

# The New York NICHIBEI

"Community Service Since 1945"

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

Thursday, November 20, 1986

## Minority Groups in Jpn— Invite Rev Jesse Jackson To Japan

On Fri, Nov 14, a press conference was held at the Interchurch Center at which Takumi Ueda, a member of the House of Representatives of the Japanese Diet, officially announced that Rev Jesse Jackson had been invited and is going to visit Japan in order to participate in the rallies to be held on Dec 10 in Tokyo and Osaka concerning the anti-finger-printing campaign.

Mr. Ueda, vice chair of the Burakumin Liberation League and member of the Socialist Party of Japan, hopes to arrange a meeting for Rev Jackson with Prime Minister Nakasone so that various issues of concern to minorities in Japan and those in the US can be discussed, as well as global issues of peace and disarmament.

At the press conference, Mr. Ueda drew distinct connections between the discrimination faced by the burakumin in Japan and that faced by Korean residents in Japan. Also stating that the history and current situation of the Ainu in Hokkaido parallels that of Native Americans here in the US, Ueda said, "The complete liberation of the buraku is linked to the liberation of all other minorities in Japan."

In discussing the "justification of Japanese imperialist aggression pursued in the context of school textbooks," Ueda also mentioned that Nakasone's recent remarks regarding minorities in the US reflect a national chauvinism similar to "Hitler's nazism."

Also speaking at the press conference was Sun-Ae Choi, a young Korean woman who was born and

raised in Japan, and who recently came to the US 3 months ago to study piano at Indiana University at Bloomington, Ms. Choi, who is a "nisei" by her father, and "sansei" by her mother, understands but cannot speak Korean. She spoke of her decision to refuse to be fingerprinted and how that experience has "changed her life." "I am Korean, but Japan is my country," she said, but she does not know whether she will be allowed to re-enter Japan because she has challenged the fingerprinting law. In her statement before the Kokura Branch of the Fukuoka District Court on May 24, 1985, she said, "We are not resisting the act of fingerprinting; we are resisting the attitude behind fingerprinting... fingerprinting is one clear holdover from the war area."

The conference was organized by the Working Committee for International Campaign For the Advancement of Human Rights of Koreans in Japan. The Working Committee was formed in order to work for the complete revision of the Alien Registration Law. Major member organizations such as Christian churches, Buddhist sects, the SOHYO Labor Union (largest in Japan), the Burakumin Liberation League, and various other Korean Japanese coalitions are working together to plan for the Dec 10th rallies in Japan.

While 45 demonstrations are being planned in major cities worldwide, protests will be staged in 20 cities in the US alone, including NYC when a demonstration will take place on Sun, Dec 7, at 4:30pm in front of the Japanese consulate.

## BRIEF NOTES

**Crisis Brewing In Philippines**—The Thur, Nov 13 mutilation slaying of Rolando Olalia, a major leader of the left and head of the largest labor union in the nation, was a major loss for Aquino as he was one of her leading leftist supporters. Cease-fire talks were jeopardized with the cancellation of Fri, Nov 14's negotiating session with the rebel's political front group. Japanese businessman, Nobuyuki Wakaaji, branch director of Mitsui Bussan trading company, was kidnapped on Sat, Nov 15, just two days after Aquino returned from her trip to Japan where she sought to portray the Philippines as a reliable trading partner. All these recent events in addition to internal problems with Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, forebode the most potentially explosive situation since Aquino took power this Feb.

**North Korean Leader Kim Il Sung Reported Slain**—As of yet still unclear reports are reaching the west of the assassination of North Korea's ruler since 1948. North Korean officials in Pyongyang and in embassies throughout the world are denying that Kim "died of gun-fire" as reported by the South Korean Defense Ministry. More news next week.

## People

Former NY *NichibeI* English editor **Teru Kanazawa** and **Jim Sheehan's** wedding held on Sat, Nov 15, at the Picnic House in Brooklyn's Prospect Park was moving and great FUN; **Sumi Toonoka** and **Jason Hwang** added gracious touches to the ceremony and a funky band provided the reception's entertainment. It was a real community event which will be long remembered by all... **Chris Choy** and **Dai Sil Kim-Gibson** were among the many women who participated in *Viewpoints: A Conference on Women, Culture & Public Media* held at

Hunter College on Nov 7, 8, & 9... Did you know that late last month a section of East 122nd St between 3rd & Lex Aves was renamed **Ronald E. McNair Place** in honor of the first Black astronaut who died last Jan when the space shuttle exploded?... CA's Sec of State **March Fong Eu**, 64, was beaten with the handle of an ax and robbed when an intruder broke into her home on Mon nite, Nov 10; she suffered face cuts and bruises... AAFE's **Equality House** was recently selected among 150 model projects for a Special Recognition Award by the Dept of Housing and Urban Development

## Minoru Yasui Dies— "His Voice Is Silent, But His Message Remains"

On Wed, Nov 12, at 2pm, at Mercy Medical Center in Denver, Minoru Min Yasui who had been suffering from cancer for a while, passed away. He was 70 years old. Memorial services were held at the Fairmont Mortuary Chapel on Sun, Nov 16, in Denver, Colorado. He requested that his body be cremated, and his ashes scattered over Hood River, Oregon, his birth place.

He is survived by his older brother, Ray Yasui, of Hood River, and younger brothers, Robert Yasui of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and Dr. Homer Yasui of Portland, Oregon, as well as two sisters, Michi Ando of Denver and Yuka Fujikura of Rockville, Maryland; also his wife, True, and three daughters, Iris, Laurel and Holly, and five grandchildren.

A memorial fund in his name has been established and contributions can be sent to the Minoru Yasui Memorial Fund, c/o Shirley Baird, 1700 Broadway, Denver, CO 80274-0074. Letters of condolence can be sent to the Yasui home, 1150 South William St, Denver, CO 80210.

An international figure and symbol of justice and the redress movement, obituaries of Minoru Min Yasui have been published in all the major newspapers nationwide as well as internationally, including *The Japan Times* in Tokyo.

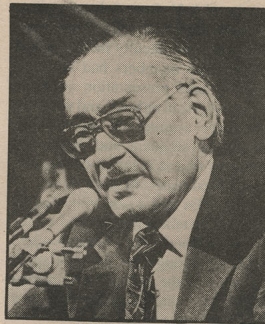
Min Yasui was born on Oct 19, 1916 in Hood River, Oregon, to Masuo Yasui, the owner of a large apple orchard and prominent local leader, and Shidzuyo Yasui, a college-educated woman from the same village as her husband, Nanokaichi, Okayama-ken. The third son of nine children, Min was raised as a Methodist, sent to public school and put through college by his parents as were all the children.

After college at the University of Oregon at Eugene, during which Min participated in four years of military training, Min received a commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Infantry Reserve and went to law school. He found difficulties in setting up a law practice and so

## Chung Pak Project— AAFE Offers Solution

Asian Americans For Equality (AAFE) recently proposed a solution to resolve the community dispute between Chinatown Planning Council (CPC) and Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) which has endangered the 88-unit, \$12 mil Chung Pak Housing Project, a federally subsidized Chinatown housing project for the elderly (see NY *NichibeI* 8-14-86 and 8-21-86).

The proposal "calls on the City of New York to assume temporary sponsorship of the Chung Pak project, to undertake construction, and to begin the actual task of building



Minoru Yasui

went to Chicago where he worked as an attaché at the consulate general of Japan.

Resigning from his post the day after Pearl Harbor was bombed, Min reported for active duty with the US Army, but army officers told him that he was unacceptable for service, being of Japanese ancestry.

On March 28, 1942, the day that Military Order No. 3, requiring all persons of Japanese ancestry to conform to a curfew from 8pm to 6am, went into effect, Min Yasui deliberately violated the order in the hope of being arrested so that he could challenge the law. At about 11pm, he stopped a Portland police officer, who in refusing to arrest him said, "Run along home, sonny boy, or you'll get in trouble." Finally Min walked into the police station and demanded to be arrested.

At the subsequent trial in Nov, 1942, Judge James Alger Fee of the US District Court in Portland, Oregon, ruled that Min Yasui had chosen to renounce his US citizenship and claim allegiance to the Emperor of Japan and sentenced him to one year in jail and a five-thousand dollar fine. He served nine months of that year in solitary confinement. The fine was later suspended.

In Aug of 1943, Yasui was released from Multnomah County Jail and taken to the Minidoka WRA (War Relocation Authority) camp. From Oct 1943, Yasui participated in the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) effort to convince young ni-

this long-awaited senior housing facility." In the letter to Mayor Koch, dated Nov 5, AAFE's outlined proposal asks that the project "be returned to the community for direct management and control, including tenant selection and leasing" after construction has been completed.

Richard Mei, who heads the Mayor's Office for Asian American Affairs, said that he has received positive indications from both CPC and CCBA that they would endorse the plan. A decision by city officials with the Office of General Services will be reached probably by the end of this month.

sei men who were refusing to register for the military draft to participate in the opportunity to prove loyalty and patriotism to the US. He traveled to many camps and jails with Joe Grant Masaoka, the JACL representative for Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska at the time.

After leaving Minidoka in late spring 1944, Yasui spent the summer in Chicago. He returned to Denver where most of his family were living and took the Colorado bar exams.

Although he passed the exams, a committee on ethics and qualifications ruled that Yasui, having a criminal conviction on his record (for violating the curfew order) was not considered of high enough moral character to practice law. Only after the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that Yasui was not a person of bad moral character because of his test case, was Yasui finally admitted to practice law in Colorado in Jan, 1946. His private practice of law lasted from 1946 to 1967.

Always extremely active in community service, Min was columnist for *The Rocky Shippo* from 1950-52, the English editor of *The Colorado Times* from 1952-1958, and editor and publisher of *The Mountain Plains AJA News* from 1960-65. Starting in 1967, he served for 16 years as the Executive Director of the Denver Commission on Community Relations. In 1976, the Mayor of Denver, William H. McNichols created the annual Minoru Yasui Award for outstanding volunteers in the community. Two years later, in 1978, Yasui received the White Buffalo Council Award for his services to Native Americans in the Denver area. He retired from his position with the Denver Commission on Community Relations in 1983, and that same year, filed a petition for a Writ of Error *Coram Nobis* along with Gordon Hirabayashi and Fred Korematsu. Yasui's case is on appeal in the 9th circuit as to whether the government can bring a motion for the petition for *coram nobis* to be dismissed.

**Peggy Nagae**, lead attorney for the Yasui legal team, told the *NichibeI* that the team is researching the possibility to have the case continued. "It was Min's desire to have the case continue, and we are doing the legal research to support that desire," she said.

The *NichibeI* spoke with many active Japanese Americans who knew and admired Min Yasui for his efforts in the redress movement. **Ron Wakabayashi**, Executive Director of the Nat'l JACL, said, "Min, I think, was a unique and special person, albeit controversial at times. He accepted a special role in speaking out when our community was without a voice. You certainly have to find in him a remarkable and energetic spirit which compelled him to carry

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**AALDEF & Groups—  
File Brief In Support  
Of Hohri Lawsuit**

Last month on Oct 10, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund was joined by the Asian Law Caucus, Inc, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), and the JACL Legislative Education Committee, in filing an *amici curiae* ("friends of the court") brief in the United States Supreme Court, urging the Court to review an appeal of a class action lawsuit for Japanese American redress. The appeal in the lawsuit, *Hohri, et al. v. United States*, asks the Supreme Court to reinstate redress claims that were dismissed by the lower federal courts. The federal government has also filed a petition for review in order to dismiss the remaining claims for monetary compensation.

In their brief, these civil rights organizations urge judicial review in order to remove the stigma of racial inferiority and disloyalty from Japanese Americans who were imprisoned during World War II. The wartime racial segregation and imprisonment were due to the War Department's prejudiced belief in the potential group disloyalty of Japanese Americans.

"[T]he government's actions intensified the perception among Japanese Americans that they alone, based solely on their racial identity, were suspected of having the potential to betray the nation. This was a stigma which no other Americans suffered."

Moreover, the brief notes that growing numbers of incidents of racially motivated violence, such as the Vincent Chin incident, underscore the unwillingness of the public to treat Japanese Americans as Americans whose wartime loyalty was unquestionable.

The civil rights organizations urge the Court to review the case in order to "decisively destroy the myth of disloyalty," by reinstating the redress claims and "thereby begin the healing process that has thus far been denied to" Japanese Americans.

**Pan Asian Rep—  
Shogun MacBeth**

Pan Asian Rep opened its production of *Shogun MacBeth* on Tue, Nov 18. Set in 13th century Japan, the play is directed by John R. Briggs of Theatre Three and features Ernest Abuba and Freda Foh Shen in the leading roles. The performing company of 18 includes several of Pan

Asian Rep's senior artists, named this season as the founding core of the company's newly initiated repertory ensemble, one of Tisa Chang's long range, and now attained, dreams.

Atsushi Moriyasu provides the setting with lighting by Tina Charney, and period costume by Eiko Yamaguchi. Fight choreography is

*continued on page 3*

**Inter-Change  
By Philip Tajitsu Nash**

**Memories of Min**

I'll never forget the intense feeling of pride I felt as I sat in the audience of the N.Y.U. Law School auditorium in March of 1985. Seven hundred students, faculty members and community members had come to hear a panel presentation on Japanese American redress, and virtually everyone around me was talking about the eloquent and passionate delivery of one member of that distinguished panel: Minoru Yasui.

Yes, Min had a way with words. Even as he talked fondly of his childhood in Hood River, Oregon while walking through his family's apple orchard in the movie "Unfinished Business", one could hear and feel his strong emotions.

While many thousands of people over the years have toiled on behalf of redress for Japanese Americans, Min had a higher profile than most. His name was in the papers and legal casebooks because of his challenge—along with Fred Korematsu and Gordon Hirabayashi—to the internment process in early 1942 and the reopening of his curfew violation case in 1983.

He was also, despite fragile health, one of the most effective and widely-traveled speakers on behalf of redress in recent years. One could just as easily find him in Washington, D.C. or on some college campus as at his home in Denver.

Min and I had our differences about the best strategy to use to achieve redress. But we were united in our common concern about justice for all Americans. And we never lost contact or failed to inform each other

about important developments (in fact, despite all of his travels, Min still found time to give detailed feedback, full of legal and anecdotal insights, on whatever I sent to him).

Min's passing is especially sad for me not only because of the loss of a friend, but also because another victim of the internment has left this Earth unredressed. He, like Amy Ishii, Edison Uno, Steve Tatsukawa and countless other redress advocates who are no longer with us, took time away from his family and his own personal and professional concerns to speak out for all of us. He spent his own money on travel. He never slowed down, even when I'm sure that his doctors would have advised it.

Like any person who speaks out, Min had his critics. I still don't understand the meaning of the 1984 national J.A.C.L. elections, where he was narrowly denied the national presidency. And I knew that some still argue with decisions like his advocacy of enlistment from behind barbed wire.

Yet, like all of us, the measure of Min's life was the *process* of having lived fully and passionately and courageously, not just some tally sheet of his pluses and minuses. He did a lot of good for a lot of people, and I hope that, besides simply writing a check for redress or writing a letter to his widow, True, the rest of us will rededicate ourselves to getting out there and getting together to increase our individual and collective efforts on behalf of redress. Time, unfortunately, is not waiting for any of us.

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**Sunday Midnight**

By Tamio Spiegel

**A Remembrance of Min Yasui**

My clearest recollection of Min Yasui is of an incident at which he was not physically present.

It was at a preview of a film about contemporary Japanese Americans dealing with the effects of the internment. Former internees were interviewed, but poor filmmaking skills and a complete lack of research on the part of the filmmaker conspired to portray the Japanese American community as complacent at the time of the war and still helpless and confused forty five years later. In the question and answer session that followed, the non-Asian preview audience questioned the lack of anger about and resistance to the evacuation in the Japanese American community. The filmmaker said she could find no angry Japanese Americans who had been interned.

I was outraged. How could she not find angry Niseis? The image of two angry Niseis came to me immediately. One was my mother. The other—Min Yasui. I suppose I could excuse a filmmaker for not finding my mother while researching the internment, but ignorance of the place of Min Yasui and the challenge he initiated, the battle he waged, and the symbol he eventually became was unconscionable.

I saw Min Yasui occasionally as he travelled to New York to speak about his case and the ongoing movement for Japanese American redress. I never met him personally, but came to feel I knew him well in listening to him recount the circumstances that led him to his historic act of defiance. He seemed not unlike a dis-

tance uncle with an elegant, almost dashing manner, whose infrequent visits to town served to remind us of what the family went through to bring us to where we are today. As he spoke of the almost comic circumstances of his initial arrest and the subsequent legal machinations that saw an entire nation reverse the very principles on which it is founded in its effort to subdue a young attorney from Hood River, he tried to tell us he was only doing what seemed right at the time. What he did, we have come to see, involved more than being right on the issues and having faith in the system. It required unusual courage, and today we have the luxury of suspecting that, no matter how loudly he downplayed it, Min Yasui knew how great was the risk of his future and, perhaps, his very life and, so knowing, pursued his challenge relentlessly.

News of Min Yasui's death came late on a rough Thursday of an already bad week. My first thoughts were of that awful preview and how the spiritual and historical presence of Min Yasui provided the best challenge to the supposition that there are no angry Japanese Americans. In my mind's ear I heard him again speak—so expressive his outrage, so eloquent his anger. In my mind's eye I saw a young man with the world before him risk it all, so that forty, fifty, a hundred years later people could tell their children, "No, we didn't just accept it. We knew it was wrong then, just as we know it is wrong now. You can look it up in the history books. 'Yasui v. United States'."

**Obituaries**

**Shinya Nishizaka**, vice president and director of Sumitomo Soji Co, died of stroke Thur, Nov 13 at 2pm, at age 60. Born in New York, Mr. Nishizaka, a nisei, is survived by his wife, Teruko, son, Eugene Sumio, and daughter, Ann Michi; sisters, Mrs. Yuriko Lily Terasaka, Mrs. Yoshiko Yamaguchi of Japan, Mrs. Toshiko Jene Narita, and Mrs. It-suko Janet Kajihara (wife of former JACL president); and brothers Tamio James Nishizaka, Michihiko John Nishizaka and Takuyuki William Nishizaka. Funeral services were held at Barretts Funeral Home

in Teneff, New Jersey on Mon, Nov 17 at 1pm.

**Jack Ozawa** recently passed away at age 63. Born in Seattle, he was president of JACL-Philadelphia Chapter for five different years. Active in the pursuit of legislative redress, Mr. Ozawa was key in persuading Congressman Saxton of New Jersey in co-sponsoring H.R. 442. His body was found in his apartment on Sat, Nov 8; causes of his unexpected death are unknown. Funeral services were held in New Jersey on Thur, Nov. 13.

**Show Your Support**

Every year the Japanese section of the *New York Nichibei* invites individuals and companies to place a New Year's greeting in the special New Years' issue. Now, for \$25.00, the English section invites you to show your support and be listed as an individual or organization extending New Year's greetings for 1987. See sample below.

Please send the form (to the address below) with an enclosed check for \$25.00 by Tues, Dec. 9, 1986.

Name/Title/Organization: .....

Address: .....

Supporters will be listed under the heading "Best Wishes For A Happy New Year."

SAMPLE

**Penny Fujiko Willgerodt, English Editor**  
N.Y. Nichibei, 27 Park Place, New York, N.Y. 10007

**New York University  
Asian Bilingual Special  
Education Scholarships**

New York University's School of Education, Health, Nursing, and Arts Professions is offering scholarships to graduate students in the area of Asian bilingual special education.

Earn an M.A. degree combining bilingual and special education with a specialization in learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, or mental retardation.

Scholarships are available for the spring semester. For additional information and an application, please contact **Dr. Antonio Simões, Jr.**, or **Dr. Louise Wang** at (212) 598-2776.



New York University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

### Visitors From Japan—Study Group On Aging

The Wester Japan Study Group/Future of Elderly Persons in Community is now on a tour of US cities from Nov 11-21 to study issues concerning the elderly of this country. Some of the areas to be studied are in health care, social services, specialized programs, institutional care and legislation.

The group consists of 18 professionals in the geriatric field who are medical professionals, hospital administrators, social workers, architects and operators of facilities for the elderly. Leading the group is Dr. Nobuo Yauchi, medical director of his own Minami Kokura Hospital for the Elderly. The co-leader and interpreter is former New Yorker Aileen Yamaguchi, a Nisei Instructor on Occupational Therapy at the Kyushu Rehabilitation College in Kokura.

In an interview, Ms. Yamaguchi discussed the recent study on aging conducted by the Institute of Population Problems of the Japanese Health and Welfare Ministry concerning the "graying" of the Japanese population which is growing faster than predicted. She quoted the example: "By the year 2007 the number of people aged 65 and over will exceed the number of children under 14 and under. By 2020 the aged will amount to a quarter of the entire population." She further stated: "By year 2025 the average life span is expected to be 77.87 for men and 83.85 for women."

The study also reveals a phenomenon based on these figures, which will have a definite impact on Japanese society requiring innovative planning for the future. Other potential concerns include overpopulation in a country with small land mass, and the impact of that on Japan's socioeconomic traditions. The group hopes to gain knowledge on this and other tours on future planning for the elderly population of Japan.

In New York the group will visit the Methodist Home for the Aged, NY Hospital and Cornell Medical Center, Westside Federation for Senior Housing and the Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged where they will be treated to a kosher lunch.

These visits were arranged by George Yuzawa, Chairman of Japanese American Help for the Aging, Inc and board officer for the Westside Federation and Emiko Akiyama, Associate Librarian at Cornell University Medical College.

The group will continue their visits to Washington DC, Phoenix (Arizona), San Francisco and Honolulu.

—Stanley Kanzaki



### Nisei Bowling League Cherry Restaurant Lengthens Lead

The 10th week was position night and Cherry Restaurant lengthened its lead to 8 points by having a cook-out, 10 to 0 over Yodo Restaurant who apparently couldn't get the fire started. Glenn Fujii was the main man with a 491 series and Flora Kubo waited on a 161 game, high for the women. Ted France tried his best with a 191 game for Yodo.

Japanese American Assn. kept its hold on the 2nd spot by squeaking out shaky 6 to 4 win over 3rd place Nu Life Dental Lab. Nu Life won the 1st game by a single pin and the 2nd game by 7 pins but Jim Konno came through with a big 218 game to win the 3rd game and the total wood. Eugene Konno did the most damage with a 229 single game and a 571 series, both high for the night. Your reporter ground his teeth and chewed out a 215 single and a 519 series for Nu Life.

Tokyo Restaurant remained in 5th place despite losing 4 to 6 to Taylor and Taylor. Rich Schumacher took charge of the kitchen with a 445 se-

ries, while the league welcomed back Sam Tanaka from a bout with cancer. Sam insured a win with a 169 game for T and T.

The young J.A.C.L. team with Janice Kubota servicing a 140 game which is 37 pins over her average, eked out a 6 to 4 win over New York Travel Service. Tooru Kanazawa toured over his average also but in vain as 2 teammates were no show.

Daito, whose talents include an actor, Toshi Toda and a pretty tap dancer, Chiaki Toda waltzed their way to an 8 to 2 win over Team #9, who unfortunately had two no shows.

| Standings after 10 weeks   | Points |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 1. Cherry Restaurant       | 74     |
| 2. Japanese American Assn. | 66     |
| 3. Nu-Life Dental Lab.     | 64     |
| 4. Yodo Restaurant         | 60     |
| 5. Tokyo Restaurant        | 60     |
| 6. Taylor & Taylor Ins.    | 54     |
| 7. New York Travel Service | 43     |
| 8. J.A.C.L.                | 29     |
| 9. Team #9                 | 24     |
| 10. Daito                  | 20     |

—Gene Kubo

## community resource directory

If you want to place your group in the community resource directory, contact the NY Nichibei at 212-964-3461, 27 Park Place, NYC 10007. Rates are \$30.00 for listing in one issue, \$100.00 for the whole year. Please mention the Nichibei when you contact any of the organizations below.

### ORGANIZATIONS

**Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund**  
99 Hudson St, 12 Fl, NYC 10013. Tel: 212-966-5932. AALDEF does impact litigation, advocacy and community education on immigration, employment, housing, Japanese American redress, and anti-Asian violence. We Welcome Volunteers! Contact: Margaret Fung, Executive Director.

### RESOURCES/SERVICES

**Peter Raith, Advanced Systems Consultants, Inc.** Tel: 718-961-6654. Professional computer management, services, sales and consultation for businesses, agencies and professional offices. We specialize in systems development and 'turn-key' systems in micro and mini environments. Call for a free one-hour consultation.

### Minoru Yasui Dies—

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on through the years."

In his press release Wakabayashi wrote, "His voice is silent, but his message remains rooted in the conscience of America... His bold spirit carried a lifelong struggle for justice, leading both judicial and legislative movements to make this nation and Americans of Japanese ancestry whole again. We shall not see another like him. Min Yasui's legacy is a rich one."

Gordon Hirabayashi, one of the three who filed *coram nobis* cases, said that "few had the dedication and energy towards the redress movement... Whatever we may gain in the next year, certainly some part of it we owe to him... In a variety of ways we owe him a great deal... He was one of the most articulate persons... I don't really know of a Japanese American who could talk like that; he was a great orator, like a professional."

Rep. Robert T. Matsui (D-CA) said in a press release Thurs, Nov 13, "Min was a champion for civil rights who was fiercely dedicated to the pursuit of justice. He was a role model and an inspiration for me and for scores of Japanese Americans who chose to follow him into the legal profession... He will always remain the spirit and the soul of the redress movement."

Rep Norman Mineta (D-CA) in a press release said, "All Americans dedicated to the principles of justice and government by law have lost a friend and a champion with the untimely death of Minoru Yasui." After briefly describing Yasui's challenge to the law during the war, Mineta said, "It drove Min wild with anger to think that what happened to us would be precedent in law for similar injustices in the future... We have all lost a good friend, and this country has lost a leader in the struggle for equal justice under law."

Grayce Ueyehara, Executive Director of the JACL-LEC, worked under Min Yasui and remembered him as a "dynamic, committed leader who really had the capacity to let people know what this issue was all about... he was such a dynamic, fiery speaker, so different from many other Nikkei: he could let his feelings come out... Min could always pack it with feeling, as if he were underlining every sentence. Even for

sanses and the younger generation, he became a model of the kind of speaker all of us want to be... he had a special style that very few people can emulate." Speaking of his test case, Ueyehara said, "Who else would do it that way?" Thinking of the future, she said, "One strong leader is gone and that places the responsibility on the rest of us to finish the task... The task now is to go out there and make sure legislators and congressmen will co-sponsor H.R. 442 and get those that did co-sponsor make another commitment... We want to get off to a running start... Our issue is so important, we all have to do this for Min Yasui."

Sumi Koide, redress chair of JACL-New York chapter, said, "I regret very much that he didn't live a little longer to see the end of this... He's the one that got us going and he, of all people, should have lived to see the end of this crusade... this ought to galvanize our efforts with renewed dedication... and stir everyone to recommit, re-dedicate themselves to this crusade... he inspired us to follow him, and that is the real definition of a leader; he had that magic."

Saying that Yasui's death was a "personal loss as well as a loss for Japanese Americans for justice,"

Tom Kometani, an active member of NY's JACL, stated that "Yasui was quite an inspiration for many of us... He had a tremendous amount of courage... One of the main movers of the last decade, he planted the seeds of the redress movement... He articulated that this was an American issue, not just a Japanese American one... He was quite a humanitarian and we will miss him sorely, but the fighting spirit that he's awakened in all of us will live on."

Bob Moteki, another active member of the NY JACL, said, "We lost a voice... he was aggressive, expressive and articulate—he had the ability to make people listen... he was encouraging and understood the Japanese American mentality."

Michi Kobi, who was active in the redress movement with Sasha Hohri, said that Min Yasui was "totally committed to being American, he was proud as an American." Mentioning that he was always "offering" and "would never ask for a fee," she said that he was "so principled, such a man of integrity... We lost one of our great heroes."

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### Pan Asian Rep—

continued from page 2

under direction of David Leong with classical Japanese movement by Sachio Ito.

Performances run through Sat, Dec 13, and are scheduled for Tue through Sat evenings at 8pm, with Sat matinees at 2pm. Tickets are \$16 for Fri & Sat, \$12 for all other performances. For more info, call Pan Asian Rep's Box Office at 245-2660.

NY Nichibei is currently looking for someone to review the production. If interested, please call 964-3461.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Bazaars

**Sogetsu Bazaar.** Fri, Nov 21, 11:00am-2:00pm, at JAA Hall, 7 W. 44th St, 6th Fl. food, handcrafts and gifts for X'mas—a White Elephant sale!

### Events

**Thanksgiving Day Party.** Hosted by Asian American Mental Health Services on Wed, Nov 26, from 3-8pm, at JAA Hall, 7 W. 44th St, 6th Fl. great food, free drinks and jazz music by Kuni Mikami. Tks: singles \$5, couples \$8, children, free. Call for reservations 787-7741. Sounds fun!

**15th Annual Fundraising Dinner.** Chinatown Health Clinic will hold its annual dinner on Fri, Dec 5, at Silver Palace Restaurant, at 6:30pm. Dr. Livia Wan and Dr. Vivian Chang will be honored and Dr. Samuel Lin, Assistant Surgeon General and Deputy Asst. Sec. Dept. of Health and Human Services, will be the keynote speaker. Tks \$50.00 per person, make reservations as soon as possible, 233-5066 or 732-9545.

**7th Annual NY Asian College Day.** Sat, Nov 22, 1-5pm at NYU Loeb Student Center in the Eisner and Lubin Auditorium. Sponsored by East Coast Asian Student Union and NYU Asian Cultural Union.

Regrettably, NY's JACL president, Lillian Kimura, who is out of town at the moment, could not be reached for comment. Members of the community are invited to write or call in their comments/remembrances of Minoru Min Yasui.

Information used in this brief bio was taken from John Tateishi's *And Justice For All* (Random House, 1984), Peter Irons' *Justice At War* (Oxford Univ Press, 1983), and Yasui's curriculum vitae which Bob Sakaguchi, pres of Denver's JACL, graciously read to me over the phone. —Ed.

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古都のネズミ

ダラスへ行く (7)

唐木康江

翌日曜日の朝には、トミコさんの塾に近所の子供が来、それを彼女の二人の息子さんも加わって日本語のお勉強があった。彼女は、この外にも、火、木曜日の夜はテキサス・インスツルメンツ社に出かけて日本語を教えている。

この日の午後、私たちはいよいよニューヨークへ帰ることになった。トミコさんはいつの間にか和食を用意してくれていた。そこへ教会帰りのマサコも寄って、三人の中年女(いつの間にならなくなった)の間に中年になつてしまった(んだらう)たちは、手作りの京料理に舌つづみした。私がスティーラー家の世話になつての間に、トールはジョージア州オーガスタのゴルフ・トーナメントに出かけたそうだが、春の全米オープン、青木功氏の通訳という名譽的ボランティア・ワークをしながらのようだ。

マサコはマサコで、車を片道十二時間もドライブして、アツコさんをエル・パソの医科大学まで送り届けて来たのである。午後三時ごろ、私たちはスティーラー家の人々やマサコに飛行場まで送られて、またまたビープル・エクスプレスでニューヨークに帰って来たのであった。

住みついたのである……だが、待てよ。私自身このネズミと同類ではないのか。この騒々しい古い都市のもぐり込むようなアパートに住んで、蒸し暑い地下鉄に乗って、毎朝ダウンタウンの事務所に通って、ほんのわずかな給料をもらって、十年一日が如く細々と暮しているのだから。さんさん太陽の輝くダラスで、悠々と暮してゆく百万もの人々もいるというのに。

しかし、私はニューヨークが好きだ。正直云って、世界中、どこかへ行っても、外国大使館、領事館のあるような、政治、経済、文化的に中心な大都会以外に住みたくなかない。ここには、自分の性格や能力に適した仕事がある。面白い趣味や仕事や話題を持った人に満ちみちている。学校や文化的な活動がいつでもどこにでもくりひろげられており、人々はお互いに刺激し合っている。

本屋も八百屋もどこにでもあるから、ゾリー履きでひよと出かけてゆける。私はニューヨークの通りのあちこちに立っている露店が好きだ。スラム街だって人間の営みの部分的脱落のシンボルとして、ないよりはあった方が自然ではないか。中でも、私がニューヨークを好きな最大の理由は、私が落ちぶれたときには、私より落ちぶれた人々を助けるような場所を提供してくれていることだ。この抱擁力が何とも有難い。

だから私は、年をとって

私は、コンパス・サークルの地下鉄のプラットフォームで、下り電車が来るのを待っている。二、三日も前に降った雨のおかげで、レールの下の溝にはまだ水がたまっている。その水を飛び越えて、太ったダブ・ネズミが往たり来たりしている。目をこらして良くみれば、五匹も八匹も暗く、湿ったところの何が好きで

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老いぼれても、この埃だらけのニューヨークにしがみついているだろうと思う。それで自分自身が満足なら良いではないか。

だが待てよ。オカベのところのアツコさんは、ニューヨークに何故か憧れて、レジデント・ドクターの修業地としてわざわざニューヨークを選んでる。彼女が、ひよとして、結婚でもしてここに居つければ、私もマサコも老後はダラスの家を売って、ニューヨーク・ジャージーあたりへ引っ越して行くかも知れない。そうすれば、この私だって先約済みの老人ホームに入れてもらえるかも知れない。そこへトミコさんも訪ねてくれば、めでたしめでたしではないか。

トールとマサコとノリコと私は、ほぼ同年輩なので四人のうち誰が一番先に死ぬか、誰が一番後まで生き残るか知らないが、一世若きアツコさんが健康の相談のつてくれるだろう。出来の悪いうちの息子だって、何かの商品のセルスマンにでもなつて、安い品物を差し出してくれることだろう。

イツツア物語では、確か田舎のネズミが都会の恐ろしさをきらって、田舎に戻って行くところが話が終わっていたと思うが、ここでは、古都のネズミが、未来都市におじ気づいたという、お粗末な結びである。

ご・退・屈・さ・ま

(おわり)

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