

JACL REPORTER

Seattle Chapter
Donald Kazama, President

April 1970
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REGULAR MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING

The April meeting will be held this Wednesday, April 15 at the JACL office, 526 South Jackson Street, starting promptly at 7:45 p.m. All board members and committee chairmen are requested to be present. District council meeting, queen contest, are some of the subject on the agenda plus many unexpected ones. Cordial invitation is extended to everyone to sit in and get in the discussion. President Don Kazama will preside.

Did you notice the repair on the ceiling? Mr. Gordon Neagle of the Rainier Heat and Power Company has made all arrangements to have the ceiling repaired. Thank you so much!

RESOLUTION ON JUDGE CARSWELL

During the course of the last meeting Dr. Minoru Masuda brought up the resolution for the Seattle Chapter to oppose the nomination of George Harrold Carswell of Florida to the Supreme Court and urging the Senate to reject his confirmation to that seat. Dr. Masuda reminded the membership that during wartime evacuation in 1942 the Supreme Court declared it to be constitutional by a 5 to 4 decision in the Korematsu case. One justice can make a decision of constitutional importance, Masuda said.

Judge Carswell's record on civil rights cases coming before him is that of a man who ranks 8th in a group of 31 Southern district judges in rulings against the blacks (1953-67).

The board passed the motion. A reply has been received by Senator Jackson with the text of his speech opposing Judge Carswell on the Senate floor.

COUNCIL ON AGING requests that Seattle Chapter nominate a Senior Citizen of 1970 for Seattle and King County. This will be the special function of Senior Citizen Month. The candidate will have to be at least 70 years of age, resident of state and county during the past 5 years and currently contributing personal service to society whether it be in church, civic or community affairs. Please phone President Kazama for detail. Deadline April 29.

FUND DRIVE STARTED FOR JAPANESE COMMUNITY SEAFAIR QUEEN PROJECT

Fund raising by the Greater Seattle Japanese Community Queen Committee is now underway. The committee asks JACL members and friends to contribute generously to this year's queen activities. Sponsor of the committee is the JACL, with the Japanese Cultural Festival Committee as a supporting organization.

Attached to this newsletter is a contribution form and self-addressed envelope in which individuals may return their donations. The major portion of the funds collected will go towards scholarships for the new queen and her court.

Queen candidates are now being sought from throughout the Greater Seattle area. In addition to being awarded scholarships, the new queen and princesses will have an opportunity to participate in all of the Japanese community and Seafair activities.

Nobie Tsukiji, committee chairman, announced the following major events and their dates: Queen's Tea, May 24; Consul-General's Tea, June 7; preliminary judging, June 20, and the Coronation Ball, June 26. The Washington Plaza Hotel will be the site of the Coronation Ball, the committee announced.

Because the committee is interested in making this a total community effort, readers are asked to send in their contributions now. "Please send in your donations, big or small, today," Mrs. Tsukiji, urged.

COMMITTEE HOPES TO COMPILE AUTOBIOGRAPHIES OF BOTH ISSEI AND NISEI

The concern of the Issei-Nisei Story Committee of the JACL is to preserve for Issei and Nisei descendents and for historical researchers their life stories. Ongoing studies and projects tell in a generalized way how the Issei and Nisei have lived, but the individual's unique life story which is a single thread in the total fabric of Japanese Americans has tended to become lost. Belatedly, we are trying to compile autobiographies of both Issei and Nisei, for both are joined in a continuous process.

The committee has put a notice in the North American Post stating the needs for Issei life stories and requesting these in their own hand. A subsequent notice will be inserted which makes a further plan and also makes arrangement for personal tape-recorded interview sessions along flexible guidelines. The latter is, in all probability the route Isseis will go to set down their stories.

The committee is asking the help of JACL and Nisei Vets members in the following possible ways:

1. We need the loan of your cassette recorders for the personal at-home interviews. Tape will be supplied.
2. We need the help of bilingual interviewers, transcribers, translators, etc.
3. We need your help in convincing your parents of the need for their autobiographies. You may volunteer to do the interviewing and recording yourself -- we'll send you the guidelines. You may even be surprised at what a lively life your parent had led.
4. Nisei, especially the older ones, also have a story to tell about life in the Japanese community and their wartime and camp experiences. We urge you to think about setting these down on paper or in a recording interview.
5. Please do not destroy Issei papers, diaries, records, letters, etc., that were a part of his life. (Continued on bottom of page 3)

AN OPEN LETTER :

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ON REALIZING THAT "ACCEPTANCE" IS "OURS" BY VIRTUE OF OUR BIRTH

When I was a young teenager, many years ago, I recall developing a philosophy in which I believed that though the Nisei was just as good as anyone else, we somehow had to prove it; therefore, we each had a responsibility to show the best of us of Japanese ancestry. Fresh out of camp and thrust into a virtually all-white high school in the suburb of Chicago, I suppose it gave meaning for whatever I did and said. But that was back in 1943, and I was a naive idealistic reformer.

Then in 1955 the civil rights movement gained a name and national prominence: Mrs. Ross Parks refused to give up her seat in the "black section" of the Montgomery bus to a white male passenger. This and subsequent events forced me to reevaluate my own thinking in light of this changing society. Slowly I began to ask questions about my philosophy, and I found it to be ineffective and wanting in many ways. Changing times often dictate a change of ideas!

With this as background, I would like to share a present-day concern. I have heard in recent months the argument that we Nisei fight injustices "in our own way"-- meaning by being good citizens, quiet, polite, and hard-working. Nothing wrong with those traits -- but I can't help asking if they really help eliminate prejudice and discrimination? I am coming to realize more and more that many whites are using these very traits of which we are so proud to put us into convenient stereotype boxes, and we dare not venture from this image lest we lose our "acceptance" by the white majority. In other words, our so-called acceptance is on rather tenuous grounds, on terms dictated to us. In addition, this positive image which is used to flatter and applaud us is utilized often by members of white society to put "others in their place"!

There are more and more Nisei and Sansei who are beginning to realize that we do not "earn" our acceptance or rights as citizens -- they are ours by virtue of our birth, God-given and inalienable. And so when they see inequities because of racial or religious discrimination, whether affecting us or other minorities, they are no longer content to sit back and be "good examples of citizenship," as I used to think. Instead, they are beginning to stand up and be counted, by writing letters, by involvement in community action groups, by marching and picketing, by being outspoken and raising uncomfortable questions. Of course, I know all Nisei do not assume this stance, and that is their prerogative. However, I feel it is wrong for those who think differently to deny these individuals their right to demonstrate their convictions or to try to silence them when they do express their views.

Postscript: Today there are challenges being made of our comfortable ways of thinking and living, and no institution of society (not even the churches) is immune from this confrontation. Some people call it a reevaluation of values, a realignment of priorities, a restoration of genuine humanness. But whatever one calls it, this challenge is here to stay. For the sake of our Sanseis and Yonseis, let us in honesty struggle for answers, and let's do it together! --Mrs. Fran Wada

(Mrs. Fran Wada was formerly editor of Blaine Memorial Methodist Church newsletter. She has been past Seattle Chapter vice president and board member and continues to be active in human relations program.)

NEWS JOTTINGS: Takeo "Tak" Yagi is Brighton area manager for the Little League baseball . . . Dr. Lindbergh Sata, associate professor of psychiatry and assistant dean of the UW School of Medicine, and associate director at Harborview Medical Center, was the principal speaker at the Asa Mercer Junior High PTA Mar. 5. His topic was "Crisis of Adolescence" . . . Daniel Ikeda, 18, Franklin High senior, 3.93 gpa honor student, and son of Victor Ikedas, was awarded Jr. Citizenship Award and \$100 government bond from NVC . . . Elaine Ko, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ko, was chosen among the five finalists to represent Cleveland High School in the Bon Marche Fashion Board. Elaine is 17 years old, 5 feet 2 inches, and weighs 110 pounds. JACLers Ray is already a celebrity in his own right having bowled a perfect game recently and his wife Kazuko has won her share of bowling prizes . . . Seattle Metro League basketball league scoring was released. Number of games played is indicated by parentheses. Franklin--Asaba (4) 0.3; Yokoyama (1) 0.0; Cleveland--Shimada (4) 3.0; Yee (18) 2.3; Kiyonaga (8) 0.5; Ingraham--Koshi (1) 0.0; West Seattle (18) 11.7 Roger Wong. Also Seattle Times 2nd Team All-Metro. Frank Fujii, head coach at Franklin High, had 15-3 record in his second year and loses only one senior for next year's campaign . . . Two teachers from Marycliff High, Spokane, will accompany a group of 15 high school and college students on a 44-day study tour of Japan this summer . . . A workshop for members of King County chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma, teachers honorary, was held Mar. 14 at the Women's University Club. Mrs. Takashi Kuriyama, state president, led the discussions . . . Mrs. Fred Ito, Japanese dance instructor, and four of her pupils presented program during Mar. 26 meeting of the Seattle Chapter of Ikebana International at the Scottish Rite Temple . . . Yoshi Hayasaki, 5-4 and 125 pounds, was awarded 9 or better in three events (10 is a perfect score)--rings, 9.05; horizontal bar, 9 even; parallel bars, 9.4 to take the lead with 52.35 points in the Pacific 8 gymnastic championships in Edmundson Pavilion Mar. 26. His teammate, Hide Umeshita was second at 48.60 and Greenfield third at 44.85 . . . The continuing education department of the UW will offer a variety of spring quarter courses ranging from Japanese arts and theater to a study of Japanese American relations. Courses are arranged by Dr. Richard McKinnon of the UW Center for Asian Arts. Dr. McKinnon's midday seminar, "Japanese Theater" will study the various forms of Japanese dramas including Bunraku, Kabuki, Kyogen, and Noh. The course starts Apr. 9. Meets Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon at the Plymouth Congregational Church. . . . (Cont'd next page)

NEWS JOTTINGS (Cont'd): Herbert Tsuchiya, pharmacist, was sworn in Mar. 6 as a Seattle Park Board commissioner at the city clerk's office. He was appointed by Mayor Wes Uhlman and approved by the City Council for a three-year term. Tsuchiya has been a park board commissioner for the past two years; being appointed by former Mayor J.D. Braman. He has been active in S.E. Seattle Community affairs for the past 12 years. He expressed hopes to "bring closer to the public the programs of the park and recreation department" . . . Seattle-First National Bank chairman William M. Jenkins announced the assignment of Chiyo T. Kerns, Ronald Y. Ohira and Donald E. Sullivan, EDP programming officers; Gerald Yuasa was named assistant branch-manager of Crown Hill . . . Nadine Iwata, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Iwata, and Steven G. Shimada, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mitsuyoshi Shimada, were married Mar. 22 in the Blaine Memorial Methodist Church. The bride attended the UW and she was a Japanese Community Seafair Queen in 1967. Bridegroom will graduate from the UW in June. Thomas S. Iwata is past Seattle Chapter president and is chairman of the Japanese Cultural Festival to be held next year . . .

Sharon Furutani, 20, one of two persons charged with failing to disperse during the Feb. 17 violence at the U.S. Courthouse, was found guilty Mar. 13. Thomas Ballard, the other, was found innocent after U.S. Commissioner Walter J. Reseburg, Jr., told Stan Pitkin, U.S. attorney, another charge should have been brought against him. Miss Furutani, a UW junior from Hawaii, disputed testimony by Seattle Police Sgt. Bruce Johnson, who said she pushed against officers who were attempting to clear the area in front of the courthouse.

Miss Furutani said she was moving away from the courthouse when officers told her "I was not moving fast enough and arrested me." She admitted she wore an armband supplied by the Seattle Liberation Front and that she knew the S.L.F.'s goal in the demonstration was to interfere with the federal court system. Reseburg fined her \$24 and sentenced her to 30 days in jail, suspended on the condition she limit her protest activity to non-violent demonstrations.

MILESTONES: Father Leopold Tibesar, M.M., 71, Mar. 13. Longtime Maryknoll missionary in Japan and in Seattle, he died while on a visit in Los Angeles area. He was pastor of Seattle Maryknoll Mission of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Church from 1935 through 1942. He was the April 1968 speaker during Seattle Chapter meeting. During WW2, he worked among the Japanese at Minidoka WRA Center and with resettling evacuees in Chicago. Postwar, he built a church in Kyoto, designed by George Nakashima of New Hope, Pa., and dedicated to the Issei pioneers of America . . . Shiki Harui, 67, Bainbridge Island, Mar. 20 . . . Ben Hanada. Funeral Mar. 20. Survivors include: w Lola; s Gary Glen, Jeffrey K., Clifford Wayne, Craig B. Hanada, all Seattle; m Mrs. Matsu Hanada, Seattle; brother Dan Hanada, Seattle; four sisters Mrs. Gus (Amy) Nikaitani, Mrs. William (Kazue) Nishimura, and Mrs. Roy (Jane) Ikeda, all Seattle; Mrs. Charles (May) Nishimura, Canby, Ore . . . The Rev. Dr. Daisuke Kitagawa, about 60, Mar. 27. Leading church authority on race relations and a former Seattleite, died in Geneva. He was staff member of World Council of Churches in Geneva, researching the church's mission in urban crisis. He was vicar at St. Peter's Episcopal Church and served the now defunct St. Paul's Episcopal Church in the White River Valley. He was evacuated to the Tule Lake with his flock. In 1943 he became field secretary for the Federated Council of Churches commission on Japanese American resettlement. He was son of Episcopal priest. Received Theology degree from the General Theological Seminary in N.Y. and studied at St. Paul's U of Tokyo, the U of Chicago Divinity School and the Ecumenical Institute of Celigny, Switzerland. Survivors include w Fujiko, d Karen, Leonia, N.J., s John who attends college in the East and a brother, the Rev. Dr. Joseph M. Kitagawa (Chicago). Memorial service held Apr. 6 at the St. Peter's Episcopal Church . . . Rinzo Ashida, 91, Mar. 29. Japanese Presbyterian Church, Hiroshima Club, Puget Sound Golf Club. Survivors include sons Frank F. (Seattle), and James H. (Bethesda, Md) . . . Tomo K. Kawabe, Funeral Apr. 6. Seattle Buddhist Church . . .

BUSINESS AND FINANCE: Yosh Nakagawa of Osborn and Ulland of Seattle and Portland was among a select group of 28 skiwear retailers who met in Columbia, Md late last month. A highlight of the meeting was a fashion show to preview Head Ski Wear's 1971 collection . . .

\$185,000 for three-story buildings 709 N. 38th St. and 3622 Fremont Avenue N. sold to Umeko Tosaya by J.L. Conklin . . .

ISSEI-NISEI STORY (Cont'd from page 1): You may have delegated them to the basement or a dusty trunk. These materials should be kept and preserved whether or not you think that they are important. The University of Washington archives are especially interested in the accumulation of all Issei materials. If you have anything like this that you might want to give to the archives, please contact Sally Kazama at PA 5-3472.

If you can help in any one of these ways or have any questions to ask, please contact Minoru Masuda at EA 2-0691 in the evenings.

TO WHOM DOES THE SIGNATURE OF A PERSON HOLDING PRESIDENCY SPEAK FOR?

Seattle Chapter meeting for March became quite lively when Pat Hagiwara, Chapter board member and past commander of NVC, raised the objection to the use of Don Kazama's signature among citizens group in their letter to NVC. The letter (P.C. Mar. 13 pp. 1) appealed to Nisei veterans to cancel their plans to use the Elk's site for their dinner-dance. Hagiwara said that Don Kazama holds an exalted office and is not so sure that the public will look upon his name as just another JACLer. Dr. Minoru Masuda asked, "Do you want to hamstring anybody who is a president into a position which he can't do anything?" Hagiwara stated that if the commander of NVC were to have made statements which he had published as representing a citizen, it would still reflect the NVC. He (the commander) wouldn't have that much right. (continued next page)

ON PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE (Cont'd from page 3)

Tak Kubota said, "I'll have to agree with what Pat is saying because the general public may misconstrue the president. Any other officer is something else but the president, he is a special officer. His action represents the whole group."

"He does not represent the whole group!" Dr. Masuda explained. "This is the precise point that we're trying to make. He's entitled to take any action he wants and make any personal decision. And the board cannot restrict him."

Hagiwara asked if it's the Seattle Chapter's position that in order to achieve our aim to knock down the racist and if we offend our own people we don't really care as long as we achieve our goal.

Dr. Masuda reminded that this letter written had nothing to do with the JAACL, that Dr. Joe Okimoto had nothing to do with JAACL. It was an independent action taken by individuals. Kazama reiterated his position as an individual by reading the recent draft of ad hoc committee which was approved by the board recently: "Any officer or his delegated representative shall not, in his official or represented capacity, comment or undertake to commit the Chapter to any action, responsibility, or obligation, etc. without the prior consent of the Board. This shall not be construed as denying to any officer the right of action as an individual."

No call to action was raised during the meeting.

* * *

Apparently the conflict arises from the choice of priorities between two sets of value system. The first system hopes to maintain harmony within the ethnic Japanese community, especially between different social and civic organizations and institutions. This is the outgrowth from the necessity for survival by joining forces to buttress the community from hostile economic and social forces from the outside. No group or group of individuals within this context would want to embarrass another group under this arrangement of social makeup.

But there is another value system which have become the accepted mode. The freedom of an individual has been given more and more emphasis as reflected in the modern court system. The days of carefully built-up "give and take" pragmatic arrangement which the Japanese have used in their adjustment to meet the pressure of unfriendly environment have come under fire. Seemingly the exercise of the rights by individuals transcends the value system of the ghetto community only because the definition of the individual rights in this particular case embrace the context of the total community, at least in theory. But at this point, however, for the prevention of polarization within this small community still in the process of practicing this particular ethnic value system, the application of "oriental politeness" (stereotype?) should be given more impetus by the group of individuals expressing their views. # COMMUNITY SUPPORT APPRECIATED BY CHURCH: Yoshito Fujii, board chairman of the Seattle Buddhist Church and Hiro Nishimura, bazaar chairman issued the following statement: "In regard to our recent church bazaar, we wish to express our appreciation for the Japanese community's support. At the same time, we apologize for the inconveniences in the delay and the failure in providing you of our makizudhi. We are also sorry for the delays in the cafeteria service. The unexpected response on top of our new endeavor of two more varieties of sushi caught us by big surprise and later caused us much anguish and embarrassment. We thank you for your past support!"

Calendar of Events

- April 11--ACE workshop. Theme: "The Role of Asians in America." To develop awareness among Asian Americans. St. Peter's Episcopal Church. 9 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
- 15--Regular monthly membership meeting. Everyone welcome. 7:45 p.m. JAACL office
- 17-19--Benefit movie by Japanese Baptist Church (Issei) at the Kokusai. April 17-18 (Fri., Sat.) 6:45 p.m., Apr. 19 (Sunday) 2:00 p.m. \$1.75
- 19--First quarterly Pacific Northwest District Council. Gresham-Troutdale host Chapter
- 24-25--Benefit deluxe sukiyaki dinner. Japanese Baptist Church. To help remodeling fund. Dinner served from 5-7:30 p.m. Entertainment, exhibits. Tickets \$3 per person.
- 25-26--Benefit sukiyaki dinner at the Seattle Buddhist Church. To help raise fund for Buddhist Boy Scout Troop 252 to participate in Osaka World's Fair. \$2 per person. Kuni Sakaguchi is Scoutmaster.
- May 8--News deadline for JAACL Reporter. Mail articles to: c/o (Editor) Eira Nagaoka, 151 11th Avenue, Seattle 98122
- 13--Newsletter mailing night. 8:00 p.m. JAACL office
- June 26-- Japanese Community Queen Coronation Ball at Washington Plaza Hotel

LAST MINUTE INSERT: Takeshi Kubota was appointed area coordinator for the Masaoka Testimonial Trust Fund drive. Masaoka will be recognized for his 30 years of service for the welfare of persons of Japanese ancestry. Honorary trustees include Hiram Akita, Dr. John Kanda, Toru Sakahara, and Dr. Kelly Yamada. There may be a program for Apr. 15 Chapter meeting. Following the business meeting Chairman Connie Asaka have arranged for refreshment and social hour. So mark this day on the calendar! April 15!

Seattle Chapter
Japanese American Citizens League
526 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA. 98104

Return requested

