

NEWSLETTER

SEATTLE CHAPTER

FEBRUARY 1990

VOLUME 27, NO. 2

ORA Administrator talks about Redress progress

by Sam Shoji

On January 24, 1990, Bob Bratt, Administrator of the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) presented an update report on redress at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall. Although publicity was limited, more than 100 people attended the meeting, many of them representing churches and organizations, who will take the message back into the Nikkei community to assist those who have received or will receive eligibility packets in the coming months.

Bratt stated that the ORA has made 75,998 individual contacts but many duplicates still have to be screened. He hopes that redress payments will be

made by October 1, 1990 to the first 25,000 individuals eligible. The order of payment will be based on age, with the oldest receiving the first payments. According to Bratt, payments should be made to those over 68 years of age during the first year.

Although the Department of Justice is responsible for the identification of individuals who are eligible for redress, cooperation from those individuals is needed to complete the task. Many forms received by the ORA are incomplete or have not fulfilled the requirements of the Justice Department. Some problems include not having documents notarized, or failing to write a statement certifying that under the penalty of perjury, the form was signed by the legitimate applicant.

Bratt said many individuals over 85 years of age have not been contacted because they were "voluntary" evacuees, or because of lack of sufficient contact information. ORA is trying to locate these cases by contracting with a private firm.

Bratt emphasized that it is important that completed eligibility packets be returned as soon as possible so that ORA can have payments ready by October 1, or return them to the individual for additional clarification or documents. The helpline to the ORA Office in Washington D.C. is (202) 653-8360. The ORA is working to reestablish in the near future a toll-free number.

ORA staff has increased to 61 persons who handle the processing of the redress eligibility verification forms and other details. Bratt will travel to various areas throughout the country to update communities on ORA activities as well as hear from those who have special circumstances related to their redress status.

The meeting with the ORA Administrator was coordinated through the Washington Coalition on Redress, Seattle JAACL, and the Nisei Vets Committee.

Dedication of Minidoka as National Historical Site

by Bob Sato

A dedication program commemorating the Minidoka Relocation Camp as a National Historical Site is planned for May 26, 1990, as part of the Idaho Centennial Celebration.

The dedication and memorial program will take place at 11:00am at the "camp gate." The Idaho Centennial Commission, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and JAACL, Intermountain District and Pocatello/Blackfoot Chapter are jointly sponsoring the program.

Four plaques will be dedicated, listing the 74 names of nisei who were killed in action during World War II, explaining the history of the camp, officially designating the site as a National Historic Site, and listing donors. Tentative speakers include Governor Andrus,

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Chapter Focus

Day of Remembrance and Celebration of Constitutional Victory

This past year was a very eventful one for redress. By far the most important accomplishment was the passage of the entitlement bill that ensures redress payments will start on October 1990.

To celebrate this final victory to our long redress effort, the Washington Coalition for Redress and Seattle Chapter of the JACL will be sponsoring a Day of Remembrance and Celebration on Sunday, February 18, at 1:00 pm at the Nippon Kan Theatre, 628 S. Washington, Seattle.

There will be a potluck luncheon, and the Ko Kon Taiko Group will provide entertainment. Former Congressman Mike Lowry, who introduced the first redress bill in Congress, will be the guest speaker. We will also spend a moment to remember those who fought for redress, but are no longer with us.

For the potluck please bring the following dishes according to the first letter of your last name: (A-H) main dish, (I-M) salad, (N-S) rice dish, and (T-Z) dessert. Refreshments (beverages) and chow mein will be provided.

For more information call 623-5088.

—submitted by Massie Tomita and Wayne Kimura

Installation Banquet

About 260 people attended the 68th Annual Installation and Awards Banquet on Saturday, January 27 at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel and Towers. The

banquet was emceed by KING-TV Lori Matsukawa and speakers included former Congressman Mike Lowry, Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, and new President Vicki Toyohara-Mukai. The keynote speaker was Warren Furutani of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board. Gail Tanaka, Seattle JACL President-Elect presented the awards, and Cherry Kinoshita, National JACL Board Member officiated over the installation of the 1990 Seattle Chapter officers and board. Entertainment was provided by Deems Tsutakawa and his quartet playing to a slide show put together by Karen Yoshtomi, co-chair of the banquet. Crystal Tanabe was the other chairperson.

The Banquet committee included Ann Fujii, Janet Sekijima, Janice Yee, and Teri Eguchi. Thanks also to Ted Tomita, Jr. (West Coast Printing), Taku Kasuya (Japan Air Lines), Bill Shimbo (South End Florist), Dean Wong (The International Examiner), Frank Fujii, the 1989 Japanese Community Queen's Court, and JAYS/Doshi Kai.

JACL letter to ESD 121

Several JACL members attended an ESD (Education Service District) 121 Board meeting in January to hear ESD 121's response to a list of expectations submitted by JACL, including: written assurances that screening committees have minority representation, written recruitment plan, letter of reprimand to the Superintendent and Board. The ESD 121 Board

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Chapter Focus, *continued from page 2*

addressed the list by stating that they would try to integrate selection committees, and that they would not discriminate, but try to hire the most qualified candidates. In the opinion of JACL members present, ESD 121 did not present a satisfactory response. Although some minorities have been hired, they have not been in high-level positions. Mihara will draft a letter to ESD 121 Board to be presented at the next JACL Board meeting.

Donation of Japanese Books

The new Japanese Consul General of Japan, Shinsuke Hirai, donated to the Seattle JACL sixteen books about Japan written in English. This gift was presented as a gesture of good will and friendship at the annual Bonenkai (Year End Party). The Seattle JACL International Relations Committee invited Consul General Hirai and Consul Jun Yoshida to this event, attended by fifteen committee members, then-President Naomi Sanchez, then-President Elect Vicki Toyohara, and PNWDC Governor Bob Sato. Contact Ken Nakano for a list and loan-out of the the books.

National JACL President visiting Washington state

The Seattle Chapter is hosting a dinner for National JACL President Cressy Nakagawa and Grant Ujifusa from the LEC staff. The dinner will be held on Friday, February 23 at 7:00pm at the Bush Garden Restaurant. For information contact Vicki Toyohara-Mukai at 723-8323

Thanks to those who make the Newsletter possible

Thanks to the contributors who have submitted stories for the January and February newsletter; to all who helped with the January Newsletter mailing: Ron Takemura, Vicki Asakura, Gail Tanaka, Wayne Kimura, Bruce Echigoshima, Massie Tomita, Sam Shoji, and Dale Watanabe; and to Sandra Jervey, of SJ Services, for maintaining the membership database and generating the newsletter mailing labels.

Congratulations to the new 1990 officers and board of directors, who were sworn in at the banquet. The new officers are: Vicki Toyohara-Mukai, *President*; Gail Tanaka, *President-elect*; Dale Watanabe, *1st Vice president*; Vicki Asakura, *2nd Vice president*; Tim Otani, *3rd Vice president*; David Hoekendorf, *4th Vice president*; May Namba, *Corresponding secretary*; Janice Yee, *Recording secretary*; Raymond Ishii, *Treasurer*; May Sasaki, *Historian*; and Naomi Iwata Sanchez, *Board delegate*.

The new Board of Directors include: Shea Aoki; Joy Sakamoto-Barker; Bruce Echigoshima; Ann Fujii; Tim Gojio; Sharon Harada; Rumi Hashimoto; Scott Hashimoto; Ayako Hurd; Chuck Kato; Wayne Kimura; Aki Kurose; Gary Maehara; Hana Masuda; Darrell Mihara; Ben Nakagawa; Daren Nakagawa; Ken Nakano; Rose Ogino; Arlene Oki; David Okimoto; Cheryl Ooka; Jerome Roché; Bob Sato; Sam Shoji; Steven Tanaka; and Massie Tomita.

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Community Notes

Tomo-no-kai

At the January Tomo-no-kai meeting, the following officers were elected for 1990: Co-chairpersons: Hana Kato and Tama Murotani; Treasurer: Toshi Pigeon; Social Chairperson: Mel Sato; Newsletter: Mike Murakami; Support: Sally Kazama and Terri Akada; Telephone: Chiz Hirahira; Refreshments: Shea Aoki; Historian: Massie Tomita; and Membership: Kimi Nakanishi. The Tomo-no-kai installation banquet was held onn February 9, at the South Seattle Community College.

Taiko Workshop

The Kokon Taiko Ensemble will hold a taiko drumming workshop on Sunday, February 25, from 4pm-8pm, at the group's practice space on Capitol Hill. The hands-on workshop is designed for beginners and will cover the basics of Japanese American drumming technique, history, and philosophy.

All participants must preregister, be at least 16 years old, and be able to engage in a fairly strenuous activity. Cost for the workshop is \$12 and class size is limited. For more information call 329-4148.

—submitted by Joyce Nakamura

Blaine United Methodist Church Annual Sukiyaki Dinner

The annual Sukiyaki Dinner at the Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church, 3001-24th Avenue S., will be held on Saturday, March 3, from 4:00pm until

7:00pm (take-out starts at 3:30pm). Other Japanese food and baked goods will also be available. Dine before 5:00 to be eligible for a door prize!

The program will feature a bonsai display by Mr. James Nakahara, a Japanese doll display by Ms. Michiko Ono, and the showing of Japanese videos. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for 70 & over and 11 & under. For more information, call 723-1536.

JACL Scholarships

Are you a graduating senior, undergraduate, or graduate student? Do you know anyone fitting those categories? If so, you'll want to know that National JACL and the Seattle Chapter are offering a variety of scholarships to qualified individuals.

The deadline for the National JACL scholarships is March 9 for high-school seniors and April 1 for college students. For applications, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Seattle Chapter JACL Office at 316 Maynard Avenue S., Seattle WA, 98104. If you have any questions, call Dale Watanabe at (206) 722-2275, evenings.

Security Pacific Bank/Seattle Urban League Minority Scholarship Award

Security Pacific Bank and the Metropolitan Seattle Urban League are sponsoring the second annual Minority Scholarship Award. This scholarship is awarded to juniors in high school, so that students

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Community Notes, continued from page 4

can plan a course of study and research the schools they want to attend. The assistance of a college counselling service is also available to Scholarship Award winners.

A four-year undergraduate scholarship pays up to \$2,000 per year for four years at any accredited college or university in Washington. The deadline for applications is April 3. For applications, contact the Metropolitan Seattle Urban League, 105 - 14th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122 or call 461-3792.

Leadership Forum '90

The Leadership Advisory Committee, JACL, and Asian MBA Breakfast Roundtable Series will feature Rita Brogan, President & Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Rim Resources. Ms. Brogan will speak at the March 8 breakfast meeting at 7:30am at the Harbor Club in the Norton Building, 801 Second Avenue, 17th Floor.

Ms Brogan is an enterprising and experienced leader in project management, communications, marketing and research. She has an excellent reputation for developing creative strategies to redirect organizations in transition. With her long history of involvement in the Asian American community, she has developed a special sensitivity.

Seating is extremely limited, so make your reservations early by calling the JACL District Office at 623-5088 no later than March 5, 1990. The cost will be \$15.00 and includes a continental breakfast.

Japan Times now available at Seattle Public Library

The main branch of the Seattle Public Library, Newspaper Section, has begun compiling monthly collections of the Japan Times. The Japan Times is the most authoritative English-language newspapers in Japn. Anyone interested in the Japanese reactions to events can now easily refer to the Japan Times.

—submitted by Ken Nakano

Minority and Justice Task Force publications available

Seattle JACL has received copies of the recently released Washington State Minority and Justice Task Force *Progress Report* and *Review of 1988 Public Forums on Racial/Ethnic Bias in the State Court System*.

The progress report includes information about the Task force and its activities: the 1989 Court Demographic Survey, designed to identify the number of minorities employed by the court system and their occupational positions; a Bar Membership Survey, designed to provide a profile of minority and non-minority attorneys practicing in Washington State; support of a certification program for language interpreters in the courts.

The review includes analysis and transcripts from the statewide public forums focussing on ten main issues: language barriers, bias within the legal system, minority employees in the legal system, minority sentences and treatment, underrepresentation of minorities in jury pools, complaints against law enforcement, need for cultural awareness programs, courtroom interaction between minorities and non-minorities, representation of minorities by public defenders, and minority victims of crime.



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Calendar of events

—compiled by Ed Suguro

Free weekly ballroom dance session — every Wednesday, 12:30–2:30pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St. For information call Mike, 772-1160.

Asian Management Business Association's first annual charity auction — Saturday, February 17, SeaTac Marriott Hotel, Evergreen Ballroom, 3201 So. 176th. Doors open at 6pm. \$35 per person, proceeds to Keiro and Kin On Nursing Homes and AMBA scholarship fund. Tickets/reservations: Elaine Kitamura, 285-2295 or Tim Lee, 575-6711.

Day of Remembrance and celebration of constitutional victory — Sunday, February 18, 1–4pm, Nippon Kan Theatre, 628 So. Washington St., sponsored by WCRedress and JACL. Potluck, everyone welcome. For more information, see article in Chapter Focus and/or call Massie Tomita, 722-0496.

Chapter board meeting — Wednesday, February 21, 7pm, Chapter office. Everyone welcome.

Dinner for National JACL President and LEC director — Friday, February 23, 7pm, Bush Garden. Information: Vicki Toyohara-Mukai, 723-8323.

Taiko Ensemble drumming workshop — Sunday, February 25, 4–8pm. Preregistration required, \$12 fee. For more information, see article in Community Notes and/or call 329-4148.

Annual Sukiyaki Dinner — Saturday, March 3, 4–7pm, Blaine Memorial Methodist Church, 3001 - 24th Ave. So. Tickets \$6, over 70 or under 11 \$4. For more information see article in Community Notes.

Seattle First Hill Lion's Club pancake breakfast — Sunday, March 4, 7:30am–1:00pm, Kawabe Memorial House, 221 18th Ave. S. Donation \$5, seniors \$3. To benefit Keiro Nursing Home and Kawabe Memorial House.

JAYs monthly meeting — Tuesday, March 6, 7pm, Chapter office.

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Doshi Kai dinner meeting — Wednesday, March 7, 6:30pm. Information: Wayne Kimura, 869-5274.

Leadership Forum breakfast roundtable with Rita Brogan — Thursday, March 8, 7:30am–9am, Harbor Club, 801-2nd Avenue, 17th floor. Tickets: \$15, deadline March 5. Reservations: 623-5088. See article in Community Notes for more information.

Executive board meeting — Monday, March 12, 6pm, Chapter office.

Newsletter mailout — Wednesday, March 14, 6pm, Chapter office.

Nippon Kan Heritage Association Celebration of Spring — Saturday, March 17, 7:30pm, Nippon Kan Theatre, 628 S. Washington St. More info in March newsletter. Tickets: \$8, seniors/students, \$5; free for 75 and over. Information: 624-8801.

First Hill Lions Club Sonics Night (Sonics vs. San Antonio Spurs) — Tuesday, March 20, 8:00pm. Tickets \$18 per person. Information: Bob Norikane (day) 547-1506, eve 524-7393.

Minidoka, continued from page 1

Senators McCure and Symms of Idaho, JACL National President Cressy Nakagawa and PNW Governor Bob Sato. Nisei veterans from Washington and Oregon will perform color guard honors.

The Blackfoot/Pocatello Chapter of the JACL will help participants to make arrangements for accommodations in Jackpot, Utah (about 45 miles from Minidoka). JACL is also planning to charter a bus for transportation to the Minidoka site for the ceremonies. In the evening of May 26, JACL will be sponsoring a banquet in Jackpot, with Roy Clark providing entertainment.

For more information, to make reservations, or to make a contribution to the Minidoka Memorial Fund, contact Bob Sato (206) 742-7824, Hid Hasegawa (208) 529-1529, or Hero Shiosaki (208) 785-2157.

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The Seattle Chapter JACL 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 Holly Yasui, P.O. Box 75272, Seattle, WA 98125.

— Editor Holly Yasui

Japanese American Citizens League

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