

The New York NICHIBEI

"Community Service Since 1945"

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27 Park Place, New York, N.Y. 10007

Thursday, December 11, 1980

Poetry, Music, Dance At the Public Teater For Basement Workshop

Songs by Charlie Chin, poems by Thulani Davis and Pedro Pietri, and dance by Cheryl Banks will comprise the program called "In the Fire Lane" which will be presented on Dec. 29 by Joseph Papp on behalf of the Friends of Basement at the New York Shakespeare Festival Public Theater, 425 Lafayette Street.

The "evening of poetry, music and dance" is under the direction of Jessica Hagedorn.

General admission tickets are \$8 if bought in advance; \$10 at the door. There are also 50 tickets at \$25 available to Friends and Patrons of Basement Workshop, and each purchaser of these will also receive a special edition commemorative poster.

Orders for tickets should be mailed to Basement Workshop, 22 Catherine Street, New York, N.Y. 10038. All contributions are tax deductible. Additional reservation information may be obtained by calling 732-0770.

The Basement Workshop is a not-for-profit organization devoted to the development, production and promotion of works by Asian Americans in the literary, visual and performing arts. It is located in a loft in Chinatown where classes and workshops in creative writing are conducted by Jessica Hagedorn, and in dance by Theodora Yoshikami.

Opinion on Commission Divided

(The following is a continuation of a report on the meeting held on Nov. 23 at the Japanese American United Church on the subject of redress and the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act.)

The National Council for Japanese American Redress came into being about one and a half years ago, said Mr. Hohri, when it appeared that the JACL would not actively seek individual monetary compensation. At a Senate hearing in Washington earlier this year, only the NCJAR supported the redress measure introduced by Rep. Mike Lowry of Seattle which would have granted each internee \$15,000 plus \$15 for each day spent in a camp.

The NCJAR's latest initiative is its recently announced plan to raise funds to retain a Washington law firm to study ways and means of filing a class action suit against the United States government "for the violation of (internees') Constitutional rights and civil liberties" and "seeking compensation through the courts."

Such a lawsuit, pointed out Mr. Hohri, "doesn't depend on the JACL or Congress or anyone. (It) depends on support from the Japanese American community." He added,

"I'm here to ask you as individuals if you would support our lawsuit."

Legal preparation for the suit, he said, will require \$75,000.

[The address of the NCJAR, for those who wish additional information about the lawsuit or who wish to contribute to its fund drive, is 925 West Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60614.]

Letter to Editor

Joe Kurihara, Hero?

Dear Editor:

I am responding to the Joe Kurihara controversy and the Yoneda's letters in your November 20, 1980, issue.

Joe Kurihara was but one human being caught in the tiger's trap of World War II anti-Japanese hysteria and racism. Based on a complex combination of experiences, background, character and personality, he reacted in a particular way to his imprisonment at Manzanar.

Joe's heroism was fleeting and temporary. It depended upon a moment in history when events, individuals and circumstances meshed together to create a situation which he grabbed to take action.

Heroes (and heroines) are human beings first, with a multitude of strengths and weaknesses. They alone can never shape history nor should their lives be mystified or mythicized.

Similarly, nation states do not go to war for altruistic reasons. The statement that the United States was fighting fascism, racism and ultranationalism during World War II places it and its allies in the peculiar position of being countries who acted only with intentions which were the most moral, most civilized and most scrupulous. Historiography on the pre-World War II period has shown that this was far from true. As with individuals, nation states should not be glorified as "heroes."

MITZIKO SAWADA
New York

Recommend Amnesty for Illegal Aliens in U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rejecting a recommendation of its staff on the issuance of work permits to all Americans, the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, meeting in closed session this past weekend, voted to recommend an amnesty for illegal aliens now in the United States.

The 16-member advisory commis-

sion reportedly favors the imposition of penalties on employers who hire illegal aliens in the future.

Among those who oppose the use of employer sanctions is Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D, N.Y.), who said that employers might be led to avoid hiring persons who spoke English with a foreign accent, even if they are citizens or legal aliens.

It was pointed out that all recommendations are subject to review and revision after Ronald Reagan takes office.

There were Nisei who attended the local meeting who saw a usefulness in the Congressional study commission. Said one, "Many pieces of the evacuation story are unknown to many of us. I think it is extremely important that Japanese be informed about how their Constitutional rights were violated."

She said that it had been a "devastating experience," and that it "bothered" her that there was not "more emotional concern and involvement" by those who were affected.

"It's a legacy that will go on unless something is done," she concluded.

Another suggested that "the people involved (in the redress question) seem to be battling each other more than the government." Stressing a need "to pull together," he said that "we shouldn't prejudice what the commission will come up with."

Said still another, "There are things that people can do to make (the commission hearings) more meaningful. I have the feeling that what the commission will be looking for is (testimony) that we survived, that it wasn't so terrible."

To prevent the latter, she said, "Nisei and Issei who were in the camps should alert people to the kinds of testimony they can give."

Mr. Hohri had earlier pointed out that many in the government who had played a role in the camps are still alive, and "they should be subpoenaed to testify." He said that the hearings would result in a "white-wash" if the commission hears only testimony from Japanese Americans.

Echoed Aiko Herzig, "If the study commission holds a hearing here [New York is one of the suggested hearing sites], what are you going to tell them? We really ought to think about it. I would ask that persons like McCloy [John J., Assistant Secretary of War at the time] be subpoenaed to answer questions. (We should) ask to hear from persons who were responsible for the incarceration."

Those present were asked to fill out a questionnaire called "Japanese American Redress Survey" which had been drawn up by the Los Angeles Rafu Shimpo and which is being circulated throughout Japanese communities and reprinted in the vernacular press on both coasts. (The Japanese-language version appeared in the Japanese section of this newspaper last week.) The results of the nationwide survey will be published when completed, said Mr. Nash.

Discussion of Redress At Buddhist Church

The Issei in the local Japanese community are especially urged to attend and to participate in an open discussion of redress for the wartime internment of civilians, to be held at 1:30 p.m. this Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Buddhist Church, 332 Riverside Drive. An interpreter will be present to assist non-English-speaking persons.

Sashi Hohri, a New York delegate to that conference, made the point that although no amount of money can repay the internees for their deprivations and traumas, "whether or not the people want to accept the money, (they) have a right to it. At least it's more substantial than just an apology."

Ken Davis Hits 201-228-237-666!

BY KERRY KUBO

Ken Davis led all scorers with a fine individual performance in the Nisei Bowling League at Mid-City Lanes. Ken rolled games of 201-228-237, leading to a 666 series. Tsugi Hashimoto placed second high with a 200-202-594, while other scores include Min Hara's 230-576 and this reporter's 213-557.

Sue Kubo rolled high for the women with a 163-440 series. Winnie Howard bowled a 168-431, while Eileen Tada scored a 420 series.

Nov. 25 Results

N.Y. Travel 10; Cherry 0

Cherry Restaurant still leads by 20 points, but the lead was tightened up last week as Tsugi Hashimoto rolled a 200-202-592, and was aided by Min Hara's 230-576 and Jim Konno's 531. Tom Takahara's 510 for the losers.

Fujii Auto 8; Niko Niko 2

Ken Davis' 201-228-237-666 proved too much as this reporter's 213-557 and Sue Kubo's 163-440 enabled Niko Niko to win one game.

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THE GALLERIES

Tokyo 8; Kabuki 2

Despite Sam Hashimoto's 513, Tokyo Restaurant won this contest on Ace Hiromura's 506 and additional handicap.

Wabasa 10; K & N 0

A similar situation as mentioned above; despite Rudy Davis' 574, Wabasa Company shut out K & N on David Don's 210-524 and an abundance of handicap points.

NBL STANDINGS NOV. 25

Cherry Restaurant	86
New York Travel Service	66
Fujii Auto Repair	64
Tokyo Restaurant	60
Niko Niko Club	58
Wabasa Company	56
Kabuki Restaurant	54
K and N Associates	36

PATRONIZE NICHIBEI ADVERTISERS.

VASE AND FLOWER—Azuma Gallery, 142 Greene St. Antique ceramic vases and flower arrangements. To Dec. 21. (Closed Mons.)

"Exquisite Visions," Rimpa paintings from Japan, including scrolls, screens and album leaves of the 15th and 16th centuries. Japan House, 333 E. 47 St. Through Jan. 4.

ISAMU NOGUCHI, ANSEI UCHIMA, TOSHIO UCHIMA—Hunterdon Art Center, 7 Center St., Clinton, N.J. Akari lamps by Noguchi, woodcuts by A. Uchima, box assemblages by T. Uchima. To Jan. 18. (Closed Mons.)

NORIKO SHIMIZU, IL JU PARK—Hankook Art Gallery, 1140 Ave. of the Americas (44 & 45 Sts). Two-person show; to Dec. 10.

TOSHIKO UCHIMA—The Gallery at Hastings-on-Hudson, Municipal Building, Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. Sculpture in a group show of graphic arts and sculpture. To Jan. 4.

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