

J A C L NEWSLETTER

SEATTLE CHAPTER

JUNE 1989

VOLUME 26 NO. 6

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The mindless killing of students in Beijing should make us all stop and pause in our lives to think about the value of freedom and our responsibilities to protect and preserve it.

Our organization continues today in the fight for civil rights. We are still struggling to ensure that Asian Americans are given equal employment opportunities, especially in leadership positions. We are still working to see that there are sufficient funds appropriated for redress. We are still meeting with local leaders to express our concerns and problems with affirmative action.

The freedom that we experience both allows the opportunity to express ourselves and to exercise efforts to preserve and protect our rights. We struggle because the system is not always fair and just.

The Nisei Vets memorial service was a moving experience which remembered the Nikkei who fought for us so that we can experience freedom today. As I prayed and placed a wreath on the tombstone of those Japanese Americans who lost their lives in World Wars, I am reminded of the great sacrifices that have been made for that freedom.

As a civil rights organization, it is important for us to continue in our struggle with the problems that we face as a Nikkei community so that we can help those who would otherwise be forgotten. We must also represent the interests of those who need our help in protecting their civil rights. As a group of us met with Senator Brock Adams recently, I am reminded of the importance to remind our elected officials that there is a Japanese American community, one which is concerned about the decisions that are made in Washington.

Our Chapter has charted a course this year which has been effective in strengthening the community through a continuous effort to involve members in both social and issue-oriented activities. There needs to be a balance of both kinds of activities, and a review of the progress towards our goals and objectives demonstrates that a good balance is being achieved. We have many projects planned in the next few months, and I believe we will be successful in fulfilling our commitment to address the issues we set forth last January.

We must never lose sight, however, that whatever we do, we are always working to strengthen our community so that we can mobilize our efforts to protect and preserve the precious civil liberties that we are granted as citizens of this country. The students in Beijing are a reminder that we must continue our work and never forget that others have lost their lives in their quest for civil rights.

STATE BILL PASSES TO EXEMPT REDRESS PAYMENTS FROM AFFECTING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The federal government recently ruled that redress payments are exempt when determining how much a person must contribute toward the cost of federally-funded medical care, such as nursing home care. Prior to the ruling, the federal government only exempted redress payments when determining if a person was eligible for federal public assistance programs.

House Bill 2050, prime-sponsored by Rep. Gary Locke, makes Washington law consistent with federal law by exempting redress payments when determining eligibility for state public assistance programs and how much a person must contribute toward the cost of state-supported medical care.

Rep. Locke worked with the Washington State Coalition for Redress and members of the staff at Keiro nursing home to write the redress legislation. HB 2050 was amended onto SB 6152, which was signed into law by the Governor on May 31.

Earlier, Senator Linda Smith, with the help of Rep. Dennis Braddock, killed this legislation when it was being considered by the Senate Children and Family Services Committee. However, it was later successfully amended onto SB 6152.

-- submitted by Belle Nishioka

CHAPTER INVESTIGATES ELIMINATION OF ASIANS IN SCHOOL SYSTEM

Anti-Discrimination Chair Darrell Mihara reported that some of the highest ranking Asian Americans in the Seattle Public School District are unfairly becoming the victims of budget cutbacks by being laid-off, demoted or having their

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positions eliminated.

Darrell said he has discussed the matter with School Superintendent William Kendrick, who will meet with Darrell again and explain if the actions against the Asian Americans are "justified."

Chapter Focus

CHAPTER MEMBERS APPEAR ON 'TOWN MEETING'

Chapter members Chuck Kato, Ken Nakano and Dale Watanabe expressed their opinions as part of the audience during a taping of KOMO-TV's "Town Meeting." The program, which held a discussion on "Trade Friction Between Us and Japan," will be broadcast on Sunday, June 25 at 6 p.m.

MONUMENT FOR FIRST JAPANESE IN U.S. TO BE DEDICATED ON AUGUST 1

A monument to honor the first Japanese to set foot on the continental United States will be unveiled at a ceremony on August 1 at Fort Vancouver.

The ceremony, recognized as an official event of the Washington State Centennial, will be attended by Washington State Lt. Governor Joel Pritchard, JACL National President Cresey Nakagawa and Governor Kaihara of Washington's sister state, Hyogo in Japan. Boy Scouts from Hyogo will also be present at the ceremony and will later participate with Japanese Baptist Church Boy Scout Troop 53 on a joint hiking and canoeing trip.

The monument commemorates three Japanese sailors of the Houjun Maru from near Nagoya who drifted for 14 months until they arrived at Neah Bay, on the northwest tip of Washington state, during the winter of 1833. Rescued by Makha Indians, Dr. J. McLoughlin took the sailors to Fort Vancouver, where they were treated well, learning English and the American way of life until their departure in 1834.

The unveiling ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. A charter bus is scheduled to depart from Seattle at 8 a.m. Cost for the trip is \$30.

DOSHI KAI HOLDS RETREAT

On May 20, Doshi Kai held its second annual retreat at the Battelle Conference Center in Seattle. There were 14 participants at the retreat including five new faces!

The retreat featured two guest speakers from Spectra Communications. Sharon Maeda spoke about some issues and experiences she has encountered in the work place that were affected by our ethnic culture. Alice Ito talked about the steps for planning events and led us through the initial planning stages of Doshi Kai's next big event (more details will be given in future newsletters). Their seminars brought out some important issues and raised questions that, because of lack of

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time, could not be thoroughly explored during the retreat. We hope to come back to some of those questions in the future.

Many thanks go to all the Doshi Kai people who helped put the retreat together. They are Bruce Echigoshima, Ann Fujii, Randy Fukuji, Jon Genka, Yasuko Iwai, Daren Nakagawa, Kyle Shintaku and Lynne Uyehara.

-- submitted by Wayne Kimura

CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 5 OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

On May 17, the scholarship banquet was held at the Seattle Buddhist Church. The banquet was a success thanks to everyone's help and good food. That night, we presented scholarships to five outstanding students.

David McDonald is a graduate student at the University of Washington School of Public Affairs. He received his Bachelors of Science in marketing and management from the University of Oregon. While there, he was special assistant to the Director of Student Development, assistant to the Dean of Students, and active on the school's Council for Minority Education.

Currently, he is a World Affairs council member and also a tutor. In his spare time, he enjoys cultural events, running and gardening. David aspires to be president of a public university after obtaining his doctorate and gaining teaching experience.

Stacie Akemi Tanemura will be graduating from John F. Kennedy High School this month. She is very active in school; some of her activities include SKY (Special Kiwanis Youth) club president, National Honor Society, Junior Statesmen of America, the tennis team and KOOCs (Kids Offering Others Care and Support). She is a Sunday school teacher at the Seattle Buddhist Church, active in Camp Fire and has done volunteer work at Keiro and Virginia Mason Hospital.

Not only is Akemi involved in activities and the community, she has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout high school and is ranked Number One in her class. Akemi will attend University of Puget Sound where she will major in physical therapy.

Anne Uemura is a very busy woman with school, work, volunteering, sports and activities. She is Asian Student Awareness Co-President, ASB Publicity Chair, DECA Representative and involved in Amnesty International. She is on the varsity volleyball team at Franklin High School, SCAA (Seattle Chinese Athletic Association) Basketball team captain, YMCA Teen Hotline volunteer, Keiro volunteer and JACL member.

Additionally, Anne was a winner in the JACL oratory contest last year. Currently, Anne works at The Gap as a sales associate. She plans to attend the University of Washington next year where she will major in advertising.


Michael Yamashita is a senior at the University of Washington majoring in physical therapy. Prior to attending the UW, he was valedictorian at Garfield High School and recipient of the Minoru Tamesa/JACL Scholarship in 1984. He has been a volunteer at Children's Hospital and Harborview, which is how he originally

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became interested in physical therapy. Currently, he is an administrative assistant and student physical therapist at Harborview and works a third job at Athletic Health Care Systems as a statistical analyst.

Michael had worked throughout college to finance his education. He plans to work as a registered physical therapist for several years while obtaining his master's degree.

Sachiko Yari will be attending Yale, Dartmouth or Colgate University next year where she will pursue a liberal arts education and then perhaps go on to study medicine. She is very active in school as Cleveland ASB president, Annual editor, Literary Magazine editor and soccer team trainer.

Sachiko enjoys playing and composing music on the piano, as well as playing tennis and listening to music.

Congratulations to all the winners: David, Akemi, Michael, Anne and Sachiko. We wish you the best of luck in your academic and professional endeavors.

-- submitted by Janice Deguchi, scholarship chair

1990 INSTALLATION BANQUET COMMITTEE CAN STILL USE HELP

The 1990 Installation Banquet Committee recently formed to plan next year's banquet. A site and theme for the event has yet to be selected. More members are needed to work on the sub-committees: decoration, registration, menu, program and program booklet. If interested, contact Banquet Committee Co-chairs Karen Kishi at 723-2286 (day) or 524-4471 (evening); or Crystal Tanabe at 782-2059.

Assisting with last month's mailout of the Chapter Newsletter were: Teresa Sato, Rose Ogino, Ray Ishii, Karen Kishi, Bruce Echigoshima, Massie Tomita, Sam Shoji and Miyo Iwata. The next Newsletter mailout is July 12.

Community Notes

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIPS TO JAPANESE UNIVERSITIES

The Japanese government is offering scholarships to approximately 44 United States citizens who wish to study at Japanese universities as research students in Japanese language under the Monbusho Scholarship Program for 1990, announced the

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Applicants must be university or college graduates under 35 years old and be willing to receive instruction in the Japanese language. Scholarship benefits include round trip airfare, a monthly stipend of 177,500 yen and tenure of scholarship from either April or October of 1990 through March, 1992.

Deadline for applications is September 5, 1989. A three-part written Japanese language test and interviews will be held on September 18, 1989 for those who pass the selection by documents submitted.

For more information, contact the Consulate-General of Japan, 3110 Rainier Bank Tower, 1301 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101, 682-9107.

REUNION WILL HONOR CENTENNIAL OF FATHER'S IMMIGRATION

On July 2, 1989, the Sakura family will hold a reunion to commemorate the arrival of their father in the United States 100 years ago, and the 70th anniversary of his passing away on June 30, 1919.

Toyozo Sakura was born in Tsuwano, Shimaneken, Japan on May 25, 1869. He was raised by his uncle Ushio, since both parents passed away when he was six years old. Sakura grew up and worked at his uncle's sake brewery, then became a Christian and learned English before coming to America at age 19.

Sakura worked at the Augustine & Kyer grocery store and the King Street Railroad Station. He also taught English to his fellow immigrants at the local YMCA on Fifth Avenue and Main Street. He was also active in community and church activities, and was a charter member of the Japanese Baptist Church.

His wife Misa, a "picture bride" from Akita ken, came to Seattle in 1900. As the family grew, Sakura built two houses in South Park near the Duwamish River and raised 10 children: Kenneth, Theodore, Chester, Ruth Jue, Lulu Kashiwagi, Howard, Fred, Nellie Kanzaki, Alyce Kono and Grayce Hida.

Over 50 family members and close friends will gather for the reunion at the Nisei Veterans Hall.

DIRECTOR'S COALITION SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Asian Pacific Director's Coalition is seeking volunteers to staff voter registration tables during the last weekend in June in the International District


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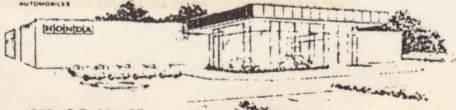
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and at the International District Summer Festival on Sunday, July 16. Volunteers will also be needed at other scheduled times. Registrars will be given one hour of training. Those interested are encouraged to call Darrell Mihara at 725-8200 (days) or 842-8982 (evenings) to volunteer or for more information.

REP. LOCKE SEEKING STAFF MEMBER

State Representative Gary Locke is seeking an administrative assistant with strong writing skills and a B.A. degree. To apply, submit a resume and cover letter to Rep. Gary Locke, John O'Brien Building Room 204, Olympia, WA 98504.

Calendar of Events

TOKYO PRINTS, CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE PRINTS -- Through June 30, Peter Kirk Gallery, 620 Market St., Kirkland, Mon. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Thurs. till 8 p.m. Info: 822-7704.

CHAPTER BOARD MEETING -- Wednesday, June 21, 7:30 p.m., Chapter office. Everyone welcome.

FRATELLI'S FIREWORKS -- Tuesday, July 4. Japan's most renown fireworks of Nagaoka will be displayed over Lake Union.

DOSHI KAI MEETING -- Wednesday, July 5, 7 p.m., JA CL office.

NINTH ANNUAL SEATTLE KEIRO BENEFIT DINNER -- Monday, July 10, 4 p.m. - 9 p.m., Perry Ko's South China Restaurant, 2714 Beacon Ave. S. Tickets: \$8 available from Keiro nursing home, South China Restaurant or from community volunteers. Info: 323-7100.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT SUMMER FESTIVAL -- Sunday, July 16, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Hing Hay Park, Maynard Ave. S. and S. King St. Ethnic performances, food booths, arts, crafts, children's corner and beer garden. Info: 725-1842.

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The JA CL 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 JA CL, 316 Maynard Avenue South - Room 108, Seattle, Washington 98104. To advertise, send \$45 (for 12 issues) and a camera-ready ad the size of a business card or smaller. - Editor Ken Mochizuki

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Help us stop this from happening any longer

It is more urgent than ever to increase our lobbying efforts in support of funding for redress legislation in 1990. Grant Ujifusa, Legislative Strategy Chair, requests that the focus be on contacting Senator Daniel Inouye, who is a key player in the Appropriations subcommittee where the Senate decision on redress money will be made. Ujifusa's statement explaining the strategy is enclosed.

In addition, please contact the other members of the subcommittee urging them to support the highest possible level of funding for redress in 1990. Many of you have already established contacts with these senators. You can personalize your communications by reminding them of prior contacts. That's an excellent way to begin your letter or conversation.

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SAMPLE LETTER TO SENATOR INOUE

[ADDRESS]
[DATE]

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
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722 Hart Senate Office Building
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Dear Senator Inouye:

Your strong leadership was instrumental in achieving the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. The signing of that legislation by President Reagan was the occasion for much celebration. The law constituted our Nation's good faith pledge to make prompt payment to each and every person eligible for redress.

Inadequate funding of that pledge can only mean that many persons who have already waited almost 50 years for a symbol of vindication by our Nation will face the prospect of waiting even longer. Any delay in implementing the law would compound the wrongful violation of constitutional rights that the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was enacted to redress.

We hope that your leadership in both the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State, The Judiciary, and Related Agencies, and on the full Appropriations Committee, can make the difference once again. We recognize that the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction law forces the Congress to operate in a very difficult situation, and that agreements between the Congress and the White House put additional restrictions on funding decisions. But for far too many, the satisfaction of personal vindication will never be realized. We must not let that be the outcome which will be recorded in history. Therefore, we ask you to urge your colleagues to appropriate the highest possible level of funding for redress payments in 1990.

We are grateful for your forceful advocacy in support of redress and your continuing commitment to full funding for redress legislation.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

SAMPLE LETTER TO SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

[ADDRESS]
[DATE]

The Honorable _____
United States Senator
[Address as given, see attached]

Dear Senator _____:

When President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 last August, it was the occasion for much celebration. In the Act, Congress formally apologized on behalf of the Nation for the grave injustice suffered by Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II. It is our Nation's good faith pledge to make prompt payment to each and every person eligible for redress.

Inadequate funding of that pledge can only mean that many persons who have already waited almost 50 years for this symbolic token of vindication by our Nation will never receive what was pledged to them. Any delay in implementing the law would shamefully compound the wrongful violation of constitutional rights that the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was enacted to redress.

We recognize that the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction law forces the Congress to operate in a very difficult situation, and that agreements between the Congress and the White House put additional restrictions on funding decisions. But for far too many, the satisfaction of personal vindication will never be realized. Every delay in funding increases the risk that the Civil Liberties Act will become nothing more than empty words, another broken promise -- justice denied. We must not let that be the outcome which will be recorded in history. Therefore, we ask you to support the highest possible level of funding for redress payments in 1990.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

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