

# Go For Broke

## National Veterans Association

### NEWSLETTER

### APRIL, 1993

#### Bull's Eye or "Maggie's Drawers"

By William Marutani

**AS ONE GETS OLDER** (as we all do), one is led to believe that with age comes a bit of wisdom. I often question that, at least in my case. Indeed, on the contrary, I keep thinking how I've slowed down. Which I have.

**THERE ARE, HOWEVER**, a few tidbits to which I continue to cling, believing that such have some remnants of "wisdom." One of them is "Do nothing." Until you're ready. And that applies to GFB-NVA Foundation's fund-raising for the Nikkei Monument in D.C. Now that we have legislative authorization for the establishment of the monument, there is a great temptation to "get out there and do something." To sign contracts, now; to start a fund drive and otherwise beat the bushes. Any bush, anywhere....so long as we **do** something. And at times it's harder **not** to do anything (until we're fully ready) than to do something. A few other organizations have learned this bitter lesson, the hard way. As they hold an empty purse that they hoped would be bulging.

**THE FUND RAISING** will be a major project. And we're going to have a single shot at it. And that shot must count; it must be on target, hopefully in the bull's-eye. No "Maggie's drawers" on this one.

**THIS MEANS HAVING A FULLY ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN.** In terms of personnel, in terms of assignments, in terms of follow up, in terms of specific objectives and specific goals, with specific timetables. It will mean establishing proper forms, common approaches, coordination, budgeting, schedules, and many other details.

**IT MAY SOUND GREAT** to start with a bang, and for a brief moment it may even be stimulating. But we'll have one shot. We must make it count. It must be on target. Let's not be so eager to pull the trigger until we get a clean "bead" on the target.

#### Monument Design Winner Announced

By Kaz Oshiki, D.C. Liaison, Feb. 17, 1993

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Go For Broke National Veterans Association Foundation announced today that the entry of **BARNEY F. MATSUMOTO**, San Diego, CA, is the winner in the design competition for a national memorial honoring Japanese American patriotism in World War II.

"The design is a peaceful and poetic statement of the dichotomy facing the nation and Japanese Americans at the time," **IGNATIUS C. WANG**, Philadelphia architect and contest judge, said of the winning design. "It is a complete representation of the theme for this national memorial."

There were 25 entries in the competition, and prior to meeting in Los Angeles on Feb. 12 and 13, the three judges individually studied reproductions of the design drawings in 35mm color slides and the written material accompanying the design. To insure fairness in the judging, each entry was marked only with a code number, 1 through 25, so that the designer was never disclosed. In the final judging they viewed the drawings together and engaged in lengthy deliberations before selecting the winner.

The judges were **DON T. NAKANISHI**, director of Asian American Studies at UCLA, Los Angeles; **FRANKLIN S. ODO**, director and professor of Ethnic Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu; and **IGNATIUS C. WANG**, AIA, president of Urban Consultants, Inc., Philadelphia.

**JAMES T. SUZUKI**, chairman of the design contest committee, said the winning design will not be publicized because there is no assurance that it will be the actual design for the memorial which must be approved separately by three commissions. They are the National Capital Memorial Commission, the

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Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission.

Design changes will have to be made if one commission withholds approval because of an objection to any part of the submitted proposal. Each competition participant has agreed that "all, part or none" of the submitted design may be incorporated in the memorial when it is finally approved by the three commissions.

This memorial to Japanese American patriotism in World War II was authorized by the U.S. Congress in October, 1992, and will be built in Washington, D.C., under the sponsorship of the Go For Broke National Veterans Association Foundation.

In their statement issued after they had selected the winner, the judges further stated: "On Feb. 13, after a day and half of deliberation on the intent of the design competition, the historical events and background surrounding the theme of the monument, and the merit of each of the designs, we selected the entry labeled Code No. 1 as the winning design."

"Each design was evaluated, based on the responsiveness to the requirements of the competition announcement and in the following categories: general impression, image, message and experience. We were quite inspired by some of the entries."

"We believe this design competition and its process has benefited all of us involved in this project and brought a clearer understanding of the purpose of the monument to Japanese American patriotism."

(Serving with Chairman Suzuki on the committee are: Harold Fukunaga, George Hagiwara, Sam Isokane, Tom Masamori, Ben Obata, Peter Okada, Orville Shirey, Chet Tanaka and Ed Tarutani.

On the cataloguing committee with Suzuki were: Pat Hagiwara, Mike Higashi, Roy Inui, Tosh Okamoto and George Uchida.)

## Gov. Lowry and Moriguchi New GFB-NVA Directors

*From Nisei Veterans Newsletter, Seattle*

SEATTLE—Two prominent persons from

the Pacific Northwest have agreed to serve as directors of GFB-NVA Foundation.

They are Gov. Mike Lowry, of Washington state, and Tomio Moriguchi, one of Seattle's most outstanding business and civic leaders. Lowry, the newly elected governor, is a long-time supporter of Japanese American causes. And Moriguchi, president of Uwajimaya in Seattle, is also the publisher of North American Post and the Northwest Nikkei.

## Fund Raising Meeting Held in Los Angeles

The trustees and officers of the GFB-NVA met on January 22-23, 1993, at the Hacienda Hotel, Los Angeles, to discuss fund-raising for the newly authorized monument in Washington, D.C. Seventeen members plus several spouses made the trip.

The theme has been set as the "Japanese American Patriotism during World War II" and would include the Issei's contributions and sacrifices, making this the first ethnic group monument in the D.C. area. It is hoped that this would interest the younger JA generation in seeking their roots since they see the term "Go For Broke" as applying to the older generation and not to them.

President Bill Marutani opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the late Key Kobayashi, active GFB-NVA member of D.C. It was then brought out that a good business address is essential, possibly in the D.C. area. Kaz Oshiki, D.C. Liaison, was asked to report back on possible sites.

Tosh Okamoto, VP, Seattle, related his experiences with a retirement home in his area. He emphasized that there must be a self-interest need to be successful. Large donations were initially sought to start the drive to give it credibility, and the goal must be met within the first year without any foot-dragging.

The idea of "one thousand persons giving \$1,000 apiece" to meet a goal is not realistic and will not work, it was stated. It was also brought out that Niseis do not like to solicit funds and that the younger generations have other higher priorities and are poor givers.

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## Fund Raising

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Discussion was held on possible donations offered from Japan, with the consensus that they should be accepted now with the broader concept of the monument than previously held. It was brought out that some of the Japanese acquaintances would be honored to be a part of this project while another mentioned that they are very cordial on this subject. It was further pointed out that the Japanese media is very much interested in what GFB-NVA is trying to accomplish.

President Marutani then appointed the following members to the newly formed Fund Raising Committee: East Coast—Bill Kochiyama; Rocky Mt—Tom Masamori; Pacific Northwest—Peter Okada, Tosh Okamoto, Turk Suzuki; Pacific Southwest—Paul Bannai, Harold Harada, Mike Shimizu; Hawaii—Harold Fukunaga, Koon Hin Choy, George Takabayashi and Ed Tarutani.

Potential honorary directors were mentioned for the fund drive. It was stressed that current U.S. congresspersons, state governors, business officials and other notables, including women, be placed on the new Foundation letterhead. These names should be submitted to Trustee Paul Bannai as soon as possible for consideration: 1245 W. Gardena Blvd., PO Box 3956, Gardena, CA 90247, (310) 327-0717, Fax (310) 515-5025.

Other businesses discussed were the showing of *Yankee Samurai* at the Hawaii reunion; a possible short video documentary for the fund drive; and a GFB-NVA cap design.

The next annual meeting scheduled for October in conjunction with the Japanese American Veterans Association of Washington, D.C. was postponed due to the involvement of GFB-NVA members in JAVA.

Marutani was the guest speaker at the Culver-Venice JACL where Dr. Harold Harada was installed as president and Mike Shimizu as treasurer.

Rudy Tokiwa and Wally Nunotani were to leave San Francisco at 7:30AM, left at 8:10, flew over fogged-in LA for an hour, landed at nearby Ontario at 10:05, sat in the plane until noon, then arrived at LAX at 12:15, took 1 hour to find their baggages, arrived at the hotel at 2PM.

## Final Golden Hurrah

### 50th Anniversary of 442nd RCT

By Peter Okada, staff correspondent

Much like the Son's of Nippon who targeted Pearl Harbor a half century ago, nearly three thousand vet offsprings of Issei immigrants zeroed-in and converged in Honolulu for a huge golden anniversary reunion which started on 24th and ended on 28th March 1993.

In retrospect, as a callow youth still green behind the ears, I recall my naivete and innocence not realizing just how Japan's crippling one of the world's greatest naval base would affect the Nikkei community in general and my life in particular.

Lots of water has gone over the dam since that fateful day, and as I reminisce, I feel many Niseis will never overcome nor forget some of the ordeal we had to endure resulting from such action.

Speaking for myself, it propelled me into a career where I spent over three decades in the Orient and an unexpected adventure and vocation covering more than a man's lifetime.

The world has turned many times since that momentous day and we have returned many times to "Paradise." However, never in my wildest dream did I ever imagine that I, a MISer, would one day be traveling to that historic place to attend a reunion of fellow-Niseis, who through a single act of patriotism and heroism turned the attitude and thinking of the Americans towards AJAs and thus creating a precious legacy for posterity.

Through kind invitation from friends and members of the 442nd, we arrived in the usual tropical sunlight and the first day featured the Aloha Banquet at the Sheraton whose toast-mistress was Harold Fukunaga's daughter, State Senator Carol.

Like most people, in my lifetime, I have attended numerous gatherings, but my first where the throngs were seniors mostly men with receding foreheads, little or no gray hair, wearing glasses and hearing aids, and in general looking somewhat like me.

Senator Daniel Inouye, keynote speaker, highlighted the Rowher, Arkansas, camp convivial, where the "Buddha-head" and the "Kotonks" conflict was finally resolved making

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## Final Golden Hurrah

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for the greatest fighting machine of its size in the US Army.

The second evening was reserved for those whose palate or curiosity craved for Luau, or roasted Hawaiian-style pig. The other option being to rubber-neck.

The chapter-nite fell on the third day. Being guests of "King" Company, courtesy of Tosh Okamoto, we were treated to a sumptuous buffet dinner, followed by live entertainment of songs and dances by family members.

The special for the last night was the Sayonara Banquet, which was preceded in the morning by a grand and glorious parade in which both members of the 100th and 442nd participated.

The climactic public affair, most likely the vets' last crowning march, was very emotional both for the participants and the spectators, some who were lined four-deep to pay final deserved tribute to the aging surviving warriors drifting into their twilight years.

Those handicapped or unable to walk were provided rides in Army trucks or trolleys to accept deserving accolades from a grateful community. Seen leading and walking with the group was a single-arm, one-time soldier and hero, Dan Inouye. Also riding in the lead car, as Grand Marshall, was Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura, winner of the Medal of Honor. Many had difficulty resisting tears as the men tramped proudly into the sunset of life.

The concluding packed festivities were held again at the Sheraton MC'd by the inimitable actor Pat Morita. The large, elderly, Asian audience was interspersed with "haole" guests from Bruyeres and Biffontaine, France, who made the long pilgrimage to honor the "Unlikely Liberators" of their beloved villages almost a lifetime ago.

Sharing the head table were civic dignitaries and ranking members of the military which included Major General James Mukoyama, Jr. from Chicago, GFB-NVA member.

Because of tenuous situation in Russia, scheduled speaker General Colin Powell, Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was replaced by General Gordon Sullivan, Army Chief of Staff. Sullivan reminded the attentive crowd that the exploits of the 442nd are well known and will long be remembered. He paid

glowing recognition about the sacrifice and courage of the famed unit during the rescue of the lost Texas Battalion, labeled as one of the greatest epics recorded in the military archives. The General applauded and saluted the occasion as a "celebration of the human spirit and the goodness of men."

Under a brilliant Sunday sky, thousands rode up a winding flag-bedecked roadway leading to "Punch Bowl," Hawaii's Arlington Cemetery. Prominently fluttering in the early morning breeze, flanking center stage and behind the podium at half mast, was Old Glory honoring those who made the supreme sacrifice.

For most, this was their final group trek to venerate and remember their fallen comrades at their last quiet resting place.

Speaker Dr. Michel Oksenberg, President of the East-West Center University of Hawaii, himself an immigrant from Belgium, reminded the vast hushed congregation that the AJAs, sons of alien parents, rose bravely when the occasion demanded despite doubts of loyalty by other Americans motivated out of prejudice and fear.

Others on the program included Cemetery Director Gene Castagnetti who stated "future war records may equal, but will never, never surpass the 442nd's performance." Senator Inouye also reminded all to continue to be vigilant and against racial and other discrimination and urged that the sacred mission be perpetuated by the younger generations.

Thus, the fitting finale brought to end **THE LAST GOLDEN HURRAH!**

With beautiful weather, golfers participated on four great courses on the 2nd and 3rd days. Winners of the tourney were announced at the last banquet.

As my plane lifted into the tropical blue yonder flecked with fleecy clouds and the emerald islands faded into the distance, my memory was immersed remembering the wonderful "daze" when it appeared that time stood still while we enjoyed each other's company.

I recalled the well-organized programs, the delectable dinners, the colorful banquets, the stirring speeches, the challenging golf tournaments, the great camaraderie, and the refreshing and comfortable clime.

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## Final Golden Hurrah

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However unforgettable were these happenings, I shall carry to my grave the recollections of the wonderful fellowships and the pride which welled within me for the inheritance that our veteran brothers, who fought in Europe, left to us.

As a MISer, I envied most of all the common battlefield experiences they shared together, and the resulting cohesive lifetime-bond they forged in blood that keeps them together.

However, for a brief shiny moment in my life, a Pacific theater veteran vicariously enjoyed and basked in the past glory of the 442nd.

None of us live forever and my regret was for the KIAs and so many deserving who were honored only in absentia, but was relieved to note that their legacy is being passed on and accepted by the Sons & Daughters of the **GO FOR BROKE RCT**.

I congratulate the **TEAM** on their heroic past achievements and having reached their fiftieth.

## Obituary:

### Richard Hiroshi (Dick) Koga

Passed away on January 31, 1993 of complications from cancer.

Dick Koga was born on October 17, 1919 in Makawelei, Kauai. Shortly thereafter, his family moved to Honolulu. At the age of fourteen, he was apprenticed to a Japanese carpenter. At the same time he studied fencing with a Kendo master. These two experiences had a profound influence on his character, introducing him to Bushido — the way of the warrior — and to the way of the carpenter. He learned about traditional Japanese building, and began his lifelong romance with wood and trees. By the age of seventeen, he was directing a crew who built formwork for concrete structures. In a pattern he was to repeat for the rest of his life, he left rough carpentry to work in a cabinet shop. He was working there when he volunteered for the 442nd RCT.

Dick Koga joined the 100th Battalion with the first replacement troops at Anzio. Serving as a Medic in Baker Company, he exhibited

great courage. He was awarded a Bronze Star, a Silver Star with an Oak Leaf Cluster and a Purple Heart.

After the War, he went to New York City where he studied at the Whitman School of Interior Decorating and received a certificate in Industrial Design from Pratt Institute. At the same time, he continued his practical training by working in several custom cabinet-making shops. He balanced those jobs by helping to build the formwork for the Tappan Zee bridge across the Hudson River. He met Jane Yoshikawa in New York City, and married her on October 1, 1949.

When the Museum of Modern Art imported a crew of carpenters and gardeners from Japan to erect a Teahouse in its garden, Dick was hired as an interpreter and liaison, and assisted on the construction. This work led to his being hired by the Philadelphia Museum of Art in 1956 to erect two buildings that had lain in pieces in its basement since being brought from Japan in 1928. He moved his family to Philadelphia and constructed the Buddhist Temple Hall, Shofuku Ji, and a Teahouse from Tokyo as permanent exhibits in the Museum's Asian Wing.

The exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art closed and the Teahouse was dismantled and shipped to Philadelphia for permanent installation in that City's Fairmount Park. Carpenters and gardeners from Japan again erected the house, and Dick acted as a consultant. In subsequent years, he designed and created the gardens surrounding the house, as well as providing needed maintenance.

Later in his life, Dick liked to call himself a *furniture maker*. He built both free standing and built-in furniture throughout his life, combining European and Japanese techniques and design elements. He continued to work occasionally as a carpenter in both light and heavy construction.

Throughout his life Dick studied the Architecture and Gardens of Japan and China. Already stricken with cancer, he made two extended trips to Japan near the end of his life to experience the places and structures he had grown to love through books. At the same time he established tangible connections to his ancestral past.

In the last year of his life, he became an  
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active supporter of GFB-NVA, sending application forms to his friends and relatives and encouraging them to join.

Dick was a Scoutmaster for his son's troop and taught them to love camping and the outdoors. He passed along his love of wood by teaching woodworking to the neighborhood children and to carpentry apprentices. He generously offered his home to friends of his children who needed shelter before embarking on their lives.

He was buried on February 5, 1993 in the Arlington National Cemetery.

Dick is survived by Jane, his daughter Bond, his three sons: Dean, Lloyd and Noel; and his grandsons Nicholas and Taylor. He is also survived by his sister Makiko, his brothers Masao, George and Kenneth, and the children of his mother: Robert Cho, Albert, Etta and Jimmy Kang.

GFB-NVA Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following memorial contributions in the memory of the late Mr. Richard Koga.

Following from King & Spalding, Atlanta, GA: Mr. Richard Woodward, Mr. James Wildman, Mr. William Duffy, Jr., Mr. Dwight Davis, Mr/Mrs. Mason Stephenson.

Also: Mr/Mrs. Warren Watanabe, Philadelphia, PA; Mr. Robert Meadows, PC, NY, NY; Mr. John Mershon, Atlanta, GA; Mr. Daniel King, NY, NY; Mr/Mrs. Francis McCall, Aston, PA; Ms. Esther Kahn, Philadelphia, PA; Mr/Mrs. Frank Hawk, Cape Coral, FL; Mr/Mrs. Robert Higgins, Chatham, NJ and Mr. William McKee, Washington, D.C.

## Book Review: "Boyhood to War"

*History & anecdotes of the 442nd RCT, by Dr. Dorothy Matsuo, hard cover, 240 pages, nice photos & illustrations, Mutual Publishing, 1127 11th Ave., Mezz. B, Honolulu, HI 96816, (808) 732-1709. At Kinokuniya Bookstore, Los Angeles, CA, \$35.00.*

This is a book of the 442nd/100th that all AJAs should have – a collection of narratives during our most historic time. An incredible story of how American soldiers were ordered to turn in their rifles when Pearl Harbor was attacked, trained with wooden rifles, shipped to the inland U.S. with shades drawn on troop

trains, how they then determined to prove their loyalty to the land of their birth.

Of course, some from poor homes found better food in the army and gained weight, others felt it was just like going camping and anticipated their first trip to the Mainland, then picking up smoking, drinking and gambling.

The battles of the Hawaiian "Buddha-heads" and the Mainland "Kotonks" and the visit to the Rowher and Jerome concentration camps that brought understanding between them, their first encounter of battle in Italy – are all narrated by the participants.

Also covered are the heroics of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, 232nd Engineer Company and the role played by the 206th Army Ground Force Band.

Most of you have lived it and need not be told about it, but it can be a valuable piece of history for your children and grandchildren – give it while you can still remember and tell it firsthand.

## WWII Fort Sam Houston Vets Hold 50th Reunion

*Condensed from its press release*

Over 50 Nikkei veterans who were assigned to the Reception Center, Dodd Field, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, gathered at the Fort Sam Houston Museum on October 9, 1992, for ceremonies opening the photographic exhibit of their contributions to the war efforts.

Photographs of the group will be on permanent display for the public to correct their initial thoughts that Dodd Field was only a POW camp for Japanese and Axis POWs.

Ken Uchida, in behalf of the veterans, accepted a commemorative plaque for the occasion and stated that it was ironic that when 200 Nikkei soldiers arrived at the San Antonio railroad station in March 1942 that they were surrounded by the Military Police, loaded into trucks and taken in an armed convoy to the Dodd Field POW camp.

"We were American soldiers taken as POWs by our own Army. It was only a short time until Col. Telesphor Gottschalk, Commander of the Reception Center, came to our rescue," Uchida commented.

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## Fort Sam Houston

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He went on to say that many of the Japanese American soldiers stationed at Fort Sam Houston were later reassigned to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence School.

Among those present at the ceremonies were Jun Yamamoto, who became the bandmaster of the 442nd, Chuck Ishii, who became the First Sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion of the 442nd and Tats Hataye, assigned to the 442nd. All three had participated in the rescue of the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Texan Infantry Division in Northeastern France, during WWII. In 1963, Governor of Texas John Connally declared all 442nd members as "Honorary Texans."

The veterans had a full schedule of activities including luncheon at the Fort Sam Houston Officers' Club, tours and a briefing at the Headquarters of the 90th US Army Reserve Command.

Other activities included a "Welcome Back" authentic Mexican dinner sponsored by the local Nikkei Texans and a nostalgic visit to the Japanese Tea Garden. This garden was finished in 1919 by the Jingu family where a tea house was in operation until Pearl Harbor day, when the family was evicted and the name changed to the Chinese Tea Garden.

A member of the Jingu family related its history of the six girls, two boys family. "Do not fraternize with these soldiers," the girls were told. All but one later married the Nisei servicemen they met at San Antonio.

The tea garden's name was changed back to the Japanese Tea Garden, and in 1984, the family was invited back by the City for an apology ceremony and a plaque placed commemorating that event.

The veterans voted to have their next reunion at Laughlin, NV in June, 1993. Please contact Mr. Casey Kasuyama, 1126 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, (213) 938-7944.

## VFW Post 9938 Donates \$3,000 to JANM

LOS ANGELES-VFW Nisei Memorial Post 9938 recently donated \$3,000 to the

Japanese American National Museum. Commander David Monji, assisted by members Harry Shishido, Dr. Harold Harada, William Fujimori and Jim Kai, made the presentation to Irene Hirano, museum director. The Post is a big supporter of GFB-NVA.

## JAVA to Hold MIS D.C.

### Reunion in Oct '93

### Veterans with interesting stories being sought for panel discussions

*From Rafu Shimpo, Los Angeles*

WASHINGTON-The Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) of Washington, D.C. will sponsor a national reunion of U.S. Military Intelligence Service (MIS) veterans who served during World War II in the Asia Pacific theaters of operations. The reunion is to be held from Oct. 21-23, 1993 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

"The Nisei Veteran: An American Patriot" is the theme of the convention. The event will feature panel presentations highlighting war experiences of Japanese language specialists, an oral history workshop, a congressional luncheon, a reception at the Japanese Embassy, a golf tournament, memorial services at Arlington National Cemetery and a banquet.

The highlight of the reunion will be a series of panels in which veterans will reminisce about experiences during World War II in the Asian Pacific theater.

A nationwide search has been undertaken to find MIS veterans with unusual combat experiences which have largely remained hidden for more than a half a century. They will be asked to recount their stories on these panels.

An oral history workshop will be convened under the guidance of Glenda Nogami of the U.S. Army History Institute at Carlisle, Pennsylvania to assist veterans in compiling these accounts.

Invitations are being extended to veterans of other services of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

Special room rates have been negotiated for registrants staying at the Marriott. Further information and registration packets can be obtained by writing to JAVA, PO Box 391, Vienna, VA 22183-0391.