunaka discussed his experiences as a neophyte legislator and related some of the humorous remarks made inadvertently by his colleagues.

Bill Hosokawa, chapter member and Pacific Citizen columnist and advisor, reported on the progress of the National Japanese Memorial Foundation monument, to be built in Washington, D.C., to honor Japanese American patriotism during World War II. Longtime chapter member Sumi Takeno was recognized for her many years of service.

Emcee for the evening was Adele Arakawa, Denver TV news anchor. Denver Mayor Wellington E. Webb welcomed guests and thanked those in attendance for their help in his recent reelection. Tom Migaki, elected to his third term as chapter president, said that Mile-Hi was very involved in the community and that commitment would continue or be expanded.

**West Valley, JAACL, installs officers**

A new slate of officers was sworn in at the Jan. 20 meeting of the West Valley Chapter, JAACL, held in Los Gatos, Calif. Elected officials for 1996 were Brian Kuwahara, president; Dr. Ron Matsuura, first vice president; John Kaku, second vice president; Todd Yoshida, treasurer; Mary Ann Ouye, recording secretary; and Rose Watanabe, corresponding secretary. Incoming President Kuwahara, a Yonsei, noted that the chapter

sponsors the Next Generation Group and the Senior Club. One of his goals as president will be to integrate and consolidate the generational groups to increase membership. He said he has appointed a committee comprised of representatives of different groups to review the situation and provide recommendations. San Jose attorney Steven Nakano addressed the gathering and announced his candidacy for Santa Clara County Superior

Court judgeship when Judge Taketsugi Takei, a West Valley Chapter member, retires. He asked for support in the upcoming election. Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Honda, a candidate for the California State Assembly, stressed the continuing need for JAACL and praised the younger generation for assuming leadership roles. Honda also presented his views if elected to office. —Ed Kawahara

**Police official speaks to French Camp**

Officer Rex Osborn of the Manteca, Calif., Police Department was keynote speaker at the French Camp Chapter, JAACL, installation dinner Jan. 20 at the chapter's community hall. Osborn, a community relations officer, said that JAACL plays an important part in creating a better community. "School, family, and traditions are the things we need in order to work together, giving the golden opportunities for our children in the community," he said. Alan Nishi, Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District governor, installed the new

slate of officers: Gail Matsui, president (second term); Larry Ota, first vice president; Carl Yamasaki, second vice president; Dorothy Egi, third vice president; Tom Miyasaki, recording secretary; Florence Shiromizu, corresponding secretary; Tom Natsuhara, treasurer; Lydia Ota, publicity; Nancy Natsuhara, historian; Dean Komure and Hiroshi Shinmoto, official and alternate delegates. Appointed chairpersons were Natsuhara, building/grounds; Shinmoto, 1000 Club; Yamasaki, scholarship; Fumiko Asano, health insurance; Katy Komure

and Miyasaki, newsletter; Hideo Morinaka, membership; and Komure, sunshine. Larry Ota was emcee for the event attended by about 125 members and friends. Also recognized were event organizers: Yamasaki, Ota, and Florence Shiromizu, invitations; Yoshio Itaya, program; Nancy Natsuhara and Asano, banquet; Kimi Morinaka, decorations; Asano, publicity; Tom Natsuhara and Hide Morinaka, cocktail hour; and Katy Komure and Pam Yamasaki, entertainment. —Lydia Ota

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