
JACL *Newsletter* SEATTLE CHAPTER

MAY 1984

VOLUME 21 NO. 5

SEATTLE SCHOOL BOARD VOTES JAPANESE AMERICAN REPARATIONS

In a 4 to 3 vote, the Seattle School Board voted to pay \$5,000 each to as many as 27 Japanese American women who were forced to quit working as clerks in the School District upon the outbreak of World War II.

The resolution introduced by T.J. Vassar passed only after a clause was inserted which stated the payments would be paid in two installments and that the state attorney general or Legislature must approve the payments.

Voting in favor of the resolution along with Vassar were Barbara Beuschlein, Jerry Saulter and Michael Preston. Voting against were Randi Ryan and Ellen Roe, while John Rasmussen abstained.

Providing emotional testimony at the April 25 hearing were former clerks Jane Sugawara Okada, Aiko Takizawa Koshi and Sally Shimanaka Kazama.

The 27 women were dismissed when a West Seattle group of parents agitated against the School District upon the outbreak of war between Japan and the U.S.

FORMER JAPANESE CHIEF JUSTICE TO VISIT

Former Chief Justice of the Japan Supreme Court Takaaki Hattori will visit Seattle and appear in an informal talk and reception sponsored by the Seattle Chapter JACL's International Relations Committee, the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington and the Asian Law Association.

The event will be held at 7:30 pm Tuesday May 15 in the Habe Room of the Kawabe Memorial House, 221-18th Ave. So. Judge Hattori will speak on the structure and operation of the Japanese legal system, comparing it with America's. He also will discuss why the jury system does not exist in Japan and how private citizens help mediate family court disputes.

Judge Hattori has been involved in Japan's legal system since 1936 and his views and reflections of Japan's international and domestic policies should be of interest to all, lawyers and nonlawyers alike. For further information contact David Hoekendorf at 634-1065 or the JACL office.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS TO BE HONORED AT MAY MEETING

High school and college student winners of JACL Seattle Chapter scholarships will be honored at a potluck meeting of the chapter board beginning at 6:45 pm, Wednesday May 16 at the Kawabe House.

All are welcome to attend this important annual event. The award ceremony will be followed by the potluck dinner, then the regular monthly board meeting will be held.

SEATTLE CHAPTER MEMBERS INVITED TO "YELLOW FEVER"

The award winning Asian American play "Yellow Fever" will be presented by Northwest Asian American Theatre at the Nippon Kan Theatre May 18 through June 23. But WAIT! Did you know that Seattle Chapter JACL members will be invited to preview the play FREE OF CHARGE? You will be the first on your block to follow the suspense and laugh at the jokes as Sam Shikaze, detective, and Nancy Wing, journalist, try to crack the case of the missing Cherry Blossom Queen.

To place your name on the list of people who will attend JACL's preview night, 8 pm Thursday, May 17, call Ben Nakagawa right away at 762-7824.

CORAM NOBIS BENEFIT/PREMIERE OF "NISEI SOLDIER" TOUCHED HEARTS

Nearly 200 turned out to view the new film by Loni Ding, "Nisei Soldier" and to hear comments by Gordon Hirabayashi regarding his petition to overturn the World War II conviction which put him in prison for defying the U.S. government order to evacuate.

The event, held May 3, touched the hearts of many, young and old alike, as the film's actual footage of Niseis fighting for the U.S. Army in Europe in World War II revealed many touching insights to the question of why the Nisei would fight for the U.S. while their families were interned in the concentration camps, how they were treated in the military and the bravery which earned the Nisei soldiers many medals.

As well, Hirabayashi's recounting of the events leading up to his case being heard in the U.S. Supreme Court shed important light on the audience's understanding of the current Coram Nobis petition to overturn the case. In explaining how he had looked forward to his "day in court" with the Supreme Court justices, Hirabayashi commented "the Supreme Court had gone to war" along with the rest of the country. They were not immune to the war hysteria against Japan and Japanese Americans which was sweeping the country, he noted.

The legal team which has put in thousands of volunteer hours on the case were recognized at the event: Kathryn Bannai, Arthur Barnett, Michael Leong, Rod Kawakami, Benson Wong, Jerry Nagae and Camden Hall.

More than \$1,000 was raised that evening to cover incidental expenses of the legal petition. Public hearing on the petition will be held May 18, at 2 pm, at the Federal Courthouse at Fifth and Madison. All supporters of Hirabayashi's case are encouraged to attend this important hearing.

TENNIS NIGHT IS COMING UP

JACL tennis champs, get ready for the annual tennis night, which will be held from 7:30 pm to midnight, Saturday, June 23 at the Seattle Tennis Center on Martin Luther King Jr. Wy. S. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$6 for students which will include a midnight potluck dinner and free tennis lessons by professionals Gordy Yee and Amy Yee. For reservations, call Rod Kaseguma at 625-2429 (daytime).

DISCOVER 7,000 YEARS OF CHINA

Members of the Seattle Chapter are invited to view the special exhibition "China: 7,000 Years of Discovery" at the Pacific Science Center at 7:30 pm June 27. Our group will be greeted by a China Exhibit staff person, then, upon entering the exhibit, will be allowed to view it at a leisurely pace. The exhibit brings to Seattle fine examples of Chinese technology discovered in ancient times such as the first seismograph, papermaking, weaving and other crafts. Only 100 tickets at \$7.50 per person are available. Reserve your place by sending in this form with your check by May 22.

CHINA EXHIBITION

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I want to reserve _____ tickets at \$7.50 each.

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REMEMBER: DEADLINE IS MAY 22! SEE YOU AT THE EXHIBITION!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS -- CLIP AND SAVE

- May 12 - Nikkei Awareness Workshop, 9 am to 4 pm, Blaine Methodist Church.
- May 14 - Tomo no Kai monthly meeting.
- May 15 - Judge Hattori, former Japan Supreme Court judge, speaks at Kawabe House, 7:30pm.
- May 15 - Japanese Peace Witness Program, Japanese Baptist Church, 7:30pm.
- May 16 - Scholarship Awards, Potluck and Monthly Board Meeting of Seattle Chapter, JACL at 6:45 pm, Kawabe House.
- May 17 - Special JACL Preview of "Yellow Fever," Nippon Kan Theatre, 8 pm.
- May 19 - Keiro Rummage Sale, 10am to 5 pm, Nisei Vets Hall.
- June 23 - JACL Tennis Night at Seattle Tennis Center, 7:30pm to midnight.
- June 27 - Visit to "China: 7,000 Years of Discovery," 7:30 pm, Pacific Science Center, Seattle Center.
- June 30 - Casino Night Fundraiser, to be announced.
- July 15 - International District Street Fair.
- August 12-18 - National JACL Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii.

IF YOUR AIM IS PEACE

A three member peace team from Japan, sponsored by the Lutheran Church in America will present a program at 7:30 pm Tuesday May 15 at Japanese Baptist Church, 901 E. Spruce. The event will give the three, Sachio Hoshiyama, Suguro Matsuki and Kayako Nakanishi a chance to discuss the Japanese experience as the only nation to suffer from the atomic bomb as well as the peace work being done by Christian groups in Japan.

The event is presented by the Pacific Northwest District and Seattle Chapters of JACL and other local religious/peace groups.

If you would like to know more about the struggle of the native Hawaiian people to recover their land and preserve it from use as a military testing site, you'll have a chance to hear from members of Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana when they visit Seattle June 4 and 5, sponsored by the Northwest Network for a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific. Call 632-0500 for details.

And if you want to dance for peace, get down at Give Peace a Dance, a 24 hour dance marathon to be held from 2 pm Saturday June 16 until 2 pm Sunday June 17 at Center House, Seattle Center. Last year's event was a huge success and brought together people from all walks of life who wanted to work it on out for a good cause. There will be a \$10 registration fee per person and you can bring down your own team or join one there. Call 682-6455 for info. The event is sponsored by Greenpeace, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility and Legs Against Arms.

HONORS AND INDIVIDUALS

Don Kazama, longtime JACL leader, has been honored by Gov. John Spellman and is a recipient of the Governor's award for Distinguished Volunteer Service. Don was nominated as a "volunteer who has provided broad and exceptional leadership to a cause, program or project which responds to human needs and has advanced the whole field of volunteerism."

Don has been active in many different organizations involved with aging, human rights and Asian Americans. He is current chair of the Seattle King County Advisory Council on Aging, he is on the Washington State Advisory Council on Aging and is on the national Aging and Retirement Committee of the JACL.

Gordon Hirabayashi, Coram Nobis Legal Case petitioner and professor emeritus of the University of Alberta at Edmonton, Canada, has been awarded two honorary doctorate degrees. He received a Doctor of Human Letters from Hamline University in St. Paul, MN on April 12 and will receive an honorary doctorate from Haverford College in Haverford, PA on May 21st.

CONGRATULATIONS to both men!

CHILDREN'S SHORT STORIES NEEDED

Juvenile fiction writers are invited to submit manuscripts of contemporary short stories dealing with the lives of 9 to 12 year old Japanese American youths to the Japanese American Curriculum Project of San Mateo, CA. JACP is developing a grade 5 to 8 level book on Japanese Americans for schools, libraries and the general public.


The stories should deal with issues of prejudice, cultural pluralism or identity and may be set in past or contemporary times. The manuscripts should not be more than 10 double-spaced pages long and must be typed. Cash payment will be \$100 for each of the three final stories chosen. A self addressed/stamped envelope should be sent with entries to JACP, P.O. Box 367, San Mateo, CA 94401. Deadline is August 31, 1984.

The JACP has become one of the leading sources of Asian American curriculum materials in the United States and has taken on this project to fill a void in multi-ethnic studies for children.

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A TREMENDOUS ROUND OF THANKS to these loyal folks who helped with our huge membership mailing last month (and if you haven't sent in your membership check yet -- well?):

Saki Shimizu, Ann Fujii, Gary Iwamoto, Ben Nakagawa, Hana Masuda, Pat Terao, Sam Shoji, Roger Shimizu, Don Kazama, Bob Sato, Dina Okimoto, Jane Okada, Mako Nakagawa, May Namba, Alice Kawanishi, Rod Kaseguma, Ted Taniguchi, Teru Kiyohara, Mits Morishita, Bev Kashino, Tama Murotani, May Sasaki, Dave Okimoto (with Cynthia and Michael), Bob Mayeda, Theresa Takayoshi, Gail Tanaka, Massie Tomita, Jerry Shigaki, Janice Nishimori, Sharon Harada, Chuck Kato, Janice Pendera, Haruko Shoji, Ed Yoshida, Ken Katayama, Wayne Kimura, Tim Otani, Cherry Kinoshita, Kathy Koza and Karen Goon.

THANK YOU TO REDRESS SUPPORTERS

Donations to the Seattle JACL Redress Committee, Washington Coalition on Redress and Coram Nobis Committee are gratefully acknowledged from:

Durand and Deborah Doi, Benjamin and Sumie Ikeda, Mac Nishimoto, Harry and Shiz Taniguchi, Tak Tsuchida, Darlene Yamada, Noboru Ed and Evelyn Nishikawa, Dr. Yoshitaka and Mabel Ogata and Frank T. Komoto.

COMMUNITY NOTES: Vivan Luna, Executive Director of the Commission on Asian American Affairs is retiring. A new director is being sought. Call for info 464-5820 (Deadline for applications is May 25). The Commission is also looking to fill four commissioner vacancies as of June 30, 1984. Call above for info./ Washington State University will hold a special weeklong program in broadcast and journalism for minority students June 17-22. Call 509-335-2406 for details./The City of Seattle Head Start Policy Council is looking for members. Call Ned Dunn, 625-2850, for details./The Women's Economic Rights Conference will be held at Seattle Central Community College May 19. The daylong event will look at issues such as daycare, child support comparable worth, welfare and policies which affect women's wages. Call 782-8943 or 328-0513 for info./It's not too early to discuss the census of 1990. A meeting will be held June 14 for public input. Call 447-7080 for info./ Foundation for International Understanding Through Students is looking for Seattle families to host Japanese students this summer. Call 543-0735 for details.

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