JACL MEIUStetter SEATTLE CHAPTER

MAY 1985 VOLUME 22 NO. 5

SHIMIZU URGES COMMUNITY SUPPORT OF HIRABAYASHI CASE by James Hattori

Seattle native Gordon Hirabayashi will finally have his day in court next month, unless U.S. District Court Judge Donald Voorhees reverses his previous ruling.

A hearing has been scheduled for June 17, during which Hirabayashi and his legal team will detail the injustices committed during the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast during World War II. These injustices led to Hirabayashi's arrest.

In Seattle, no one has been more active in supporting Hirabayashi's cause than Roger Shimizu. Shimizu was born in the Portland stockyard. He is now practicing law in the Seattle International District, after growing up in Spokane and spending three years doing legal work in Tokyo.

Shimizu is spearheading the local effort to educate the community and raise money to support Hirabayashi's cause. He is co-chair of the Committee to Reverse the Japanese American Wartime Cases. It has not been an easy task.

Shimizu is somewhat frustrated by the lack of understanding in the Japanese

American community of the importance of Hirabayashi's case.

Hirabayashi was one of three Japanese Americans convicted for disobeying orders during the internment.

The first case, involving Fred Korematsu, has been settled in Korematsu's favor. But it was done without a full hearing of evidence.

The second case, that of Min Yasui, is on appeal to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Thus far no full hearing has been held.

Shimizu says the upcoming hearing for Hirabayashi is a chance to "set the record straight." The Coram Nobis hearing is also a chance to introduce testimony to establish governmental misconduct beyond a shadow of a doubt.

So far, about \$35,000 has been raised to support Hirabayashi's effort. Shimizu says the goal is to reach \$50,000. He adds that most of the donations have been small amounts from individuals, except for a \$10,000 gift from the American Friends Service Committee.

Shimizu says it's important for all of the Japanese American community to support Hirabayashi's cause and urges people to attend the hearing. When Hirabayashi and his legal team step into the Seattle Federal Courthouse on June 17, they won't be doing it for themselves--they'll be doing it for all of us.

PERFORMANCE TO BENEFIT HIRABAYASHI CASE

"Breaking the Silence: Japanese Voices in America," will be presented on Saturday, May 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Washington HUB Auditorium. The event is sponsored by the Chapter's Committee to Reverse the Japanese American Wartime Cases, the University of Washington Asian American Studies Program, and UW Asian Students in Action Now.

Through readings and song, "Breaking the Silence" traces the little-known history of Nikkei in the United States. The script draws upon letters and journals, documentary materials, interviews, and poetry, to represent the authentic voices and viewpoints of three generations of Japanese Americans.

Gordon Hirabayashi will be a special guest. Proceeds of the show are to benefit Hirabayashi's current court case, stemming from his refusal to obey the World War II evacuation orders.

Tickets for "Breaking the Silence" will be available at the door. Suggested donations are \$7.00 for general admission, \$4.00 for students and seniors. For advance tickets send check to: Breaking the Silence, c/o E.R.E., 201 W. Olympic Pl. #307, Seattle, WA 98119.

The program will be offered to organizations interested in sponsoring a presentation of "Breaking the Silence" as a public service. For more information call Roger Shimizu, 682-9932.

CRJAWC NEEDS CONTRIBUTIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

With the upcoming federal court hearing for Gordon Hirabayashi, the Committee to Reverse the Japanese American Wartime Cases is in urgent need of contributions and volunteers.

To make a tax deductible contribution, send to CRJAWC, c/o 316 Maynard Ave. So., #108, Seattle, WA 98104.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Roger Shimizu at 682-9932.

PROFILES OF THE SEATTLE CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT DAVID OKIMOTO by Kara Tokita

David Okimoto, this year's chapter president, is a classic example of a devoted citizen widely involved and concerned with making this community and environment a better place to live.

When David is not conducting effective JACL Board meetings, he is currently serving as Executive Director of the Asian Counseling and Referral Service. He was recently appointed Director of Human Resources for the City of Seattle, an advancing step in his career. The appointment was made by Mayor Charles Royer last month, and is subject to City Council approval.

When asked his reasons for joining JACL he responded with, "The time came for the Nisei's to take over shouldering the responsibilities of the community.

When duty called I know it was my turn to start repairing my chare."

When duty called, I knew it was my turn to start repaying my share."

In addition to JACL, David is also Vice Chair for the Minority Executive Directors Coalition, an Alumnus for Leadership Tomorrow, Past President for Interim (International District Improvement Association), on the Board of Directors for Planned Parenthood and a Volunteer for United Way.

One of David's major concerns is making Seattle a better place. From what I have observed and have gathered from others who know David, he is a hard working individual who is likely to obtain his desired goals.

PRESIDENT ELECT BOB SATO by Ed Suguro

Bob Sato was born in Firwood, Washington, a tiny hamlet between Fife and Puyallup. Sato moved to Sumner when he was in the third grade, and was attending Sumner High School when World War II broke out. He graduated from Hunt High School at the Minidoka Relocation Center. After a stint in the army, he attended the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana for a year before transferring to the University of Washington and earning a degree in civil engineering. He is employed by Beck and Associates, a consulting firm.

Bob is fairly new to JACL. He credits Mako Nakagawa with getting him to

Bob is fairly new to JACL. He credits Mako Nakagawa with getting him to become an active member. As an officer, he would like to see the local chapter work closer with the community and to establish better communication in getting support for redress. Bob sees redress as an issue dealing with a violation of constitutional rights, and not just a matter of reparations. However, he believes strongly that money should be paid. He sees JACL as basically a civil rights organization to promote equal opportunity for all.

On the national level, Bob would like to see more Asians in responsible positions. He would also like to see more Nikkei leaders who are outspoken and willing to take strong stands. Ultimately he would like to do his part to promote Nikkei to do the best they can in whatever endeavor they choose, while not forgetting their roots.

When he has time, Bob likes to play a round of golf. He and his wife Lucy are active members of the Blaine Memorial Methodist Church.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE APRIL BOARD MEETING

Jerry Shigaki of the Redress Committee had very good news about the passage of state Senate Joint Memorial bill 104. This bill asks Congress and the President to enact the recommendations of the Committee on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. The Board praised Jerry and Cherry Kinoshita for their hard work.

Bob Sato reported on an April 14 <u>Seattle Times</u> article on a group opposing reparations for interned Japanese Americans. The article, written by reporter Don Duncan, outlines the pro-internment arguments of Mary Lou Winchell, Bob Auchter and Bill Kubick, three "lonely voices speaking out and making many people uneasy." Retired Brig. Gen. A.W. Beeman, is mentioned as their advisor. The three cite documents such as the "Magic" pre-war Japanese diplomatic cables, and claim "the majority of Japanese do not want reparations."

Five chapter members met with the <u>Times</u> staff and management, who agreed to be more sensitive to the use of the term "Japanese" versus "Japanese American". They said they had not decided on whether to run a rebuttal article. Bob encouraged the general public to become more vocal in these instances, rather than relying on the same few people to speak out.

Since the Board meeting two articles have been printed in the <u>Times</u> editorial section. On April 28 Assistant Managing Editor Lane Smith wrote a column explaining why the April 14 story was written, reporting the criticisms they have received about the story, and expressing his own opinions on the subject.

have received about the story, and expressing his own opinions on the subject.

A rebuttal to the April 14 article by Rose Hashimoto, a Seattle Nisei, was published April 30.

April Board Meeting, continued.

Ken Nakano, chair of the International Relations Committee, reported on an upcoming seminar for high school history teachers on "Hiroshima-Nagasaki: A Living History". The seminar will include a panel of media reporters who were invited to Japan to interview atomic bomb survivors, a panel of history teachers on how to incorporate this history into the curriculum, and a panel to discuss the contemporary lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Chapter passed a motion to be one of the sponsors of the seminar. It

will be held on Saturday, June 1, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Seattle Pacific University. The cost is \$5. Contact Ken Nakano at 822-2701 for more information. Ike Ikeda, chair of the Education Committee, reported that the Chapter will sponsor a Minority Educational Caucus on Monday, May 13 at 4-6 p.m. at the Atlantic Street Center, 2103 So. Atlantic St. Representatives from several minority groups will be invited to discuss problems facing minority educators. They will seek joint caucus action to the Seattle Teachers Association and the Seattle School superintendent. Contact Ike Ikeda at 329-1050 for more information.

Shea Aoki, chair of the Endowment Committee, presented preliminary guidelines for the Endowment Fund, which will now be reviewed by the Executive Committee. The guidelines showed that a lot of work and thought went into developing it. Committee members are: Lloyd Hara, Cherry Kinoshita, Tomio Moriguchi, Toru Sakahara, Terry Toda, Bob Sato, and Hana Masuda. The committee is also planning a dinner with the 1000 Club in July to promote this fund.

Dale Watanabe of the Youth Committee attended the Lake Washington installation dinner to promote the JAYS. The JAYS had a successful Bowl-a-thon last month and 25 participants raised \$800! What a group! They are planning a potluck dinner with David Nakayama, National Youth Chairman, and also a work-shop on stress and time management for high school and college student.

Ken Katayama, Scholarship chair, announced that four \$500 scholarships will be awarded at the May 15 Board meeting. This will be a special meeting with a potluck dinner to be held at the Kawabe House starting at 6 p.m. Ken mentioned that the screening process with 31 applicants was difficult for the committee. Committee members include Debbie Uno, Massie Tomita, Diana Kato, and Kathy Kozu.

Gail Tanaka was named JACL liaison with Nikkei Concerns. The Board also approved an International Trade Committee to deal with the trade imbalance issue. Ruthann Kurose is chair.

CHAPTER NOTES

There will be a special Chapter Board Meeting for this month to include the scholarship awards. The board will meet this month at the Kawabe House, at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner. As usual the Board Meeting will be the third Wednesday of the month, May 15. Four scholarships to local students who will be attending college or vocational school next year will be awarded. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The chapter received five contributions in March and April. They were from: Kane Saito, for the Japanese Community Directory; Ruth Kazama, for the endowment fund and redress activities; Terrie Natsuhara in memory of George Natsuhara; Karen Seriguchi for the directory; and Kathleen Murakami for redress. go to all the chapter donors.

Big thanks to the April mailout crew: Sam Shoji, Sharon Harada, Alan Kurimura, Roger Shimizu, Lee and Ayako Hurd, Don Maekawa, Tets Yasuda, Dave Hoekendorf, Susie and Frank Aoyama, Gene Dogen, Esther Furugori, Hana Masuda, Ellen Ebata, and Aki Kurose.

LAKE WASHINGTON CHAPTER NOTES

The experiences of Nisei soldiers who served as U.S. Army interpreters during World War II have been documented in "Yankee Samurai", a film produced in Japan. The film will be shown at the June 15 Lake Washington Chapter Meeting, at 7:30 p.m. at the John Matsumoto home, 3744-80th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island. Those attending are requested to bring hors d'oeuvres, dessert or beverages. Call Tets Yasuda at 747-2589, or Susie Aoyama at 885-9654 if attending.

Willing hands and contributions are needed for the Chapter's Rummage Sale to be held this summer. More details to follow soon.

The Lake Washington Board meets May 28, 7:30 p.m., at the Don Maekawa residence, 17130 N.E. 5th St., Bellevue.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS by Ed Suguro

BOARD MEETING -- May 15 at Kawabe House, 6:30 p.m. Special potluck meeting to award scholarships.

AYAME-KAI GUILD'S FIFTH ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE -- May 18, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Nisei Vets' Hall, 1212 So. King St. To benefit the Keiro Nursing Home expansion project.

ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLAND PROGRAM -- May 22, noon and again at 7:00 p.m. at North Seattle Community College Student Lounge. A program highlighting the diverse cultures of the Asian/Pacific area. For further information call the college's public information office, 634-4446.

TULE LAKE REUNION -- May 24, 25, 26 at Sacramento Red Lion Motor Inn. Registration package now \$85. For registration forms or hotel reservations contact Ed Suguro, 625-2962 (work), or Eva (Aramaki) Furukawa.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION FOR GORDON HIRABAYASHI -- May 24, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Mayumi Tsutakawa's home, 6036 Upland Terrace So. An excerpt from "Breaking Silence" will be performed. Co-hosted by CRJAWC and ACLU. Donation of \$25 per person or \$40 for couples requested.

BREAKING THE SILENCE: JAPANESE VOICES IN AMERICA -- May 25, 7:30 p.m., in the University of Washington HUB Auditorium. See article on page 1 for details.

LAKE WASHINGTON BOARD MEETING -- May 28, see LW Chapter Notes page 3 for location.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES -- May 27, 10:00 a.m., at the Nisei War Memorial Monument in the Lake View Cemetary on Capitol Hill. A Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee memorial service.

HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI SEMINAR FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS -- June 1 at Seattle Pacific University. See Board meeting highlights for more information.

TOMO-NO-KAI POTIJCK DINNER -- June 8, 6:00 p.m., Kawabe House dining room, in lieu of the monthly meeting.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR INPUT. . .

Will you take a few minutes to jot down some ideas for our newsletter or chapter activities?

- () Upcoming events -- please include this event in the JACL calender/newsletter: (Event, sponsoring organization, date/time, contact person)
- () I would like to do more for JACL or volunteer for a committee. Please contact me. (Name, day/evening phone, committees or areas of interest)
- () I would like to see more information in the newsletter on:

INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

MAIL TO: JACL Newsletter, JACL Office, 316 Maynard Ave. So. Rm. 108, Seattle, WA 98104 Contact Sharon Harada at 226-1881 regarding the chapter newsletter.

The JACL Newsletter is published each month by the Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. Send items for inclusion by the first of the month. To

American Citizens League. Send items for inclusion by the first of the month. To advertise send \$40 (for 12 issues) and a camera-ready ad the size of a business card.

Calender, continued. . .

LAKE WASHINGTON CHAPTER MEETING -- June 15, 7:30 p.m., a showing of the Japanese film "Yankee Samurai". See LW Chapter Notes on page 3 for details.

HIRABAYASHI HEARING -- June 17, at 9:00 a.m., Seattle Federal Courthouse. See article, page 1.

HUNT HIGH REUNION -- July 26, 27, 28. Hosted by classes of '45 and '46 but open to all who attended school in Minidoka. For information call 322-6982 or 722-6278, or write to: Hunt High Reunion, P.O. Box 27395, Seattle, WA 98125.

1000 CLUB'S 14TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT -- July 28, 11:00 a.m., Jefferson Golf Course. All 1000 Club members and their spouses are invited to play. Roy Sakamoto and Fumi Noji, co-chairs.

BELLEVUE REUNION -- August 16, 17. All former residents of Bellevue and surrounding communities are invited. June 30 is the deadline for registration. Contact May (Yamaguchi) Yoshinaka, 2310 So. Vern Ct., Seattle, WA 98108 or phone 723-5744.

HEART MOUNTAIN REUNION -- August 30 through September 1 at the Red Lion Inn in San Jose, including a mini-reunion of all present and former Washington residents. Cost is now \$75. For information call Yuri Suzuki, 747-6573, or Yosh Iwamoto, 722-8051.

SECOND NATIONAL JACL SINGLES' CONVENTION -- August 30 through September 1, Hyatt San Jose, San Jose California. Activities include golf, bowling, mixer, luncheon, workshops and dinner/dance. Sponsored by Northern California Asian Singles and Greater Los Angeles JACL Singles. Registration forms available at JACL office.

MT. BAKER APARTMENT RESIDENTS ARE IN NEED OF DONATED CLOTHING, BLANKETS AND FOOD

If you would like to donate to the Mt. Baker residents, mainly Southeast Asian refugees, bring items to the apartment office, 2900 So. McCllan, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, and 1 - 5 p.m.



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WORLD WAR II EXHIBIT PLANNED FOR MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND INDUSTRY

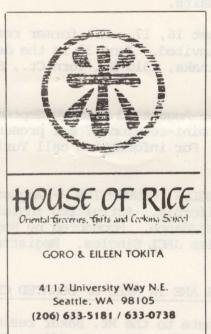
The Museum of History and Industry is organizing a special exhibition, "Life on the Homefront: World War II in Seattle-King County", which will be open July 1985 to January 1986. The exhibit will explore the impact of the war on the city and outlying areas, and will include the Japanese American internment.

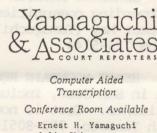
Oral history tapes of World War II homefront memories will be played during the exhibition, and the tapes and transcripts will become part of the Museum's archives. Anyone interested in sharing their memories is asked to contact Lorraine McConaghy by calling 827-2927.

The Museum is also looking for appropriate object to borrow for the exhibit. Anyone willing to loan or donate objects should call Janice Queener-Shaw, Cura-

tor of Collections, at 324-1125.







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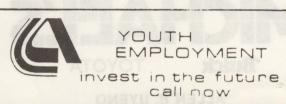
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