
JACL *Newsletter* SEATTLE CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 1984

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SEATTLE CHAPTER WILL MISS THERESA TAKAYOSHI

Members of the Seattle Chapter JACL and those who have been active in the redress efforts will miss Theresa Takayoshi, a courageous activist who passed away on August 23, 1984.

Born of a Japanese father and an Irish mother in New York in 1918, Theresa chose to identify with her Asian American ethnicity. In 1934 she married Tomeo Takayoshi and the couple had five children, two of whom spent the war years at Camp Minidoka with their parents.

The war years brought such strong memories that Theresa became very active in the redress movement and testified before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. Her moving testimony is recorded in John Tateishi's book, "And Justice for All."

Theresa in recent years worked as a part-time bookkeeper in the Washington State Democratic Party office and had hoped to become a Democratic precinct committeeperson in her district -- a wish that never was realized when she became ill and passed away last month.

In addition to her major political concerns, Theresa found time to work night shifts as a crisis counselor for Seattle Rape Relief and to speak to public school classes on the concerns of Japanese Americans. Although she became a widow in 1980 she forgot her own worries and spent time cheering other widows.

Theresa was indeed a rare person with deep convictions. The Seattle Chapter joins her five children, twelve grandchildren and brother Frank Kumagai in mourning her passing.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month I attended the National JACL Convention in Honolulu as an official delegate from our chapter. The following are some of my thoughts on the first JACL national convention I've attended.

For the coming two years, 1984 to 1986, a Program for Action was adopted by the National Council for the national organization. The mission of our organization will be in the areas of civil rights, networking with other communities, increasing membership, fundraising and planning and evaluation. With the implementation of the Legislative Education Committee, redress continues to be the top priority. This committee will raise funds for the redress campaign and plan legislative strategies since the National JACL is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization and may not engage in substantial lobbying activities without jeopardizing its tax exempt status. Of significance to me is that our organization plans to broaden the scope of activities in such areas as leadership development, the establishment of a singles group and will have an increased emphasis on aging. These activities are reflected in the resolutions passed by the National Council (see following article).

The host chapter, Honolulu, did an outstanding job in coordinating this event. The 500 people that attended the convention had the option to attend or participate in numerous social functions, such as a luau, tennis tournament and a Japanese folk singing concert. The two dinner programs were elaborate, efficient and exciting. Each dinner was highlighted by the keynote addresses by Senator Matsunaga and Senator Inouye.

At the Aloha Banquet the Seattle Chapter received several significant awards. The Nisei of the Biennium was awarded to Cherry Kinoshita, our tireless fighter for redress; our chapter won the Inagaki Award for the outstanding chapter and although we did not win the overall membership contest, the Pacific Northwest District won the award for the highest percentage increase in membership.

In reflecting back on my week in Hawaii, the following

continued

are my recommendations for future conventions. First, there should be additional workshops and seminars for the nondelegates so they can become more involved. Second, in selecting a convention site, the cost and expenses to our members should be a major criteria.

In closing, the JACL National Convention was a positive experience as it was very educational to be involved in the election process for the national offices, it was nice to renew friendships with the national staff, and most importantly it was delightful and invigorating to meet and to work with Japanese Americans from across the country on human and civil rights issues.

-- Jerry Shigaki

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

The following resolutions were passed at the convention by the national Council of the JACL. The National Council resolved:

- To express concern about the plight of Korean residents in Japan to the U.S. State Dept.
- To encourage the formation of political action committees, independent of JACL, to promote the interests of Japanese Americans.
- To establish a national committee for singles concerns.
- To deplore the appointment of persons to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights who disagree with the purposes for which it was formed.
- To rededicate itself to the pursuit of obtaining medical assistance for the hibakusha (A-bomb survivors) living in the U.S.
- To support all efforts to reduce worldwide tension and call for arms control and nuclear disarmament.
- To pay convention expenses for the JACLer of the Biennium parallel to procedures for the Japanese Americans of the Biennium.
- To ban smoking from conference and workshop rooms at national conventions.
- To provide in-kind services on a 1:3 matching basis for a National Institute of Mental Health project targeting Nisei.
- To establish a select committee for recruitment and leadership development of younger JACLers.
- To assign the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Trust Foundation to the National 1000 Club for planning of a Masaoka memorial.
- To urge JACL members to ask their congress persons to defeat the Simpson-Mazzoli bill.
- To oppose California state proposition 39 which might affect the legislative districts of Reps. Mineta and Matsui.
- To oppose the proclamation of the "Year of the Bible."
- To monitor anti-Asian incidents and undertake a program of education as to the cause and effect of violence against Asian Americans.
- To reduce the life membership fee for the 1000 Club to \$500 and to build a trust fund of no less than \$1 million.
- To instruct the national committee for redress to issue periodic reports concerning redress endorsements and status of Congressional redress bills.
- To support re-introduction of the E.R.A.
- To express appreciation to Sens. Inouye and Matsunaga and Reps. Mineta and Matsui for their redress efforts.
- To urge Congress to acknowledge the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and to grant restitution for losses suffered by Native Hawaiians.
- To express thanks to the Honolulu Chapter for hosting the 1984 Convention.

NATIONAL JACL CONVENTION IN SEATTLE? WHY NOT?

Seattle Chapter of JACL has won many national awards, Seattle is one of the most liveable cities around, the last JACL National Convention was not held here since 1962, year of the World Fair-- so why have we not hosted a National Convention since then?

The JACL National Convention, which is held every two years, will be held in Chicago in 1986. Why not Seattle in 1988? We've got the facilities, the location and much talent right here in Seattle.

We need your comments right now so we can decide whether to put in the bid for the 1988 convention. Please send us a card this week telling us: whether you fully support the 1988 convention idea, whether you do not support the idea, or whether you'd like more information. Send it to the chapter president at the JACL office by September 25, 1984. Thank you.

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING FEATURES CANDIDATES

Plan to be at the September Board meeting of the Seattle Chapter at 7:30 pm September 19 at the JACL office. State Attorney General candidates Phil Talmadge and Ken Eikenberry will be there to trade blows. This candidates night is planned by the chapter's Political Education Committee, headed by Arlene Oki. The committee also plans to cosponsor a candidates night with the Asian American Political Assn. in October.

LOOKING AHEAD TO A TRIBUTE TO ISSEI

Watch for developments on a Tribute to Issei, to be held in conjunction with the January Installation Banquet. The dinner is planned as an intergenerational event where families are invited to bring an Issei member of the family or a friend. For information, contact Ellen Miyasato at 442-2935 or Kazzie Katayama at 325-5531.

MAYOR ROYER PROPOSES FURTHER REDRESS ACTION

Seattle Mayor Charles Royer, who worked to get the U.S. Conference of Mayors to support redress legislation, is now proposing to the National League of Cities that it pass a similar resolution on wartime relocation and internment of citizens. The measure will be voted on at the League's meeting in September in San Antonio.

TESTIMONY GIVEN AT REDRESS LEGISLATION HEARING

Chuck Kato, representing the Washington Coalition on Redress and others in this area, presented lengthy testimony at a Senate hearing held in Los Angeles August 16. The hearing, sponsored by the Senate Subcommittee on Civil Services, Post Office and General Services, was regarding the proposed Senate Bill S. 2116, which would enact the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation.

CHAPTER EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETS WITH SUPERINTENDANT

Frank Fujii, chair of the Seattle Chapter Education committee reports that he and three committee members, Don Kazama, Joan Yoshitomi and Jerry Shigaki, met with Seattle Public Schools superintendent Bob Nelson on September 10 to talk over a number of issues. Nelson promised to get back to the committee with information on eight key points, including statistics on affirmative action in hiring of staff and teachers, pupil statistics and a reason for why the advisory commission on bilingual education has been inactive.

The committee hopes to meet quarterly with Nelson and plans to get back with him before the end of the year. If you're interested in what the committee is doing, call Frank Fujii at 587-6940.

NIKKEI HEALTH FAIR SLATED

Nikkei Concerns will be sponsoring the Nikkei Diabetes Health Fair on Saturday, September 15 at 9 am at Providence Hospital, 3 East Auditorium. Parking is free.

In its fourth year, the health fair this year will focus on the problem of diabetes, a silent killer in the Japanese American community. There will be a film, panel discussion by experts in the field, and free screening tests. Dr. Wilfred Fujimoto of the University of Washington will provide a preliminary report on the Japanese American Diabetes Study. Panel members will include: Dr. Isao Hoshiwara, ophthalmologist; Dr. John Uno, podiatrist; Tina Tsunehara, nutritionist; Dr. Wilfred Fujimoto, endocrinologist; Ted Taniguchi, pharmacist; Sam Shoji, social worker and diabetic patient and Dr. Yoshi Nakayama, dentist.

For further information, contact Nikkei Concerns at 323-6900.

KCTS/9 DOCUMENTARY: A PLACE TO COME BACK TO

The first Army exclusion order for the West Coast was for the evacuation of Bainbridge Island. Within six days, forty-five families were forcibly removed from their homes and put behind barbed wire. This small evacuation was a precursor of the mass evacuation to follow. Not only was Bainbridge Island the first; it was also where white community members, at considerable risk to themselves, expressed opposition to the removal of their neighbors.

The Bainbridge Island Japanese Community requests your support for A PLACE TO COME BACK TO, a proposed television documentary about this evacuation.

A PLACE TO COME BACK TO tells the story of the evacuation and of the courageous people who bucked the tide of public opinion to denounce the injustice suffered by their Japanese-American neighbors.

A PLACE TO COME BACK TO captures the feeling of that period: the hysteria and fear following Pearl Harbor, the rumors, and the emotions that many find difficult to express to their children.

A PLACE TO COME BACK TO conveys the history of the Japanese-Americans on Bainbridge Island, from the days of mill work and strawberry farms to the present, where they are, again, proud and prosperous members of an integrated community.

The vital message of protecting any identifiable ethnic group from violation of their fundamental rights can be compellingly presented in a video documentary. It can help prevent future violations by exemplifying the courage of those who spoke out. It can teach a message about the evacuation that moves beyond anger and bitterness to the values of courage, compassion, love, and community spirit. In the end, the viewer takes away a faith in human beings--that there is a force of unity greater than the misunderstanding that works to tear us apart.

The Bainbridge Island Japanese Community supports this project because it is a story of our heritage: of the courageous and beloved Issei, who withstood the test of the times and who instilled in their children strong moral and ethical values. Their legacy was this foundation of values that captured the respect of the outer community and paved the way for future Nikkei generations to become successful members of that community.

Filming has begun; more than two-thirds of the \$46,000 budget has been funded through KTCs/9 and other sources. The Bainbridge Island Japanese Community is committed to raising the \$12,000 necessary to complete the project. We ask for your assistance. A documentary can send a powerful message. It can be shown nationally and internationally. It is backed by educational television and can reach homes, schools, libraries, and other community groups. Contributions can be made in memory of loved ones, particularly our beloved Issei.

-----Detach

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO HELP. Enclosed is \$ _____ to help complete this meaningful project.

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Please make checks out to Bainbridge Documentary Project.

Mail to Bainbridge Documentary Project, P.O. Box 11164, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.

Thank you for your support. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

CHURCH COUNCIL TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY

The Church Council of Greater Seattle, a longtime friend and supporter of JACL, will celebrate its 15th anniversary on October 11, 1984. The purpose of the dinner event will be to acknowledge the positive contributions the Church Council has made in bettering many aspects of our community.

The dinner will be cosponsored by JACL and many other civil rights, human service and ethnic community organizations which have worked with the Council. Tickets, priced at \$12 (senior citizens, students and low income individuals \$6) are now on sale. For information, contact Tim Otani at the JACL District office, 623-5088.

JACL JOINS ACLU IN FILING PETITION ON RELIGION IN SCHOOLS


The Seattle Chapter of JACL has joined the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington in filing a rulemaking petition to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction which asks for comprehensive rules governing religious practices in Washington public schools.

The petitioning organizations, which include religious, educator and civil rights groups, proposed rules to put a stop to the repeated and continuing use of Washington public schools to promote various religious beliefs.

According to the ACLU, various religious groups have been given access to the public schools throughout the state to promote their own religious beliefs. They have sought to convert students during assemblies, to distribute Bibles and promote religious activities.

A rulemaking petition is a legal proceeding through which a state agency is asked to issue rules to enforce matters within its domain. The petition is the result of an increasing number of complaints to the ACLU from parents, students and teachers about the intermingling of religion with graduation exercises, holiday programs, the teaching of science, in music concerts and in direct proselytizing by teachers and administrators.

Other petitioners include Jewish, Unitarian, Congregational and science organizations, Washington Federation of Teachers and some parents.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Bellevue Art Museum is showing an exhibit "Swords of the Samurai" through October 28, 1984. In conjunction with the exhibit, several programs will be presented: tea ceremony, 1 pm Sept. 15; calligraphy, 1pm Sept. 22; Ikebana, 1 pm Sept. 29 and Oct. 13; feudal Japan, 8 pm Oct. 3; kendo and iado, 1 pm, Oct. 6; koto and shakuhachi music, 1 pm, Oct. 13. Call the museum at 454-3322 for details.

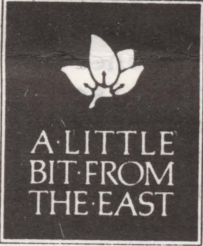
The Nancy Teague Gallery in Kirkland is having a kimono show to coincide with the exhibit, Oct. 12 - 27. A portion of sales to JACL members will be donated to the Seattle chapter of JACL. Call 828-0864 for details. Gallery address is: 356 Park Place Center, Kirkland.

The Nichiren Buddhist Fujinkai will hold an annual chow mein dinner from 11am to 4:30 pm Sept. 30. Teriyaki, imogashi, baked goods, hot dogs and ice cream also will be sold.

Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church will hold its Oriental Food Bazaar from 11 am to 7 pm Oct. 6. Teriyaki salmon, barbecue chicken, udon, curry rice and sushi will be on sale, as well as baked goods and crafts. Proceeds will go to church and communitiy projects.

The Senke School of Japanese Flower Arrangement will hold its autumn exhibit from 1 to 6pm Oct. 6 at St. Peter's Episcopal Parish Hall, 1610 S. King St. The exhibit will continue from noon to 5pm Oct. 7.


"Celebrate the Differences," a new program on KING TV, will premiere Sept. 15, hosted by Lori Matsukawa and directed by Mark Mano. Its theme will be minority and community affairs.



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PEOPLE: Thanks to our August newsletter mailout crew: Saki Shimizu, Ron and Gloria Shigeno, George and Jean Nishi, Ayako and Lee Hurd, Rick Sugawara, Wayne Kimura, Sam Shoji, Massie Tomita, Ann Fujii, Jerry Shigaki, John Shigaki and Ken Katayama... Ruth Kazama, who received compensation from the City of Seattle for losing her job during WW2, has donated \$800 each to Seattle JACL, Washington Coalition for Redress and the Coram Nobis Legal Defense Fund. . . Maxine Chan is the new Community Relations Specialist for the Seattle Police Dept., assigned to the Crime Prevention Division. Maxine wishes to make contact with community groups. For further info, call her at 625-5555...



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