

J A C L NEWSLETTER

SEATTLE CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 1989

VOLUME 26 NO. 9

NISEI AND SANSEI: "A COMMON EXPERIENCE SPANNING SEVERAL DECADES"

A couple of weeks ago, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Intermountain District Council Conference of the JACL high in the mountains in Utah. It was truly a wonderful experience because of the time I spent in the company of Nisei leaders.

As a Sansei, it is hard to believe that I have arrived at the ripe age of 40 and that the adults I grew up with, obeyed and respected are now senior citizens. They may be senior citizens, but I doubt I'll ever see the camaraderie and the conviction for a better America than in that group.

Aside from the rehashing of fond memories and jokes that only people who have known each other for over 30 years could share, the hope for Sansei to carry on the work for civil rights was ever present. I must admit that there were flickers of doubt about our ability to tackle the problems of today and tomorrow, but the love they have for us seemed to overshadow it. We had convened to provide ideas for long rang goals and amazingly we were able to do it in about two hours due to the able leadership of Hank Tanaka.

PNWDC Governor Denny Yasuhara summed up the feelings I had during the conference in his remarks at the banquet dinner. He said that he had wondered from time to time about the work he had done for JACL and whether he should have continued. It was during those difficult times that he answered himself with the realization that the reason he stayed with JACL over several decades was because he loved the people; that he felt comfortable with the people and he felt accepted.

I have learned more about our Nikkei roots these past few weeks, and often


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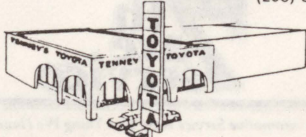
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reflect on the experience with our Nisei JACLers. I have a warm feeling of love for our Nisei and their "total experience" in America. Together, Nisei and Sansei can laugh at ourselves and each other because we have shared a common experience spanning several decades.

I'll share with you the goals we came up with at another time. However, I will report that, although many people have asked the question of what JACL is going to do after redress, it was clear that we still have a lot of work to do on redress, and that there are a host of challenges to work on for many decades to come, such as discrimination and education to prevent it.

-- Naomi Iwata Sanchez
Seattle Chapter President

AUGUST BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Naomi Sanchez. The secretary's minutes for the June Board meeting were approved.

Ray Ishii gave the Treasurer's report. The \$9,000 from last year's National Convention has helped the budget for this year. According to Ray, the projected budget and actual income and expenses look good, but no fundraiser for this year has been done yet as was planned. He said the Chapter may be spending a little more than it should because of the convention money.

Aimee Hirabayashi, the highest ranking Asian in Seattle Public Schools administration, spoke on the Controlled Choice student enrollment plan and Initiative 34. It was asked whether the Chapter should take a position on either desegregation plan.

According to Aimee, the Controlled Choice program is not totally voluntary or totally mandatory (in the past it was mandatory). Every parent has a choice in selecting the school for their child, but the parents have to state their choice. The District's aim is to not have more than 70 percent of any one racial group in a school based on a complicated formula. Mandatory placement will desegregate a school if need be.

Initiative 34 attacks this plan by saying that the District should not have a mandatory plan, Aimee said. It will pay for the loss of matching federal funds by allocating a part of the sales tax to segregated schools. There is an expected loss of \$30 million in matching funds under Initiative 34.

Mako Nakagawa made a motion that the Chapter oppose Initiative 34 and do whatever is necessary to prevent its implementation. The motion was seconded and passed. Bob Sato asked that Aimee's comments be published in the Newsletter so that the Chapter can make an informed decision and support it.

Naomi reviewed this year's Board goals. Out of 26 goals, only seven need to be worked on. All others have either been touched upon or completed.

Ben Nakagawa received a tentative affirmative action policy from Educational School District (ESD) 121 and is still working with them regarding this issue.

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(There was no July Board meeting so that interested Board members could attend the ESD 121 board meeting.) JACL will continue to monitor ESD 121's policies and progress on Ben's requests made to them at their July board meeting.

Note from the June Board meeting: A motion was made to nominate Bob Sato for governor of the Pacific Northwest District. The motion was seconded and passed.

Thank you to the following for helping with the August Newsletter mailout: Ray Ishii, Janice Deguchi, Shea Aoki, Massie Tomita, Naomi Sanchez, Miyo Iwata, Rose Ogino, Cherry Kinoshita, Teresa Sato and Sam Shoji.

The next Newsletter mailout will take place on October 11.

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- Dietary Aide (ideal position for a student): Part time, Wednesday/Thursday/Friday, 3 - 9 p.m.
- Weekend Activity Coordinator (ideal position for a student): Part time, Saturday/Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Personnel Assistant (Computer experience helpful): Full time, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Receptionist/Typist: Part time, Monday through Friday, 12:30 - 5 p.m.
- Maintenance/Janitorial: Full time, Tuesday through Saturday (Sunday/Monday off), 3:30 p.m. - midnight.

Applications available at Seattle Keiro reception counter. If further information is necessary, please contact Lillian Hayashi at 323-7100.

Calendar of Events

ETCHINGS AND MIXED MEDIA WORKS BY KAZUKO WATANABE -- Thru Sept. 30, Kimzey Miller Gallery, 1225 2nd Ave., Mon. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun., noon - 5 p.m. Info.: 682-2339.

"TREASURES OF JAPANESE PRINTMAKING TRADITIONS" AND "JOHN TAKEHARA: ESSENCE OF CLAY" -- Thru Sept. 30, Carolyn Staley Fine Prints, 313 1st Ave. S., Tues. - Sat., 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Info: 621-1888.

"IMAGES OF ASIA: SCREENS, SCROLLS AND PAINTINGS BY ASIAN ARTISTS" -- Thru Sept. 30, Ming's Gallery, 10240 Main St., Bellevue, Mon. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun., noon - 5 p.m. Info.: 462-4008.

"SHARED DREAMS: IMAGES OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN WASHINGTON STATE" AND "KOKEI: KABUKI ACTOR PRINTS" -- "Shared Dreams" thru Oct. 15, "Kokei" thru Oct. 8, Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 7th Ave. S., Tues. - Fri., 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sat. & Sun., noon - 4 p.m. Info.: 623-5124.

CHAPTER BOARD MEETING -- Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m., Chapter office. Everyone welcome.

FIRST HILL LIONS CLUB SUKIYAKI DINNER -- Saturday, Sept. 23, 4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Blaine Memorial Methodist Church, 3001 24th Ave. S. Proceeds to scholarship fund. Tickets: \$5 adults, \$4 seniors and children 10 and under -- available from members or Glen Furuta, 453-2092 (d), 323-7729 (e); or Gary Matsudaira, 325-6555 (d), 722-0063 (e).

NICHIREN BUDDHIST CHURCH CHOW MEIN DINNER -- Sunday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., 1042 S. Weller St. Also on sale will be teriyaki chicken, imogashi, apple cobbler and other home-baked goods. Tickets: \$3.50 available from church members or at the church.

JAYS MONTHLY MEETING -- Tuesday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m., JAACL office.

DOSHI KAI MEETING -- Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m., JAACL office.

BLAINE MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH BAZAAR -- Saturday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., church social hall, 3001 24th Ave. S. There will be game booths, exhibits and sale of sushi, manju, hamburgers, hot dogs, barbecued salmon, chicken and noodles. Info.: 723-1536.

-- compiled by Ed Suguro

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