

J A C L

NEWSLETTER

SEATTLE CHAPTER

MARCH 1990

VOLUME 27, NO.3

Message from the President

Vicki Toyohara-Mukai

Although only two months have passed in my term as president, much has taken place. The Pacific Northwest District Council met on February 3-4 in Olympia. On Saturday evening, the Olympia Chapter hosted a dinner honoring State Representative Gary Locke and Art Wang for their work on redress issues in Washington state.

Many agenda items were discussed during Sunday's business meeting. One of the most important issues discussed was the upcoming 31st Biennial National JACL Convention to be held in San Diego June 17-23. The convention gives JACLers across the country an opportunity to attend thought-provoking workshops, enjoy fun activities, meet old and new JACL friends. The presence of the Seattle Chapter is always evident at the conventions, not only because of the number of attendees but also because of the issues we raise concerning our Nikkei community. I strongly encourage our Seattle Chapter members to attend and support the 1990 National JACL Convention.

The Day of Remembrance program took place on February 18 at Nippon Kan Theatre. Despite icy streets, attendance was good. Mike Lowry was the keynote speaker, and a ceremony commemorating

those who have not lived to see the victory of redress was emotional but uplifting.

On February 23, the Seattle Chapter hosted a dinner at the Bush Garden Restaurant for National JACL President Cressy Nakagawa and LEC Strategist Grant Ujifusa. The Seattle, Lake Washington, Olympia, and Puyallup Valley Chapters and the PNW District office were represented. Nakagawa and Ujifusa applauded the redress efforts by the Chapters. Both guests also stressed the importance of a national organization and the need for JACL to now address other issues of concern for Japanese Americans.

Along with the many events taking place, I recently received notice that the Seattle Chapter must relocate our office by June 1, 1990. The office move will be a major undertaking, and has become our top priority. Fourth vice-president Tim Otani has agreed to chair this project for us. Currently the Executive Committee is conducting a search for our new home. Once we select an office site, we will be contacting you and asking for your assistance.

The Board and I appreciate your continued support of and interest in the Seattle JACL chapter. I hope that we hear from some of you and perhaps see you at our Board meetings and chapter events. Our chapter has remained strong and effective because of you, our members.

Regional Office to provide redress assistance

In order to provide redress assistance and outreach to individuals in the community, the Pacific Northwest District regional office will establish itself as an assistance center. The regional office will assume the responsibility for the compilation and dissemination of information from the ORA throughout the district.

Educational workshops will be set up for the community in order to facilitate the verification process and to discuss issues related to inquiries that

arise as a result of the ORA processing program. Efforts will be made to conduct these workshops beginning in late March. The regional office will also work with area LEC coordinators to keep their constituents informed about redress updates.

If you have any questions or would like a workshop set up for your group or organization, please feel free to contact Karen Yoshitomi at the Pacific Northwest District regional office at (206) 623-4088.

Chapter Focus

JACL College Scholarships

A reminder that all chapter and national scholarship applications must be submitted to the Seattle Chapter or postmarked no later than April 1, 1990. The Seattle Chapter has four scholarships available to graduating highschool seniors and current college students. Please call Scholarship Chair, Jerome Roaché at 283-0243 if you have any questions.

Camp Minidoka Dedication Ceremony

submitted by Vicki Toyohara-Mukai

I encourage all Seattle-area JACLers, family, and friends to attend the Minidoka Dedication Ceremony on Saturday, May 26th, at the former camp site.

Puyallup Valley Chapter President H. Del Tanabe has chartered a bus to transport people in the Puget Sound area who are interested in attending. The bus will leave the day before the event on Friday May 25, and return on the evening of Saturday May 26. The bus will pick up Seattle participants at the Buddhist Church, 1427 S. Main, at 6:00am. Round trip bus fare is \$60 per person. Lodging accommodations are not included. To make reservations, please contact Tanabe at 1-922-5524.

National JACL Support Fund Sweepstakes

Since 1980, JACL has conducted its Support Fund Sweepstakes in conjunction with the biennial convention. A \$50 contribution to the Support Fund entitles you to one entry certificate with an opportunity to win cash prizes.

This year's cash awards will be one Grand Prize of \$5,000 and ten \$1,000 prizes. Since there are only 2500 certificates, the chances of winning are high. Drawing for the winners will be at the Sayonora banquet in San Diego on June 22.

Please join the Seattle Chapter officers and board in our effort to support the programs and operation of the national organization. Purchase a sweepstake certificate by yourself or with a group of friends. Remember, the number of entries is limited, so don't wait! Contact Seattle Chapter president Vicki Toyohara-Mukai at 723-8323

Thanks!

Thanks to the February newsletter mail-out crew: Shea Aoki, Rose Ogino, Vicki Toyohara-Mukai, Sam Shoji, Wayne Kimura, Ben Nakagawa, and Mako Nakagawa.

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Officer/Board profiles

by Ann Fujii

VICKI TOYOHARA-MUKAI

Vicki Toyohara-Mukai, president, was born in Oxnard, California, a small farming community north of Los Angeles, and came to Seattle in 1954. She is the oldest of four children. Vicki recently married Spokane native Donald Mukai, an attorney for U.S. West.

Vicki has been an assistant district attorney for the City of Seattle Attorney's office for seven years, 3 of those as a criminal prosecutor in the criminal division, and before that, in the civil division. She currently prosecutes criminal misdemeanors, including domestic violence and child abuse cases.

She has been involved in JACL since 1981 when she was a member of the legal affirmative action committee. Since then she has been a recording secretary, 4th vice president, 1st vice president, and last year, president-elect.

Vicki is very active not only in the Asian community but also the community at large. She is currently a member of the Washington State Minority and Justice Task Force, which is studying racial bias in our state courts. She is also a member of the Metro Center YMCA Board, and she and her family are members of the Blaine Memorial Methodist Church.

Things that are important to her are being close to her family and relatives, and taking boating lessons with her husband so she can maneuver their 23-foot Searay. She also loves to downhill ski, and fish, as well as read and play the piano, which she started in junior high school. She would like to travel to Japan, and return to Europe, where she visited in 1987. She is a wine collector and has been a member of a wine society for 7 years.

GAIL TANAKA

Gail Tanaka is president-elect, but for many years, she was the person who kept the "books balanced" for the Seattle Chapter. Gail was born on Vashon Island and she has lived in Seattle for most of her life.

Gail received her BA degree from Evergreen College and her Masters in Social Work from the University of Washington. She has worked for nearly a year for the Comprehensive Health Education Foundation. She is a data analyst policy advisor, in

the area of assessment planning for health education.

Gail's hobbies include traveling, weaving, and growing orchids. She visited Japan in 1985, Thailand in 1988 ("it reminded me of Japan because of the rice fields), and plans to go to Nepal this year. Last fall she went to Indonesia, where bad weather kept them from going into the jungle. This is a country right on the equator, where it was almost 90 degrees every day and very humid. A personal goal of Gail's is "to climb Mt. Rainier after I'm 40!"

AYAKO HURD

Ayako Hurd, a board member, is probably best known for her efficiency and organization in putting together so many of the chapter's installation banquets. Without her bookkeeping and invaluable knowledge, things would surely have fallen apart!

Ayako was born in Fife, Washington. She lived in Los Angeles for 12 years, then spent 30 years living and working in a town 50 miles north of Chicago. She then returned to Washington, first residing in South Bend, then Seattle.

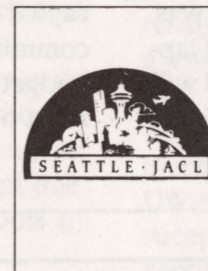
Ayako's involvement in JACL started in Fife, and she is still a charter member of the Valley JACL. She attended the first National JACL Convention in Seattle in 1930, as well.

Since retiring from the "installation banquet circuit," Ayako and her husband Lee have kept themselves busy. She's taking computer classes at North Seattle Community College, along with her organ lessons. Her current project is finishing writing her family history. She went to Japan for two weeks in October to gather information, discovering that her mother comes from a "high" samurai family, and her father came to Fife in 1898. She hopes to finish it in about a year-and-a-half. Ayako says this a goal of hers, "something I've always wanted to do for my children."

NAOMI IWATA SANCHEZ

Naomi Iwata Sanchez is a board delegate. Naomi was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. She is very devoted to her family. She lives with her husband,

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Community Notes

Nisei Vets Installation Banquet

The Nisei Vets Installation Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 17, 1990 at the Rainier Golf and Country Club. Cocktails begin at 6:00pm and dinner at 7:00pm. For information, please contact Yoshito Mizuta at 722-5763 or George Yamane at 362-7302.

Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival

The theme for the 15th Annual Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival is "To Eat/Speak/Taste." The festival takes place at the Seattle Center on April 6, 7, and 8 (see Calendar of Events).

A street of shops, *nakamise*, will feature different tastes for the palate. There will also be demonstrations (tea ceremony, ikebana, etc.), craft displays, information booths, a children's corner, koto and taiko music, and more.

The festival is one of the largest in Seattle. It was established to promote greater understanding of Japanese traditions and culture, and to foster good will between the people of Japan and Washington State.

Asian Counseling and Referral Services receives funding commitment from House

State funding for the Asian Counseling and Referral Services' (ACRS) new center on south Jackson Street has been included in the House of Representatives 1990 capital budget bill. The ACRS is a nonprofit organization serving Seattle's Asian/Pacific community with multicultural and multilingual mental health and social services. More than 20,000 meals are served annually, and nearly half of its clients have family incomes below \$5,000.

Representative Gary Locke has been instrumental in the inclusion of \$100,000 for ACRS in the House budget. Contrary to the "model minority" stereotype of Asians quickly climbing educational and economic ladders, Locke notes that many members of our community face problems of daily survival.

Since the state Senate has passed a different 1990 capital budget bill, a joint House-Senate conference committee must work out a compromise on the budget before the legislature's scheduled adjournment on March 8.

Community Notes, *continued from page 4*

Teaching Japanese by satellite reported by Ken Nakano

Many Japanese Americans remember learning Japanese in Japanese community language schools when we were the only ones studying kana and kanji. Today, Japan's success in the global economy has created great interest in offering Japanese language courses in high schools and colleges. Educational institutions in urban areas have hired Japanese teachers, but until recently, students in rural areas have been unable to take such courses.

The Satellite Telecommunication Education Program (STEP) is now utilizing the high-technology of satellite television transmission to bring Japanese courses to over 400 students in Washington, Alaska, California, Kansas, Oregon, and Canada. The instructor, Ms. Atsumi Tsukimori McCauley is a graduate of Seijou University in Tokyo and Gonzaga University in Spokane. She holds both Japanese and Washington State teaching certificates.

The STEP Japanese course consists of 40-minute lessons Monday through Thursday. STEP students can reach Professor Tsukimori McCauley during the evenings for 4-hour "office hours" via an 800 phone number. The instructor visits different schools in person on Fridays.

For more information about the STEP program, contact Mr. Ted Roscher, Education Service District 101, West 1025 Indiana Avenue, Spokane, WA 99205; telephone (509) 536-0141.

Center for Career Alternatives Annual Dinner

The CCA held its 10th Annual Dinner on February 9 at the Seattle Trade Center. The celebration, which was attended by over 350 people, recognized the agency's numerous accomplishments during the past decade.

The keynote speaker was Mayor Norm Rice, who emphasized the need for private business to actively identify and hire economically-disadvantaged ethnic minority youths and adults. The program also included a presentation by a current participant who described how CCA has helped her and her family in their job search and employment. Six businesses were given special awards for providing CCA participants with employment opportunities.

Japanese American Diabetes Study

The diabetes study conducted at the University of Washington by Dr. Wilfred Fujimoto, has released its results. The sample of more than 400 nisei men had a rate of diabetes 4 times higher than Japanese nationals and 2 times higher than white Americans.

Diabetes is largely genetically based, but environmental factors clearly have important influences. The UW researchers posit that ethnic Japanese are more susceptible to diabetes than whites. While this susceptibility is kept under control in Japan by a low-fat diet, here in the U.S., with a high-fat diet, diabetes rates soar. The researchers are also studying the effect of stress and childhood nurturing upon the incidence of the disease.



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Calendar of events

compiled by Ed Suguro

Free weekly ballroom dance session—every Wednesday, 12:30–2:30pm, Nisei Veterans Memorial Hall, 1212 S. King St.

Mixed media sculpture, works on paper and video by Norie Sato—through April 1, Linda Farris Gallery, 322 2nd Ave. S., Tuesday–Saturday, 11:30am–5:00pm, Sunday 1:00–5:00pm.

Nisei Veteran's Installation Banquet—Saturday, March 17, 6pm, Rainier Golf and Country Club.

Chapter board meeting—Wednesday, March 21, 7:00pm, Chapter office. Everyone welcome.

TV premier of Phillip Kan Gotanda's film *The Wash*—Wednesday, March 21, 8:00pm, KCTS-TV, channel 9. (Also repeated Sunday, March 25, 4:00pm).

Seattle premier of *Laserman*, a film by Wayne Wang. Benefit for the *International Examiner*—Thursday, March 22, 7pm, Metro Cinema, admission \$6. For advance tickets call the *International Examiner*, 624-3925.

Poetry reading by former Seattlite Mitsuye Yamada—Tuesday, March 27, 7:30pm, Elliot Bay Books, 101 S. Main St. Tickets \$3, available at Elliot Bay Books.

Scholarship applications, Seattle Chapter and National JACL—due April 1!

Ohara School of Ikebana flower arrangement demonstration by Mutuo Tomita—Sunday, April 1, 2:00–4:00pm, Bellevue Holiday Inn, Evergreen Point Room, 11211 Main St. Admission \$10. Tickets/info: Nobuko Shimada, 524-5593, or Sumiko Nishimura, 725-4251.

JAYs monthly meeting—Tuesday, April 3, 7:00pm, chapter office.

Doshi Kai dinner meeting—Wednesday, April 4, 6:30pm. Call Wayne Kimura, 869-5174, for name and address of restaurant.

Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival—Friday and Saturday, April 6 and 7, 10am–9pm; Sunday April 8, 10am–6pm, Seattle Center.

Executive board meeting—Monday, April 9, 6:00pm, chapter office.

Newsletter mailout—Wednesday, April 11, 6:00pm, chapter office.

Annual Bonsai Exhibit sponsored by Seattle Japanese Bonsai Club—Saturday, April 14, 11am–5pm and Sunday April 15, 10am–4pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St. Admission free. Information: 525-3242.

Monthly Ballroom Dance for Nikkei—Saturday, April 14, 8–11:30pm at the Nisei Vets Memorial Hall,

Calendar, *continued from page 6*

1212 S. King St. Admission \$2 per person. For information: 772-1160.

Ladies Musical Club Concert by Japanese Canadian pianist Jon Kimura Parker—Monday, April 16, 8:00pm, UW Meany Hall. Tickets: general \$16, seniors/students \$9, from Musictik, 728-6411.

Asian Management Business Association's First Annual Charity Auction (rescheduled from previ-

ous date because of snow)—Saturday, April 28, SeaTac Marriott Hotel, Evergreen Ballroom, 3201 S. 176th. Doors open 6:00pm. Tickets \$6 per person, proceeds to Keiro and Kin On Nursing Homes and AMBA scholarship fund. Tickets/reservations: Elaine Kitamura, 285-2296, or Tim Lee, 575-6711.

Camp Minidoka Historical Site Dedication Ceremony—Saturday, May 26, 11am, Minidoka, Idaho. See story under Chapter Focus.

Officer/Board profiles

continued from page 3

Jesus, and son, Philip, and her mother Miyo in their home in Kirkland.

Naomi started as a junior JACler. She worked her way up the ranks to become last year's president. Since August of 1989, she has been the Deputy Secretary Regional Representative for the U.S. Department of Education. In this position, Naomi does public policy work for the secretary of education.

Naomi loves to read and her favorite book is the Bible "because there is so much information one can apply to life." A goal of hers is to "enjoy my son as he grows up."

CHERYL OOKA

Cheryl Ooka is a board member. Cheryl was born in Ellensburg, Washington, and came to Seattle in 1975 to attend the University of Washington, where she received a BA in social work.

Cheryl initially became involved in JACL three years ago helping out with the installation banquet. She currently works for the City of Seattle's Conservation Corp as a program supervisor. The project provides a six-month work training program for homeless adults in Seattle. After that training, the Corps helps them find permanent jobs.

Cheryl enjoys gardening—both flowers and vegetables—and bicycling. She likes working for the city and would like to try other areas. Since she is getting married this summer, she would like to have a family, as well as a career. And when she gets the time in between all that, she says that she would also like to travel.

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The Seattle Chapter JAACL 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

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