

COLUMN ONE

He lost in court, won in history

A statewide holiday honors Oakland-born Fred Korematsu, who challenged the U.S. government over his WWII internment.

Maria L. La Ganga reporting from Hayward, Calif.

Twenty-nine eager fifth-grade faces stare up at lines of text between recess and lunch one day last week. The children have been studying stories about perseverance in the face of pain: "Give It All You've Got," the lesson's catchy theme, is printed in big letters on a poster in Room 21.

The teacher has just read her young students at Lorenzo Manor Elementary School a book called "The Boy Who Sailed." It's the story of Emi, a Berkeley second-grader sent to an internment camp during World War II just because she was Japanese American. New vocabulary words: "Injustice," "inequality."

And finally, "resist." Because fictional Emi's story is followed by the true tale of Fred Korematsu, a young man who refused to be rounded up and hauled away because of his heritage. Who was arrested. Who fought the government and lost. And finally, 40 years later, who fought the government and won.

Raise your hand if you've ever seen or felt like something was not right. Think back to your students. More than a dozen hands shoot up. "Now, put your hand up if you actually did something about it." There are a few raised brows, furtive glances and a long pause. Trish nods, sympathetic. This is, after all, a [See Korematsu, A7]

Housing bust didn't touch San Marino

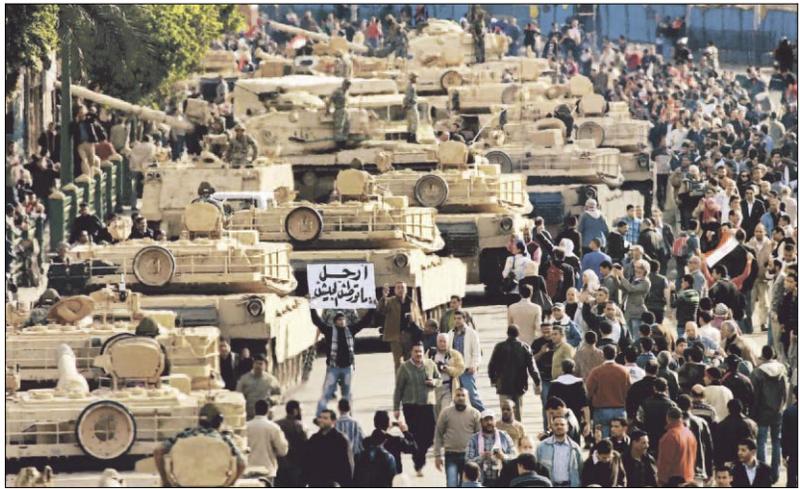
Prices keep climbing, largely because of the affluency city's cachet among Asian buyers.

Lauren Beale

With its wide tree-lined streets and stately mansions set on manicured lawns, San Marino has long boasted the best property values in the San Gabriel Valley.

Now it has a new claim to fame: It's the Southland's only wealthy residential community that hasn't seen home values decline in the housing slump.

San Marino recorded its highest annual median home price over last year, topping \$1.5 million — up 1.6% from the previous year, according to MDA Data-Quick. By comparison, Beverly Hills' 90210 ZIP Code has seen its median price tumble 16.6% from the peak in 2008, and Malibu home values are down 28.4% from 2007.



IN CAIRO: Armored vehicles roll into the center of the Egyptian capital during the sixth day of unrest over President Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule. Protesters remained largely supportive of the military, some even applauding soldiers and tossing oranges to them.

Egypt's military boosts visibility in the capital

The show of force is seen as a sign that the army may crack down. ElBaradei demands that Mubarak quit.

Edmund Sanders reporting from Cairo

Egypt's military moved more aggressively Sunday to take control over parts of the capital, but the sixth day of unrest ended with increasing questions about how much longer President Hosni Mubarak could withstand calls for his resignation, including an electrifying demand from opposition leader Mohamed ElBaradei that he step down to "save the country."



'CHANGE IS COMING': Egyptian Nobel laureate and opposition leader Mohamed ElBaradei speaks to the protesters in Tahrir Square in Cairo.

Islamists' message on hold

The Muslim Brotherhood joins the revolt but keeps its agenda out — for now.

Jeffrey Fleishman reporting from Cairo

The medical students marched and sweated in protest. "The fear is broken," yelled Bahaa Mohammed. "We want freedom."

"And Islam," said his friend. "We need Islam."

The organization's strategy was to gain a shift to democracy. WORLD, A3

"Yes," said Mohammed, hushing the young man. "But first freedom and the will of the people."

The exchange in the streets of Cairo between the students, both members of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, is a telling glimpse into the Arab world's largest Islamic organization as it joins other opposition groups seeking to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak. The Brotherhood is muting its religious message amid a popular revolt that is not driven by Islam or politics.

The organization's strategy was to gain a shift to democracy. WORLD, A3

Egypt became more apparent Sunday when it announced support for opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mohamed ElBaradei as a transitional president if the Mubarak government is toppled. The move was recognition that ElBaradei, a secularist with Western democratic principles, is the most potent symbol for change in a nation desperate for fresh voices.

"The revolution does not belong to any one group," said Esam Shosha, a movement member. "We are one [See Brotherood, A4]

U.S. IN A BIND OVER ALLY

Officials stay careful not to abandon Mubarak, but prepare for his possible ouster.

Peter Nichol as reporting from Washington

The Obama administration appears to be now preparing for an Egypt without President Hosni Mubarak, pushing the hard-line 82-year-old leader to swiftly meet the cry from the streets for greater political freedom while growing ever more doubtful that their longtime ally can survive the upheaval.

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But both current and former government officials say the days of autocratic government in Egypt are over — with or without Mubarak. "They don't want to push Mubarak over the cliff, but they understand that the Mubarak era is over and that the only way Mubarak could be saved now is by a ruthless suppression of the population, which would probably set the stage for a much more radical revolution down the road," said a former senior U.S. advisor who said he has discussed the crisis with ex-colleagues still in the administration. [See U.S., A4]

OUTLOOK Egypt fears jolt stocks

bl oomberg news

U.S. stock-index futures fell as investors speculated that Egypt's crisis would slow the global recovery. Futures on the Standard & Poor's 500 index expired in March tumbled 0.4%, to 1,267 during trading Monday morning in Tokyo, while Dow Jones industrial average futures retreated 0.2 points, or 0.7%, to 11,676. Middle East shares sank Tuesday, sending Abu Dhabi's index down 3.7%, its biggest drop in 14 months.

"The situation in Egypt is the catalyst for a downturn," said James Paulsen, chief investment strategist at Minneapolis-based Wells Fargo Capital Management, who oversees about \$340 billion. "We have a market that is vulnerable to a technical correction. There's an investor mindset that is expecting that to happen if while now, given where the market is and how fast it's coming up."

Meanwhile, oil advanced for a second straight day New York, with crude March delivery climbing as much as 7% to \$90.92 on Sunday in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Stoked by fear that unrest in the Middle East could disrupt oil supplies, oil futures increased 4.3% on Jan. 28, the day since September 2009. A disruption to Middle East supplies could "bring a lot of harm," U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu said at a conference call.

The S&P 500 has surged 22% since Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke said Aug. 27 that he was prepared to take action to help the economy.

Stocks fell last week, thwarting the longest stretch of weekly gains since the Dow average since 1998 as unrest in Egypt triggered the biggest one-day drop in the gauge since Novem and overshadowed high-tech projected earnings.

Intel Corp., DuPont Co. and other companies. Protests in Egypt continued over the weekend. The Bloomberg GCC 2009 index — composed of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait — lost 0.3% on Monday. The Australian S&P/ASX 200 index dropped 0.8% to 4,734. Japan's Nikkei 225 index retreated 4% to 10,261.

Concern that instability in Egypt could hinder oil exports through the Suez Canal overshadowed a report showing that the U.S. economy expanded 3.2% in the fourth quarter. Consumer purchases, about 70% of economic growth at a 4.4% pace, the most since the fourth quarter of 2006, signaled that the world's largest economy and consumer recovery was on track since World War II.

Asian businesses started

Diibert
By Scott Adams



THEN THE STOCKHOLM EFFECT KICKED IN. I STARTED IDENTIFYING WITH MY CAPTORS AND BEATING MYSELF.



APPARENTLY IT LOOKED CONTAGIOUS.



SELLING IT: Linda Chang and her son Brent are real estate agents with Coldwell Banker's San Marino office. "People will stretch to buy here," Linda says. Many Asian homebuyers consider San Marino to be the most prestigious address. It's popular among investors too.

Housing bust bypasses San Marino

[San Marino, from A1] Its small-town ambience. But it also has something else going for it, an influx of money from Asian home buyers and investors.

"If you go to mainland China and someone asks, 'Where do you live?,' San Marino represents that you are wealthy," said YanYan Zhang, a real estate agent whose clients include overseas buyers looking for homes here.

The San Gabriel Valley has an estimated population of 2 million, about a quarter of whom are Asian American, census data show. Cities including Alhambra, Monterey Park, Temple City and Arcadia also draw significant numbers of Chinese buyers.

San Marino, however, is considered the most prestigious address, representing the business investment followed, some spurred by the mainland takeover of Hong Kong. Housing purchases were close behind.

Real estate agents market U.S. homes overseas through Chinese language websites, including WindhamChina.com and PrologLuxury.com, and publications such as the Chinese Real Estate News, which is distributed in China.

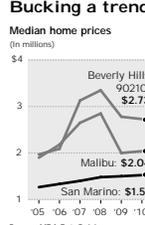
"I advertise in it," said Zhang, who works out of Rodeo Realty's Beverly Hills office and covers areas including San Marino, Pasadena and Bell.

On a recent trip to Beijing she discovered that her ad had drawn attention.

"We saw your picture on the newspaper," my old friends said," Zhang recounted. "Zhang re-located to China every couple of months to meet potential clients and get referrals. "It's all about lots of business connections."

Many of Zhang's clients are Chinese Americans who have spent the last decade

Bucking a trend



Source: MDA Data-Quick

overseas establishing themselves in business and are bringing the money back to the place where they grew up.

Some people keep their homes for a quarter-century or more, said Sotheby's agent Boyd Smith, whose territory includes San Marino and Pasadena. "This is not a transient community,"

The housing slump has been felt in the number of San Marino transactions — down by a third from five years ago. Consequently, competition can be intense. "I sold a home for \$6 million in one week last year," Chang said.

"It all goes back to supply and demand," Smith said. "Limited supply and huge demand."

History has a role in San Marino's vitality too. The San Gabriel Valley community was founded in 1913 "upon the appearance and

ing the housing bust: There is little turnover. "It's old families, old money, new owners and international money," she said.

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NICE AREA: San Marino has high-ranking schools and is designed to uphold the appearance and maintenance of properties and property values.

maintain the orderly look of the houses as well as the community, said Wallace Lee, treasurer of the San Marino Chamber of Commerce and a contractor.

"Construction trucks need a permit to park in front of a house, even for an estimate," he said. "Otherwise they risk being ticketed. Homes bordering the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens sell in the \$2 million to \$5 million range, while entry-level houses can be found for less than \$1 million. There are no condominiums or apartment buildings, and commercial operations such as restaurants and shops are clustered in two small business districts.

Unlike L.A.'s Westside, San Marino is "not all gated, not all hidden," said Smith, the Sotheby's agent. "San Marino is immediately a stamp of credibility," Smith said. "You have arrived."

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Top bank and money fund rates

Institution (state)	Yield*	Min. amt.	Phone
6-month CD			
1. Bank of Internet USA (CA)	1.07	\$1,000	(877) 541-2634
2. Discover Bank (US)	1.04	1	(877) 247-2559
3. Discover Bank (US)	1.00	2,500	(800) 347-7000
National Average	0.43		

1-year CD			
1. Bank of Internet USA (CA)	1.36	\$1,000	(877) 541-2634
2. Ally Bank (PA)	1.04	1	(877) 247-2559
3. Ally Bank (PA)	1.29	1	(877) 247-2559
National Average	0.64		

2-year CD			
1. Bank of Internet USA (CA)	1.60	\$1,000	(877) 541-2634
2. Ally Bank (PA)	1.50	1	(877) 247-2559
3. Discover Bank (US)	1.50	2,500	(800) 347-7000
National Average	0.98		

5-year CD			
1. Bank of Internet USA (CA)	2.54	\$1,000	(877) 541-2634
2. PenFed (VA)	2.50	1,000	(800) 247-5626
3. Discover Bank (US)	2.40	2,500	(800) 347-7000
National Average	1.47		

Money market funds	Yield*	Min. amt.	Phone
1. Harbor MMF/Institutional	0.17	\$1,000	(800) 422-1050
2. Flex-Funds MMF/Retail	0.16	2,500	(800) 325-3539
3. PayPal MMF	0.13	1	(402) 935-7773
National Average	0.03		

Tax-free money funds	Yield*	Min. amt.	Phone
1. Alpine Municipal/Investor	0.22	\$2,500	(888) 785-5578
2. Vanguard Tax-Exempt MMF	0.13	3,000	(800) 662-7447
3. DWS CAT Tax-Exempt MMF	0.10	1,000	(800) 730-1313
National Average	0.03		

*Based on U.S. surveys last week. For CDs, the yield is the annual percentage yield, which represents the total payment after one year. Banks may not have rates at all times. For money funds, the yield is interest earned for the most recent seven days reported, and is compounded. Sources: CD data from Informa Research Services; fund data from Morningstar. Los Angeles Times

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARDS



Brian van der Brugg Los Angeles Times

the King's Speech' takes top honors
British period drama, which includes Colin Firth, left, Geoffrey Ripley and Helena Bonham Carter, won the award for ensemble in a motion picture. COMPLETE COVERAGE IN CALENDAR AND LATIMES.COM/SAG

A boost for lending to small firms

A new federal program geared to underserved markets will allow loans up to \$250,000 to be made by nonprofit lenders. BUSINESS, A8

Protest targets financial retreat

Hundreds rally against the agenda of the Koch brothers, leading backers of conservative causes. LATENTRA, A4

World...A3
Nation...A6
Lottery...AA2
California...AA3
Weather...AA8

HEALTH



Nate Billings Associated Press

Communities counting calories
Citywide efforts at weight loss generate enthusiasm but mixed results. HEALTH, E1

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.
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