
JACL *Newsletter* SEATTLE CHAPTER

JUNE 1984

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HIRABAYASHI WINS TRIAL DATE NEXT YEAR

The case of Gordon Hirabayashi finally will go to court, says a U.S. District Judge. At a packed hearing at the Federal Courthouse in Seattle on May 18, instead of dismissing Hirabayashi's case as the Justice Department attorneys requested, Judge Donald Voorhees granted a trial date set for next summer to hear the facts surrounding Hirabayashi's convictions based on refusing to obey the curfew and order to evacuate imposed on Japanese Americans during World War II.

The stately federal courtroom was filled with reporters and Nikkei of all ages straining to hear and understand the legal language leading to Judge Voorhees' decision. The kindly white-haired judge seemed pleased with the community attention to the case and invited those visitors standing in the back of the courtroom to come forward and fill the empty chairs reserved for a jury or the media.

The government attorneys made their statements in favor of dismissal of the case, saying that it would be too much work to search old files from 42 years ago and that the old wounds from the unfortunate internment episode should be left to heal rather than opening the case again in a trial.

But Kathryn Bannai, Camden Hall and Arthur Barnett, attorneys for Hirabayashi, expressed strong sentiment, however, in favor of opening the case to full judicial scrutiny in order to set the record straight.

Hirabayashi took the podium, departing from his usual casual and joking manner, and spoke eloquently and proudly of his belief in the United States Constitution and how the Constitutional rights of Japanese Americans were violated during World War II. At one point, choking with emotion, Hirabayashi said he will never outlive the shame of seeing his parents housed in jail when they were brought from relocation camp to testify at his trial.

Now, with a tremendous opportunity and challenge ahead, Hirabayashi, a retired college professor from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and his attorneys will work toward the trial date next year. Certainly the trial will demand the attention of the nation as history is made before our very eyes here in Seattle.

-- M.T.

CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Under the able and enthusiastic leadership of Kathy Kozu and Bev Kashino, the membership rolls of the Seattle Chapter of JACL is over 600 individuals, more than was accumulated in all of 1983. The composition of the membership includes over 90 new members including numerous sansei and students. This increase is one indication of the tremendous interest and support for

continued

the Japanese American Citizens League.

Now that you have paid your annual membership dues, there are many ways to become actively involved. First you can join one or more of our 28 committees. These committees, which meet several times during the year, address areas such as affirmative action, human rights, international relations and cultural awareness.

Secondly, you may be interested in attending a specific event. Activities anticipated in the near future include a tennis fun night at Seattle Tennis Center, a letter-writing party for national redress for Japanese Americans and the national convention to be held in Honolulu in mid-August. Details of these and other future functions will be noted in our monthly newsletter.

Finally, you are heartily invited to attend our monthly Board meeting, held every third Wednesday at 7:30 pm at the JACL office, 316 Maynard Ave. S. #108. This month the meeting will be June 20. At these meetings you will be informed of the current relevant issues and have an opportunity to provide input on specific topics of interest to you. It is through your active support that we will achieve our mutual goals affecting Japanese Americans. -- Jerry Shigaki, Chapter President

FREE COPY OF REDRESS BOOK TO DONORS

National JACL is offering a free autographed copy of John Tateishi's excellent new book, "And Justice for All," which recounts the tragic personal stories of World War II relocation of Japanese Americans to donors to the national JACL redress effort. Those who give a tax-deductible donation of \$25 or more will be donating directly to the redress campaign. Send checks payable to Japanese American Citizens League to: AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, JACL, 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA, 94115.

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CHAPTER NOTES: OK, sports fans, get off your duffs. Remember the JACL Fun Night at Seattle Tennis Center is coming up June 23 with free professional lessons, serious and unserious tennis playing, a potluck and a great chance to show off your new tan. Register by June 16 -- cost is only \$8 for adults and \$6 for students. Call Rod Kaseguma 625-2429.

And, joggers on your mark! Runners/Bikers/Walkers among chapter members and their friends are invited to get together on Saturday mornings at 10:30 am at Seward Park (north parking lot near the art studio) for a little healthy recreation. Call Sharon Harada if you have questions at 226-1881.

HUNT HIGH SCHOOL REUNION COMING UP

The 1945 and 1946 Classes of Hunt High School of Minidoka War Relocation Camp, Idaho, will hold their 40th year reunion next summer in Seattle. Save the dates of July 26, 27 and 28, 1985 for the reunion to be held at the Westin Hotel. Tentatively, a dinner dance with live music is planned. A committee is trying to contact all members of the class -- help is needed! If you are interested in participating, call Hank or Edna (Hirabayashi) Matsubu c/o 3604 NE 68th, Seattle, WA 98115.

AN EVENING OF READING BY ASIAN WOMEN WRITERS

Writers whose work appears in the new anthology by minority women in the Northwest, "Gathering Ground: New Writing and Art by Northwest Women of Color," will take part in an evening reading and discussion July 20, 7:30 pm at the Wing Luke Memorial Museum, 414-8th Ave. S. Invited writers are: Sharon Hashimoto, Lisa Furomoto, Mayumi Tsutakawa, Bee Bee Tan, Nancy Lee Kennel, Sue Chin and Dorothy Cordova. The book, published recently by The Seal Press, includes prose, poetry, oral history and nonfiction articles. For ordering information call The Seal Press at 624-5262.

THANKS * THANKS * THANKS to the following who volunteered their time at the Cherry Blossom Festival held in May: Emi Hirai, David Hoekendorf, Bev Kashino, Ken Katayama, Kathy Kozu, Tama Murotani, Kimi Nakanishi, Rose Ogino, Arlene Oki, Jerry Shigaki, Mary Suzuki, Theresa Takayashi, Pat Terao, Massie Tomita and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Yamashita.

AND THANKS TO OUR NEWSLETTER

MAILING CREW: Sam Shoji, David Hoekendorf, Janice Nishimori, Jeanne Hoekendorf, Gail Tanaka, Frank Fujii, Rod Kaseguma, Bev Kashino, Ken Nakano and Ann Fujii. If you would like to lend your mailing expertise, join us the second Wednesday evening each month at the JACL office.

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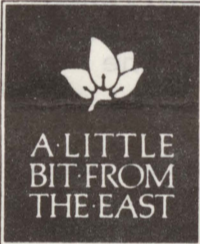
GEO. & FLO FUGAMI, Your Hosts

PEOPLE The Seattle Chapter of JACL mourns the passing of Jiro Edward Aoki, past president, treasurer and board member and winner of the Ruby Service Award. Mr. Aoki, who is survived by his wife Shea and several family members, was extremely dedicated to serving the Japanese community, having worked with the St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Seattle Japanese Baseball League, Seattle First Hill Lions and many other groups.

Duane Kamihara, member of Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church's Troop 55, received his Eagle Scout Award in a ceremony April 6. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Kamihara and has been a scout for seven years. A graduate of West Seattle High School, he now attends the University of Washington.

The Seattle Japanese Language School is accepting applications for the position of Japanese instructor. Classes are held from September to June, 9:30 to 11:30 am Saturdays. The person must have good verbal and written command of Japanese and English, be a U.S. citizen and have some teaching experience. To apply, send a letter of intent and resume to the school, 1414 South Weller St., Seattle 98144. For information, contact Mrs. Yasuko Shigaki, 324-7313. Deadline for applications is June 30.


Mayor Charles Royer is seeking a landscape architect to serve on the Seattle Design Commission. The commission members serve in a consulting advisory capacity to city officials to ensure the quality of design in city capital improvement projects. To apply, contact Ned Dunn, 625-4503. Deadline is June 29.



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MORE THANKS: The Coram Nobis Legal Defense Committee would like to thank the following persons who helped with the May 3 fundraiser at Nisei Vets Hall (over \$800 was netted): Cherry Kinoshita, Ken Nakano, Rod Kaseguma, Janice Nishimori, Jerry Shigaki, Saki Shimizu, Bev Kashino, Don Kazama, Sally Kazama, Bob Sato, Doug Luna, Paul Minato (Nisei Vets), Tim Otani (Regional JACL) and the crew from King Street Media! And thanks to the many who attended and donated!


SEATTLE JACL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 20 -- Monthly Board Meeting, JACL office.
- June 21-23 -- Last weekend to see "Yellow Fever" at the Nippon Kan.
- June 23 -- Tennis Night at Seattle Tennis Center.
- June 27 -- Chapter evening at the China Exhibit, Pacific Science Ctr.
- June 30 -- Casino Night, Bush Asia Center.
- July 15 -- International District Street Fair.
- July 20 -- Asian Women Writers at Wing Luke Museum.
- July 21-22 -- Bon Odori at Seattle Buddhist Church.
- August 12-18 -- JACL National Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii.

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