

J A C L NEWSLETTER

SEATTLE CHAPTER

NOVEMBER 1987

VOLUME 24 NO. 11



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the year's end nears and we begin thinking of winding down this year's business and activities and plan for the Holiday Season ahead, we believe a pat on our collective backs and a short pause to catch our breaths is in order. But at the same time, because of our commitment to host the 1988 National Convention in August of next year, we do need members to assist in all aspects of presenting a successful convention. If you have not been contacted already, please come forward and give your name and time of availability to the Convention Co-Chairs:

Tomio Moriguchi -- 624-6248

Ben Nakagawa -- 762-7824

1988 President Roger H. Shimizu -- 682-9932

JACL Regional Director Tim Otani -- 623-5088

If our preliminary estimates are correct, Seattle will be hosting the largest, most activity-filled and successful convention ever. We need your support and assistance.

-- May Sasaki

Special Reports

FIRST TEACHER OF ENGLISH IN JAPAN HOPEFULLY TO BE RECOGNIZED

International Relations Committee Chair Ken Nakano has been researching the life of Ranald MacDonald, supposedly the first person ever to teach English to the Japanese. Ken feels that recognition for MacDonald, who was born in Astoria and buried in Ferry County, Washington, is long overdue.

MacDonald, son of an English trader and Indian mother, was born at Fort George, Astoria in 1824. Later, MacDonald was sent to a missionary school at Fort Gary (now Winnipeg, Canada) for further schooling. While there, he learned of the first known Japanese to set foot in America.

In 1833, the "Hojunmaru," a shipwrecked Japanese cargo ship, drifted into Neah Bay, Washington after 14 months at sea. There were only three survivors from a crew of 14, who were originally from the Nagoya area in Japan. The surviving Japanese sailors were immediately captured by Indians. John McLoughlin, a trader with the Hudson Bay Company, later purchased the sailors from the Indians and took them to Fort Vancouver, Washington.

MacDonald traveled all the way from Winnipeg to Fort Vancouver to learn the customs and language of the Japanese. After his visit, MacDonald, who worked as a banker in Winnipeg, yearned for adventure and became a sailor at age seventeen. He was intent on fulfilling a long cherished dream -- to visit Japan, even though the xenophobic island country strictly forbade the entry of foreigners. MacDonald reached the Japan Sea on the American whaler "Plymouth." Leaving the whaler on a small rowboat, he purposely capsized the boat to enter Japan as a shipwrecked sailor. Landing in Hokkaido, Japanese officials immediately imprisoned MacDonald and transferred him to Nagasaki.

At that time, the Japanese shogunate government used Dutch interpreters, but had no interpreter for English. One of the Dutch interpreters, Einosuke Moriyama, and others learned English from MacDonald in his prison cell. MacDonald's students later became the interpreters for negotiations between the Japanese

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government and Commodore Perry.

In 1849, MacDonald and other shipwrecked sailors were taken out of Japan by an American warship. MacDonald then ventured into Australia and British Columbia, searching for gold. He eventually settled at a trading post at Fort Colville in Stevens County, Washington. Poor and unknown, he died near Toroda in Ferry County. His remains were buried in an unmarked grave in an old Indian cemetery on the Kettle River.

During the Labor Day weekend, Ken visited the grave of Ranald MacDonald near the Canadian-Washington border. To his surprise, a large stone had been erected on MacDonald's grave. The inscription on the gravestone read: "His was a life of adventure sailing the seven seas wandering in far countries but returning at last to rest in his homeland. Sayonara-Farewell."

Ken is recommending that a state historical marker be built near MacDonald's grave as part of the state centennial project, and that his grave be registered as an official tourist site.

"Without the effort of Ranald MacDonald to teach English to the Japanese, Japanese history may not have been the same today," Ken said. Understanding the circumstances and the people involved in the first interaction between Americans and Japanese "will greatly benefit future Washington State-Japan relations and the businesses in our state," he added. "Furthermore, it is important to remind future generations of this historical person. I believe this is a very worthwhile project for the State of Washington."

Chapter Focus

REDRESS DONATIONS

A total of 138 donors have contributed \$5,140 to date in the Third Year JACL/LEC Fund Drive in support of lobbying efforts for the redress bill now under consideration in Congress. Appreciation and thanks are extended to the following additional donors:

\$100-\$499: Masako Muromoto, George/Mary Koza, George/Alice Yasutake.

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The October newsletter mailout crew consisted of Hana Masuda, George Abe, Margaret Yanagimachi, Misi Kumakura, Cho and Sharrone Shimizu, Sharon Harada and Dale Watanabe.

A big thank you to Hisa Watanabe for doing such a thorough job with the newsletter mailout all year. She's done an excellent job in getting retired folks to help on the mailout. Would you be willing to help? We're looking for a few more good people to help us as regularly as possible for two hours each month. Please call Hisa at 723-3142. With Hisa's help, our Board members have had to wear one less hat in carrying out our duties.

-- Sharon Harada, Newsletter Committee Chair

DOSHI KAI LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT RETREAT

The "Making a Difference" Leadership Development retreat, sponsored by the Doshi Kai group of JACL, will be held on January 22 through 24, 1988 at Pilgrim Firs in Port Orchard, WA. Deadline for the \$45.00 registration fee (which includes meals and lodging) is December 31, 1987. Checks should be made payable to Seattle Chapter JACL and sent to:

Randy Fukuji
22927 Edmonds Way #D-26
Edmonds, WA 98020

For more information, please contact Teresa Sato (367-87).

Doshi Kai will also hold a Holiday meeting with a date, time and location to be determined. Contact Teresa Sato or Karyn Lamborn (282-7223) for details.

SEARCHING FOR FACTS AND PICTURES FROM THE PAST

The 1988 National JACL Convention booklet will feature a pictorial history about Japanese Americans in Seattle and the Puget Sound area. We are looking for


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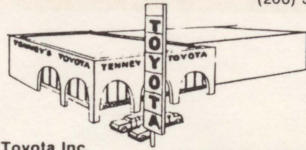
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any photographs and concise written histories concerning Nikkei in Seattle, Tacoma/Fife area, White River/Auburn area and Bainbridge Island before and after the evacuation. If you have any leads, contact Ken Mochizuki, convention booklet editor, at 624-3925.

Calendar of Events

TOMO NO KAI NOVEMBER MEETING -- Monday, November 16, 7 p.m., Kawabe House, 221 18th Ave. S. Support group presentation.

CHAPTER BOARD MEETING AND JOINT MEETING WITH AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE -- Wednesday, November 18, 7 p.m., Chapter office. Everyone welcome.

AYAME KAI'S SIXTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFTS SALE -- Saturday, November 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Seattle Buddhist Church, 1427 S. Main St. Sale of handcrafted items, children's clothing, Christmas decorations, artwork, fabrics, house plants, baked goods, etc. To benefit Keiro Nursing Home.

ARAKI KODO V AND SHIRANE KINUKO SHAKUHACHI AND KOTO CONCERT -- Saturday, November 21, 7:30 p.m., Nippon Kan Theatre, 628 S. Washington St. Tickets: \$7 adults; \$5 students and seniors over 65.

JAYs MONTHLY MEETING -- Tuesday, December 1, 7 p.m., JACL office.

JAPANESE GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION'S FIFTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DANCE -- Saturday, December 5, 8:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m., Seattle Buddhist Church, 1427 S. Main St. Tickets: \$10 per person. To benefit Keiro building fund.

TOMO NO KAI DECEMBER MEETING -- Saturday, December 12, 6 p.m., Kawabe House, 221 18th Ave. S. Christmas potluck party. All widows and widowers invited.

CHAPTER INSTALLATION BANQUET -- Wednesday, December 16, 5:30 p.m. cocktail hour/6:30 dinner, Bush Garden Restaurant, 614 Maynard Ave. S.

--compiled by Ed Suguro

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