

J A C L NEWSLETTER

SEATTLE CHAPTER

JANUARY 1988

VOLUME 25 NO. 1

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!!! The new officers and Board members will have already begun their work, made assignments to committees and attended the yearly annual retreat by the time this newsletter reaches you.

Redress, community networking and the '88 national JACL convention are just several of the major goals for this year, and we need your support! We will increase our level of contact and communication with you and provide a variety of means for you to communicate with us. We start off by listing our telephone numbers:

President Roger Shimizu -- 682-9932 or 722-4753
President-Elect Naomi Iwata Sanchez -- 587-4155
1st VP Vicki Toyohara -- 625-2402
2nd VP Teresa Sato -- 545-5241
3rd VP Jerry Shigaki -- 723-2286
4th VP Tim Gojio -- 344-4040

Committee chairs and members will provide updates as the year unfolds. A Chapter potluck is being considered in conjunction with the January general meeting. We hope you will join us.

-- Roger Shimizu

Special Reports

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CHAIR WRITES LETTER TO POPE JOHN PAUL II

In a letter dated November 1, 1987, Seattle Chapter JACL International Relations Chair Ken Nakano addressed the following message to Pope John Paul II:

"We, members of the Japanese American Citizens League, would like to express our heartiest congratulations for your highly successful tour of the United States and Canada. We have been very impressed with your efforts to reach various minority groups during your tour. It was also of great interest to us that you mentioned the Holocaust and Jewish concentration camps of World War II.

"Similarly in the United States, during World War II, our U.S. Government incarcerated 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry. This was done with no due process, and was assented to by all three branches of the Government, thereby violating the very principles for which we (were) fighting. There was great psychological and emotional suffering, feelings of humiliation, as well as great economical loss.

"In 1943, American men of Japanese ancestry were allowed to volunteer for the U.S. Army from these concentration camps, they fought gallantly in Italy, France, Germany and the Far East. Ironically, members of the Japanese American Regiment was the first to liberate the inmates of Dachau in the spring of 1945.

"In the past 15 years, we have mounted a campaign in the United States to illuminate the violation of our Constitution and to seek redress. On September 17, 1987, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 442 which proposes to issue an apology and redress the wrong with a token symbolic payment. The U.S. Senate is expected to do the same before (the) year's end. Hopefully President Reagan will sign the bill soon after.

"Your Holiness delivered a famous 'Appeal for Peace' in Hiroshima on February 25, 1981:

'To remember the past is to commit oneself to the future... from the event its name recalls, there has originated a new worldwide consciousness against war and a fresh determination to work for peace.'

"To remember the experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II is also to commit oneself to peace, for it shows that the most democratic

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nation in the world has lapses and moments of hatred and bigotry that result in the prosecution of innocent individuals and groups.

"As an aftermath of World War II, there are also approximately 1,000 survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bombs residing in the United States. Thirty percent of these victims are U.S. citizens by birth.

"The U.S. has so far refused to acknowledge the special ailments these survivors (are) suffering from (by) the Atomic Bombs and does not provide medical care.

"We bring these events and conditions to your attention, hoping that as you pursue world peace will find it in your heart to speak out for the welfare of the survivors and correction of a major U.S. Constitutional violation."

In a reply dated December 12, 1987, Nakano received a reply from Secretariat of State Assessor Monsignor C. Sepe. The letter was routed through the Vatican's diplomatic channel, the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, D.C. It stated:

"I am directed to acknowledge the letter which you sent to His Holiness Pope John Paul II and I would assure you that the contents have been noted.

"His Holiness invokes God's blessing upon you."

Chapter Focus

UPDATE ON ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES FOR 1988

Coram Nobis -- Gordon Hirabayashi's legal team reports that a petition by the Department of Justice for a rehearing of the September 24, 1987 decision that vacated Hirabayashi's curfew violation has been denied by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Hirabayashi and the legal team are pleased with the latest court ruling, although the case is subject to further appeal and five years have now passed since the case was first filed. The legal team expects total victory over further government appeals at some point in the future.

Puyallup Memorial Monument -- Chair David Hoekendorf reports that efforts to have the monument designated as a historical monument have been denied by the office of archaeology and historical preservation. The monument will be listed in the state's inventory of places and objects of historical interest. However, since 1970, the fairground and Camp Harmony have been listed on the State Register of Historic Places. Further work by the committee will include affixing a second Donor's Plaque at the monument site.

Redress -- Chair Wayne Kimura reports that planning is under way for an activity on February 19 to inform JACL members and the community on the status of redress legislation. The House bill, HR 442, passed by a vote of 243 to 141 on September 17, 1987. The Senate version of the bill, S 1009, is expected to pass when voted on by the Senate. Please see past issues of the Pacific Citizen for

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issues remaining to be overcome before final passage of redress legislation.

'88 Convention -- Chair Ben Nakagawa reports that the various convention committees are hard at work, and that updates will be provided by the various chairs.

Convention Tennis Committee -- Chair Frank Fujii reports that a night of tennis play will be offered to members attending the convention, as well as coordinating court time during the convention. Details will follow.

-- submitted by Roger Shimizu

PROOF OF INTERNMENT

Did you notice, on page 11 of the November 13, 1987 issue of the Pacific Citizen, an article suggesting you write to the National Archives to establish proof of internment? This proof will be necessary, assuming that redress legislation will be passed and signed by the President in the near future. For some of our elderly who may need assistance, why don't you help them by writing to the address below:

General Archives Division
National Archives and Record Service
General Services Administration
Washington D.C. 20409

Send: Your name, birthdate, place of residence before internment and the name of the relocation camp or camps to which you were sent.

Request: Documentation establishing dates you were interned.

-- submitted by Bob Sato

1988 NATIONAL JACL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 36-hole convention golf tournament is catching interest nationwide! The event is set for August 4 and 5, 1988, with a sports award dinner to be held on Friday evening, August 5.

Entry forms have been received from Hood River and Ontario, Oregon; Fullerton and Anaheim, California; Washington D.C.; Nampa, Idaho; Bellingham, Kent, Auburn, Bothell, Spokane, Redmond, Bellevue, Tacoma-Puyallup and Seattle, Washington. Southern California coordinator Mike Kawamoto and Hank S. Wakabayashi of the Washington D.C. area have promised a good number of participants and are busy distributing survey forms which were mailed to all Chapter presidents by Junio Otani and his committee.

Sponsorship by Miller Beer will allow us to award these nice prizes for men and women:


JACL Champion Flight -- 1st place prize: 22-inch trophy, plus \$350. Note:

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no handicap and golfers restricted to JACL members.

Handicap Flights -- 1st place prize: 19-inch trophy, plus \$150. Note: evidence of established club handicap meeting USGA standards is required.

Calloway Flight -- 1st place prize: 19-inch trophy, plus \$150. Winner for those without USGA handicap will be based on Calloway system handicap.

Your help is needed to set up the various flights. Please get your reservations in now -- \$60 entry fee for two rounds of golf and the sports award dinner. Non-golfers are welcome to the August 5 awards dinner at \$20 per person. Major committee chairpersons are listed below; let them know if you can help:

Tournament chairs: Hiram Akita, Kay Yamaguchi, Kimi Nakanishi.

Publicity: Kunio Otani

Transportation: David Hayasaka

Awards Dinner and Program: Joe Yada

If you need sign-up forms, call me at 325-9243.

-- Bob Sato, Golf Committee chair

DONATIONS

The last thank yous of 1987 go to the following individuals and organizations who gave donations last December:

* May Namba, for her donation to the general fund.

* Lillian T. Yamamoto, for her donation to the Endowment Fund in memory of Tom Iwata.

* Bush Garden Restaurant, Nisei Vets and the Japanese Consul for donations to the Installation Banquet.

Appreciation is extended to the following donors to the JACL/LEC Fund Drive and to the Seattle JACL Redress Fund:

Up to \$100: Tsuyoshi/Mary Nakahara, Marion/Mike Fukuma

\$100-\$499: Y. Tazuma, Mas/C. Kinoshita

\$500-\$999: Dr. Kelly/Sally Yamada

The December mailout volunteers included Chizu Omori, Chuck Kato, George Abe, Roger Shimizu, Miki Onishi, Margaret Gojio, Esther Kashiwagi, Cherry Kinoshita and Mas Watanabe.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I still get a lot of submissions that are too late for a particular month's newsletter. Remember, I would like all submissions by the first of the month, and by the first Wednesday of the month at the latest. Volunteers assemble the newsletter on the second Wednesday of the month, which means you should receive the newsletter by the weekend or early the following week. Please consider if your announcement will be printed in time and if you will need to submit it a month in advance.

Also: I rarely have too much material for the newsletter; I usually fall short. I welcome any submissions from the Nikkei community. The priority of this newsletter is, of course, to get information out on Seattle Chapter JA CL activities. But I try to make this publication issue-oriented and about people and subjects you haven't read about already. Got anything?

-- Ken Mochizuki

Community Notes

HUNT HIGH AND TULE LAKE REUNIONS

The Minidoka Relocation Camp Hunt High School Classes of '43 and '44 have scheduled a reunion in Seattle on July 29 and 30, 1988. This event will mark the 44th- and 45th-year class reunions, and will be held during the height of Seattle summer events and attractions. All classmates, alumni and friends are invited. For information, contact Chairman Frank Muramatsu, 20005 Third Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98166, (206) 878-4513.


By popular demand, Sacramento Japanese Americans will host a third Tule Lake Reunion on May 27, 28 and 29, 1988 in Sacramento at the Red Lion Inn. Special events and innovations promise to make this one of the best reunions ever. Tule Lake was one of 10 concentration camps for Japanese Americans during World War II and held more than 5,000 people from the Pacific Northwest. For information, contact Ed Suguro at 723-1422.

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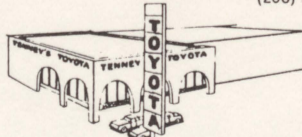
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Calendar of Events

NORTHWEST ASIAN AMERICAN THEATRE PRESENTS "THE GAMBLING DEN" -- Wednesday through Sunday, current through Feb. 14, 8 p.m. except Sundays at 7 p.m., Theatre Off Jackson, 409 7th Ave. S. Drama about an Issei man and his family in prewar rural California who try to obtain the American Dream by running an illegal gambling den behind their cafe. Written by Los Angeles playwright Akemi Kikumura. Tickets: \$10 general, \$7 students/seniors. Group packages available. Reservations and info: 340-1049.

SUMI PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE BY GEORGE TSUTAKAWA -- Monday through Sunday, current through Jan. 31, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Foster-White Gallery, 311 1/2 Occidental Ave. S.

CHAPTER GENERAL MEETING/POTLUCK -- Wednesday, Jan. 20, 6 p.m., JACL office.

THE GROUP THEATRE COMPANY'S "CHANGING FACES" BY NIKKI LOUIS -- Tuesday through Sunday, Jan. 21 - Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 7 p.m. on Sunday. Matinees at 2 p.m. on Saturdays, Jan. 30 and Feb. 6. Tickets: \$11 on Sunday and Tuesday through Thursday, \$13.50 on Friday and Saturday, \$9 for the matinees. At the Ethnic Cultural Center Theatre, 3940 Brooklyn Ave. N.E. The experiences of Asian women in the U.S. Info: 543-4327.

DOSHI KAI LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT RETREAT -- Friday, Jan. 22 through 24, Pilgrim Firs, 3318 SW Lake Flora Rd., Port Orchard, WA. Info: Teresa Sato, 367-8710.

OSHOGATSU, NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION -- Saturday, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m., Nippon Kan Theatre, 628 S. Washington St. The tolling of temple bells, koto music, martial arts, lion dance and Kabuki play "Tsuru Onna." Tickets: \$7 adults, \$5 seniors/students. Info: 624-8801.

JAYs MONTHLY MEETING -- Tuesday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m., JACL office.

DOSHI KAI MONTHLY MEETING -- Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m., JACL office.

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING -- Sunday, Feb. 7, 8 a.m., Butler Heritage Inn, Tacoma.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER MAILOUT -- Wednesday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., JACL office.

FEBRUARY CHAPTER GENERAL MEETING -- Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., JACL office.

REDRESS COMMUNITY MEETING -- Friday, Feb. 19. Details to be announced.

-- compiled by Ed Suguro

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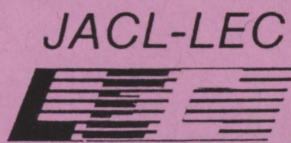
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DAY OF REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM PLANNED

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE - February 19, 1988

As a sobering reminder, JACL and the Washington Coalition on Redress are planning a Day of Remembrance program commemorating the day Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Congressman NORM MINETA and Congressman MIKE LOWRY are being asked to attend the evening program -- tentatively either a potluck get-together or a cookie/cake social. Watch for the February JACL Newsletter for time, place, and particulars. If you would like to help, please call Chizu, 283-0765, or Cherry, 721-0717.

UPDATE ON REDRESS

Several weeks ago, JACL/LEC Legislative Strategist Grant Ujifusa reported that Governor Thomas Kean of New Jersey, Republican, during an appointment with President Ronald Reagan had discussed the internment and redress issue. Reagan, who remembered that period of time in California, was sympathetic but stated that the administration had not taken a position on the redress bill. Reportedly, Senator Spark Matsunaga has also discussed the issue with White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker and Baker was receptive to the issue.

In a meeting arranged by Naomi Sanchez with Jennifer Dunn, chairperson of the Washington State Republican Party, in November, Tomio Moriguchi, Tim Gojio and Cherry Kinoshita requested her help in convincing the Reagan administration to approve the redress legislation. Ms. Dunn wrote to Attorney General Ed Meese, Howard Baker, and Frank Donatelli, Asst. to the President for Political and Intergovernmental Affairs, asking for the Administration's position on the bill. A reply was received from Thomas C. Griscom, Asst. to the President for Communications and Planning, who is an aide to Baker, dated December 2, which stated:

"...The Administration does oppose the legislation and the President has expressed his intent to veto the bill if it reaches his desk in its current form...the United States has already acknowledged the unjustified personal hardships caused by the internment...in enacting the American Japanese Evacuation Claims Act in 1948...Further payments, especially those authorized by HR 442...are not warranted."

A copy of the letter, recognized as the standard reply coming from administration sources, was forwarded to the JACL/LEC Washington office for reply, based on research they have to refute that the Evacuation Claims Act adequately compensated victims of the internment.

According to contacts with Ujifusa the latter part of December, the Griscom letter reflects the "pro forma position of the Administration as issued early last spring by the Justice and Office of Management/Budget Departments. "Neither the President nor anyone who speaks for the President has made any final decision," Ujifusa said. The real news, he said, is that in discussions with the Justice Dept. and OMB in a more recent period, he is encouraged by the receptiveness of certain officials, and others close to the White House. Contacts are continuing with key Republicans.

LETTER WRITING TO THE PRESIDENT

With Congress reconvening on January 25, Senator Spark Matsunaga hopes to bring S. 1009 to a floor vote, possibly in February, or as early as it can possibly be scheduled on the Senate calendar. The good side of the delay, since the bill did not reach the floor in December, is that it gives us more time to get those letters to the President pouring in.

You may write directly to The White^{House}, Washington, D.C. 20500, asking the President to sign the bill (S.1009/HR 442) when it reaches his desk. Letters are also being accumulated at the Seattle JACL office to be forwarded at the appropriate timing to make the greatest impact. Please address President Ronald Reagan at the White House in your undated letter, but address the envelope to the President, c/o JACL/LEC, 316 Maynard Ave. So., Room 108, Seattle, WA 98104. Let's get those letters written while we have a little time. At the last minute, you may not have the spare time.

FOLLOWING IS A SAMPLE LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT, WITH SEVERAL VARIATIONS LISTED BELOW. COPY ONE, OR PERSONALIZE YOUR OWN, IN LEGIBLE HANDWRITING PREFERABLY, OR TYPEWRITTEN IF YOU PREFER. LETTERS NEED NOT BE LENGTHY, EVEN ONE OR TWO SENTENCES IS O.K.

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: The Civil Liberties Act of 1987 - H.R. 442/S. 1009

Dear Mr. President:

Please affirm that the United States Constitution applies to all Americans and sign into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1987.

Our government instituted actions which resulted in major civil and constitutional rights violations. Solely on the basis of ancestry, 120,000 persons, most of whom were American citizens, were forcibly removed from their homes and incarcerated for up to four years. The false imprisonment and denial of due process for Japanese Americans remains a stain on our Constitution which you can correct.

During your presidency you have been in the forefront for causes affecting individual freedom. I urge you to sign this legislation, and to send the message that anything short of equal justice is unacceptable to the leader of this great democracy.

Sincerely,
Your Signature
Address

- 1) So that history may record that you cared about minorities and human rights, please sign into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1987.
- 2) The Civil Liberties Act of 1987 would redress the wrongs our government deliberately committed against a single ethnic group, judging them guilty only by reason of race. For the sake of justice, please sign this measure into law -- for it addresses an issue important not only to Japanese Americans, but to all Americans.
- 3) The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians found that the mass incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry was not based on military necessity but was caused by "race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership." Please sign the Civil Liberties Act of 1987, legislation which implements the Commission's recommendations for rectifying these grave injustices.
- 4) I am writing to urge that you sign the Civil Liberties Act of 1987 to compensate in a token way the Americans of Japanese ancestry who were interned during World War II, and denied their freedom based solely on their racial background. Loss of liberty and property can never be adequately recompensed, but our Government must do what it can to rectify the injustices suffered.
- 5) My parents, relatives and friends were mercilessly uprooted from their homes and suffered great emotional damage and tremendous economic losses. Thousands of these same Japanese Americans volunteered from the barbed wire camps to serve with great distinction in the armed forces, many giving their lives for our nation. I hope that such a great nation is able to admit it was wrong and grant this token gesture of restitution.
- 6) Please sign into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1987. History will remember the name of President Ronald Reagan for approving an act which fundamentally upholds and safeguards our precious Constitutional rights.