

J A C L NEWSLETTER

SEATTLE CHAPTER

JUNE 1987

VOLUME 24 NO. 6

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The recent Redress Seminar, held on May 16 at the Nippon Kan Theatre and co-sponsored by the JACL and the Seattle Schools, was from all indications a resounding success. It attracted over 120 educators and community people. School Board President T.J. Vassar helped open the event and also assisted in presenting the School Board plaque commemorating the redress for former school district employees. The keynote address by Washington State Chief Justice Vernon Pearson was both emphatic and informative. The panel of former internees, moderated by Mako Nakagawa and composed of Sally Kazama, Sam Nakagawa and Roy Sakamoto, sensitively shared their individual recollections and perceptions--an emotionally moving segment.

Tim Gojio and Wayne Kimura's clarification of current redress activities was very enlightening. Under the coordination of Chuck Kato, the Pride and Shame exhibit was displayed for public viewing. Our appreciation to Ben Dodobara and his crew of Eagle Scouts who beautifully refurbished the exhibit for us.

The afternoon work session with teachers proved very productive in terms of ideas generated for classroom implementation of the redress issue. The seminar received extremely positive evaluations from the participants. Following are some written comments:

"Presenters were excellent with all the information they gave us. Materials are marvelous; we can use them in our classroom."

"Why have we waited so long to have this? Can we have additional programs like this? The printed materials were very good... lots of information."

"Incredible sharing of history... individual lives."

"The Redress Workshop was unique in that it not only touched the soul, but also spurred awareness and practical application of that awareness."

Congratulations on a very successful joint venture between the Seattle Schools and the JACL Community. Hopefully, we can continue our collaborative efforts in the future. My thanks to all the many seminar presenters and volunteers whose combined dedication and efforts resulted in such an educationally enriching experience.

-- May Sasaki

Special Reports

REDRESS SEMINAR: JUSTICE PEARSON AND TESTIMONY FROM FORMER INTERNEES

At the Redress Seminar, Washington State Chief Justice Vernon Pearson described the forced removal of Americans of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast during World War II as one of three failures in the history of the United States Constitution.

The other two were when President Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus during the Civil War to allow the military to detain Southern sympathizers; and during a period in the 50s when Senator Joe McCarthy ruined careers by labeling artists as communists. Pearson explained that the Supreme Court did not rule the Smith Act, which granted McCarthy his authority, unconstitutional until 10 years later.

"Teachers should also teach about these other two events," Pearson said.

But the highlight of the day-long seminar was the personal stories that detailed how the internment experience affected three lives. As moderator Mako Nakagawa stated in her introduction of the panel, the internment experience was not just numbers and statistics, but a tragic period of time when lives were

CONTINUED

permanently altered.

Sally Kazama, a secretary with the Seattle Public Schools when she was abruptly terminated with the onset of World War II, described the internment experience as "like being a rape victim: the pain, humiliation and trauma."

"Rape was a four-lettered word," Sally said. "That's why it took 40 years to talk about it. We were raped by incest, by our own father figure."

Sally added that, whenever her children asked her to take them to the Puyallup Fair, she "always said 'no.'"

Sam Nakagawa, a senior in high school when Pearl Harbor was attacked, recalled December 8, 1942, when his white friend Carl walked up to him at school and said, "What's the matter with you people?"

He also clearly remembered stuffing hay into bags for mattresses to sleep on at the Pinedale assembly center. July 4 is a memorable day for him, he said, because that is the day he was transported to Ogden, Utah. There he realized, after a long, nervous period of suspicion, that he was not going to be killed.

"I don't waste time with kooks who still think I'm not an American citizen," Sam said.

Roy Sakamoto worked at the former Main Fish Company on Seattle's waterfront. With four children, he remembered that he finally obtained the job he wanted when he was relocated. "It was the most lonely, abandoned, cheated feeling," Roy said. "Here I was trying to be a good citizen, and they're gonna treat me like an enemy."

He recalled a butcher he regularly encountered while working as a salesman for Main Fish. The butcher is now a millionaire. "I'm not saying I would be a millionaire today," Roy said. "But I would have liked the opportunity."



"COMING HOME IN '88" NATIONAL JA CL CONVENTION UPDATE

Plans are progressing very smoothly. We have not reached the point in our development to know exactly where we will need volunteers, or how many volunteers, but we are comforted in our knowledge that our Seattle JA CLers are ready to help at our "beck-and-call."

I attended a portion of the tri-district council meeting in Los Angeles the weekend of May 2. Of the many people I spoke to, I was surprised to learn that every person remembered only the clam and salmon bake held on some island (Bainbridge)! Obviously, we need to think about repeating this event. Does

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anyone know who the chief planners were for this eating extravaganza in 1962? Please call Tim Otani at 623-5088 with any information you have.

There is a strong interest in the Southern California area to increase the activities for "singles" at the National Convention. We are currently studying the convention calendar to determine how we may best incorporate their ideas into the program. Generally, we are very excited about the numerous requests for participation in the National Convention by non-delegate JACLers. We're going to make this the largest and best JACL convention ever.

Again, please expect us to contact you for your expertise and help in the near future. Call Tim Otani and offer your name and area of interest if you are available to help us now. MANY OF YOU ARE PROBABLY WONDERING WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP MAKE THIS THE BEST CONVENTION EVER. One suggestion would be for each of you to contact a friend (some of us are fortunate to have more than one) and tell them about the fantastic programs being planned and encourage them to begin making plans to attend now.

-- Ben Nakagawa, Co-chair
'88 National Convention

DOSHI KAI

The former Young Adult Group has now decided to call themselves "Doshi Kai," which means "group sharing the same high goals."

A future event sponsored by Doshi Kai will be an informal evening with Chizuko Norton, social worker and director of the Separation and Loss Institute at Virginia Mason Hospital. Chizuko will lead a discussion on current issues pertinent to Nikkei, like interracial marriages, intergenerational conflict and identity. This informal evening will be held at the Prima Vera Gallery Cafe, 112 5th N. at 7 p.m. Coffee and dessert will be served. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Teresa Sato at 367-8710 or Karyn Lamborn at 282-7223. They need to know how many people will be coming.

Doshi Kai will also hold a meeting to plan an upcoming leadership conference on Saturday, June 27, 9 a.m. to noon at Bob & Lucy Sato's home, 1501 E. Lynn St. All those interested are invited to attend.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Seattle Chapter JACL announced the recipients of the Minoru Tamesa and Rev. Emery Andrews Scholarship Fund at the scholarship banquet held on May 20 at the Kawabe Memorial House. Congratulations to college freshmen Kerry Uyeda (Garfield), James Kanamoto (Linbergh), Vivian Umino (Franklin), and to graduate student Margaret Inoyue (UW). Each recipient received \$500 on behalf of the Scholarship Fund. The Chapter wishes all recipients and those who applied the best of luck in their future careers.




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BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Lisa Chinn of the **Fundraising Committee** advised us that T-shirts are now available for sale. Help support the Chapter by buying a T-shirt. T-shirts and posters will also be on sale at the International District Summer Festival on July 12. Lisa is looking for volunteers to take one-hour shifts at the booth from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Accomplish two things at once--take a one-hour shift and work on your suntan or greet all your friends at the fair! Call Lisa at home at 367-8120.

May Sasaki gave the Board a summary of a very successful Redress Seminar held on May 16. (Her report is on page 1.)

Naomi Iwata-Sanchez of the **Anti-Discrimination Committee** reported that the next networking dinner with other human rights organizations in the area will be in the fall. The Jim French radio show on KIRO is interested in featuring a JACL issue on an upcoming program. It was recommended that redress be the topic. Naomi will work with KIRO on this.

A letter from the committee was sent to Jim Bender, executive secretary of the King County Labor Council, in response to his discriminatory article in the Scanner Labor News (Bender died recently of a heart attack). Naomi also talked with Larry Kinney, president of the Washington State Labor Council.

The **JAYS** reported on upcoming activities: helping with the Seattle Keiro dedication and open house, a car wash, and a baseball game with the Young Adult Group (Doshi Kai).

Teresa Sato reported on the latest meeting of the **Doshi Kai** group for ages 25 to 40-years-old who are interested in becoming active in JACL. She mentioned that there have been new people attending each meeting. Contact her at 367-8710 if you are interested in this group.

It was announced that **Dale Watanabe** of our Board and newsletter mailout committee has been selected as one of 16 young people nationwide to participate in an internship program. This program is sponsored by the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church to educate minority youth about our political system. These young people are selected to work in a U.S. Congressional office or the Church and Society office in Washington D.C. Dale will be working with Norman Mineta's office in the House of Representatives for nine weeks this summer. Congratulations, Dale!

The Board, scholarship winners and guests had a relaxing and delicious potluck dinner at the Kawabe House to honor the new **scholarship winners**. Crystal Tanabe, as chair of the Scholarship Committee, presented the winners.

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JACL thanks the following donors who contributed in the month of May:
 -- Tomo-No-Kai for the Endowment Fund in memory of Don Kazama.
 -- Nobuyuki Koda in memory of Mrs. Kiyo Motoda.
 -- Shea Aoki for the general fund.
 -- Bill and Dorothy Yaguchi for the directory.
 -- Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Kelly Yamada who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. In commemoration of this event, they have generously contributed \$500 to the Seattle Chapter Endowment Fund. Kelly is a past president of JACL.

The May Newsletter Crew included Teru Kiyohara, Esther Kashiwagi, Margaret Yanagimachi, Jim & Aiko Mizuki, May Namba, Mits Morishita and Chiz Omori.

Community Notes

DEDICATION OF NEW SEATTLE KEIRO

Nikkei Concerns will celebrate the grand opening of the new Seattle Keiro nursing home on Sunday, June 14, 1987. In recognition of the generous community support which made the project possible, the theme of the day is "Okagesama," thanks to you.

But this date is also a time for the community to say "thank you" to the Board and staff of Nikkei Concerns, who provided the vision and hard hours of work to bring the project together. The new Seattle Keiro nursing home is the newest and brightest symbol of Nikkei Concerns' commitment to the aging population, but the Board also maintains and develops a variety of other programs to support elderly Nikkei. We should all take this occasion to thank Nikkei Concerns for all their efforts.

Join in the festivities and housewarming celebration for 150 residents and countless community supporters. Tours of the new facility will last until 4 p.m. Ceremonies begin at 1 p.m. Brief congratulatory messages will be offered by local political officials. The Seattle Taiko and Namukai Taiko groups will unite


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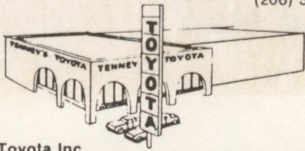
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to open and close the ceremonies. Additional entertainment will be provided by Deems Tsutakawa and Lincoln Kanzaki. A mural of a giant koi, made up of 1,400 individual pieces will symbolize the major donors of the capital campaign project. Those individuals will have an opportunity to contribute their "fish pieces" to the mural mounted in the second floor dining room.

Seattle Keiro is located at 1601 East Yesler; the beautiful building is hard to miss. JACLers can fit a tour in between golf and the dinner at Nisei Vets. See you there.

-- Gail Tanaka

Calendar of Events

A THOUSAND CRANES: A TREASURE OF JAPANESE ART FROM THE SEATTLE ART MUSEUM -- Continuous through July 12, Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m.- 5p.m.(except Thursday till 9 p.m.), Sunday 12 noon to 5 p.m., Seattle Art Museum Pavilion, Seattle Center.

SEATTLE CHAPTER BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT -- Sunday, June 14, 11 a.m., Jefferson Park Golf Course. Dinner later at Nisei Vets Hall, 12th and King, 7 p.m. Info: Bob Sato, 325-9243.

DEDICATION OF THE NEW SEATTLE KEIRO NURSING HOME -- Sunday, June 14, 1 p.m., 16th and Yesler. Open house from 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Raffle drawing at 1 p.m.

CHAPTER BOARD MEETING -- Wednesday, June 17, 7:30 p.m., Chapter office. Everyone welcome.

TOMO-NO-KAI DINNER -- Saturday, June 20. For more info., contact 722-0496 or 722-6211.

HIROSHI ITSUKI U.S. TOUR -- Friday, June 19, 7 p.m., 5th Avenue Theatre. Japan's top recording artist appears in concert. Tickets available at Uwajimaya.

DOSHI KAI LEADERSHIP PLANNING MEETING -- Saturday, June 27, 9 a.m. - noon, Bob & Lucy Sato's home, 1501 E. Lynn St.

JAYs MONTHLY MEETING -- Tuesday, July 7, 7 p.m., JACL office.

EVENING WITH CHIZUKO NORTON -- Wednesday, July 8, 7 p.m., Prima Vera Gallery Cafe, 112 5th N.

INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT SUMMER FESTIVAL -- Sunday, July 12, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Hing Hay Park, Maynard S. and S. King St. Asian foods, handicrafts, knickknacks and entertainment. Info: Nellie Fujii Anderson, 340-1456.

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