J A C L

NEWSLETTER

SEATTLE CHAPTER

JUNE 1990

VOLUME 27, NO. 6

Chapter office to move — volunteers needed

During the month of June, the Seattle Chapter JACL office will be moving to the Japanese Language School at 1414 So. Weller Street. We will be leaving our current space at 316 Maynard Ave. S. for the new site during the entire month.

The new space is in need of extensive renovations and we are actively seeking volunteers who are willing to lend a hand in getting our new office ready. Of special need are people who have electrical, construction, and plumbing skills to contribute to this effort. In addition, we need help in cleaning the new and old offices as well as people who can contribute some muscle in moving and fixing items.

The Japanese Language School is an important and historical site in the Nikkei community. So when the opportunity presented itself, the Board of the Seattle Chapter agreed it would be the ideal place to establish an office site. We are looking forward to making improvements at the school, and encourage everyone to join in this community project.

If you are interested in helping, please contact: Vicki Toyohara-Mukai (723-8323, eves & msgs.) or Tim Otani (781-8223, days). This will be the largest project for our chapter since we hosted the National JACL Conference in 1988! Be sure to be a part of this exciting project. Call today! We need your help.

Minidoka National Historical Site dedication

by Bob Sato and Holly Yasui

We came from the Puget Sound area, from the Puyallup Valley, from Portland and Spokane, from the Columbia River valleys; we came from towns in eastern and mid-Washington and Oregon — Moses Lake, South Bend, and Ontario; we came from the metropolises of Los Angeles, Denver, and Salt Lake City. Issei, nisei, sansei, and yonsei: in some ways it was like a *kenjinkai* — except the *ken* was not a prefecture in Japan. The *ken*, our tie, was Minidoka, a concentration camp in the bleak desert of South Central Idaho where some 10,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were imprisoned from August 16, 1942 until October 26, 1945.

An estimated 600–700 people gathered under the grey skies, by the "camp gate" of Minidoka. The rushing waters of the irrigation canal provided the only relief in a vast, bleak landscape. Nothing but nubs of sage marked the dusty, dry flatlands. Today, only the gate, the guard tower, and traces of a Japanese garden remain. Flagstones carefully embedded in the ground lead up a small hillock to nowhere.

For some of us, it was the first time we had set foot on that soil. For others, it was a return after many, many years. For all, it was a pilgrimage to pay our respects to those who suffered, endured, and overcame — and to those who died in battle, during the war, and after. We came to learn, to remember, and to reaffirm our faith in community. Among the many Japanese faces were several black and white faces, reminding us that this piece of American history belongs to all of us.

The ceremonies began with acknowledgements to those who made possible the dedication of Minidoka as a National Historical Site. Sponsored by the Pocatello-Blackfoot Chapter JACL and the JACL Intermountain District Council, the eight-year project involved the assistance and cooperation of U.S. Senator Frank Church, the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation, the Idaho State Historical Society, the Idaho Centennial Commission, and Idaho Power Supply.

continued on next page

Chapter Focus

Minidoka, continued from front page

As a cold drizzle began to fall, umbrellas sprouted, jackets were pulled over heads, and people in the standingroom-only periphery huddled closer. During World War II, over a thousand young people volunteered from Minidoka to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. Seventy-three were killed in action. The monument itself was unveiled. Goldstar mother, Mrs. Oito Takehara of the Puyallup Valley, laid a bouquet upon it, for her son Shoichi Takehara. Bob Mizukami, brother of William Mizukami, and Charles Kinoshita, brother of Francis Kinoshita joined her. The names of the 73 war dead were recited, and the local teenagers of the Jerome County Centennial Band played Taps in the desert rain. Proud in their uniforms, Seattle veterans Dr. John Uno and Tosh Uno participated in the retiring of colors.

After the ceremonies, people gathered around the monument, taking snapshots, reading the inscription, and pointing at different parts of the map, then into the empty desert: "Barrack 36, over there — that's where we lived"... "Barrack 42, we were lucky, we were near the mess hall,"... "Barrack 27. I'll never forget." People stood in front of the Gold Star Honor Roll quietly.

As a very tragic and sorrowful afternote, Tosh "Jack" Uno, his wife Micky Uno and brother Dr. John Uno, died in a car accident enroute home. John's wife Pat survived. Our hearts and prayers are extended to Pat and the entire Uno family.

NOTICE: contacting the JACL office

The office telephone answering machine has disappeared. Until we have a new phone number and an answering machine (as will be announced in this newsletter), please call President Vicki Toyohara-Mukai on any JACL business at: 723-8323 (evenings, day messages). Your patience and understanding is appreciated.

Tomo no kai cruise

The two-hour *Tomo no kai* cruise on Elliott Bay is set for Thursday, July 26, at 11:30am. The boat will leave from Pier 70, 2819 Elliott Ave. The cost of tickets is \$16.90, which includes lunch, tax, and tip. Please send checks by June 23 to Mel Sato, 5321 24th Ave. S., Seattle 98108 or to Pauline Asaba, 11226 57th Ave. S., Seattle 98178.

Seattle JACL 1000 Club Golf Tournament

JACL members and nonmembers are invited to join us on July 29, 1990 at the West Seattle Golf Course (12 noon) and Jefferson Park Golf Course (1:30pm). The entry deadline is July 15. Prizes will be awarded at the dinner at the Bush Garden (cocktails at 6:00pm, dinner at 7:00pm). The cost for the tournament and dinner is \$25; for dinner only, the cost is \$16. Please fill out the form below.

Volunteers to help the golf tournament committee are urgently needed. Please call Bob Sato (742-0784) or Kivo Sakahara (526-5009).

Annual Seattle JACL 1000 Club Golf Tournament ENTRY FORM Name: Address: City: State: Zip: Telephone number (indicate day or eves/weekends): Expected June 30, 1990 hdcp No hdcp Golf partners you wish to play with 1000 Club member Amount enclosed: dinner & golf Please return by July 15 to Hiro Nagasawa, 14209 NE 75th, Redmond, WA 98052 (phone: 885-9455). Please make checks payable to: Seattle JACL Golf Committee

Officer/Board profiles

by Ann Fujii

SHEA AOKI

Shea has been involved in JACL since she was 19 years old, and it's where she met her husband, Jiro, who passed away about 6 years ago. Shea was born in Troutdale, Oregon, and graduated from a design/alterations school in Portland. She was married in Seattle in 1940. Shea and Jiro ran a cleaners/alterations business in Seattle for 28 years.

Shea has volunteered for seven years at Keiro Nursing Home, is a founding member of *Tomo no kai*, and a lifetime member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. She is active in the women's group of Seattle Lion's Club, and with the Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival. Between all those activities, she still works part-time doing alterations for Winter's Formalwear.

Shea has worked on numerous JACL projects including the 60th anniversary dinner, the JACL photo history, and the endowment program. She has the distinction of having attended *all* the JACL conventions (and of course, she'll be in San Diego this year!) In August, she'll attend the 50th anniversary of the Girls Culture Group, a social club for Nisei women who met at the Portland YWCA before WWII.

Shea has a daughter who is an elementary school teacher in Bellevue, and is the proud grandmother of 2 girls. She would like to write a history of her husband Jiro, who left her with a great deal of research material.

ARLENE OKI

Arlene was born in Los Angeles and raised in Spokane after WWII, and has lived in Seattle since 1962 — the year of the World's Fair. She has been involved in JACL since 1975.

Arlene has worked for the city for thirteen years, since Charles Royer's administration. She currently works for the Department of Human Resources as a human services analyst. Her duties include coordinating department legislative work, releasing public information, working with special populations such as refugees, and monitoring block grants for the city. She has also worked on access and outreach for the Supplemental Security Insurance Program, the earned income tax credit, and is a member of the Mayor's Task Force on the Homeless.

Outside of work, Arlene has become a gardener, out of necessity, she says! She also writes, when she can, for both the *International Examiner* and the

Northwest Nikkei. She is has 3 daughters, ages 27, 28 and 29, all in Seattle, and is the grandmother of twins, a boy and a girl, who are a year old.

TIM GOJIO

Tim is a Seattle native, the youngest of three children, including an older brother and sister. He attended Cleveland High School and graduated from the UW law school in 1980. Tim has worked for King County since 1985 and recently moved to the county's Parks and Planning Resources Department, where he works on special projects for the director.

Tim was previously an assistant to the County Executive, Tim Hill. He has been involved in JACL, off and on he says, for four or five years. For the past three years he has been the JACL representative to the Keiro Nursing Home.

Tim enjoys classical music and has skiied for over 20 years. This year he was a volunteer instructor for a program called "Ski for All," a nonprofit group that teachers the disabeled how to ski. He says he enjoyed doing it and plans to participate in the program again next year.

For three years, Tim has been a member of the Seattle Chamber Singers. In his other theatrical pursuits, Tim has appeared in the Northshore/Shoreline Civic Theatre's production of the "Music Man" and is scheduled to perform in "Fiddler on the Roof," in which he will play a rabbi! Looking ahead, Tim would like to continue his work in public service.

DARRELL MIHARA

Darrell has been involved with JACL since 1986. He is a Seattle native, graduated from Garfield High School and received his degree in Business Administration from the UW in 1972. Darrell is currently division chair for the Culinary Arts Program at North Seattle Community College. He was previously the Executive Director of the Employment Opportunities Center.

Darrell resides on Bainbridge Island, where he says he enjoys lots of peace and quiet. He is married, and enjoys spending time with his two daughters, 6 and 8 years old. Looking ahead, Darrell says he plans to get more involved in his new job, and down the road, he may use his hospitality background and open a restaurant.

Community Notes

Seattle Japanese Community Queen Scholarship

The Greater Seattle Japanese Community Queen Scholarship Pageant was held on May 26, 1990 at the Bellevue Red Lion. Tina Hirayama, 19, a freshman at the University of Washington, won the crown as Miss Japanese Community Queen for 1990. Mutual Fish Co. was Tina's sponsor. Along with the title, Tina will receive \$3,300 in scholarships, two round-trip tickets to Japan, a round-trip ticket to Brazil, and several other prizes. She will represent the community in the upcoming Miss Seafair Pageant and will visit the San Francisco and Los Angeles Nikkei communities.

Reeka Ninomiya, a student at the University of Washington, was selected as First Princess. She was sponsored by Rainbow Management. Grace Nakagawa (sponsored by Sushi Kei Restaurant), Christine Shigaki (sponsored by Uwajimaya), and Juli Terao (sponsored by Sekisui House America) became princesses of the 1990 court.

The judging panel consisted of Seattle JACL President Vicki Toyohara-Mukai; Penny Fukui, 1961 Japanese Community Princess; Cynthia Turback, 1969 Miss Seafair; and Amit Shah of Shah Safari.

ACRS offers Vocational English course

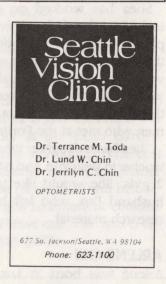
The Asian Counseling and Referral Service is offering a course for persons with limited English speaking ability. Transportation costs are paid, and there is no charge for this training. For more information, contact Chip Tan at 461-8414 or 461-3606.

History of Japanese in Alaska

Sylvia Kobayashi of Kobayashi Enterprises in Anchorage, Alaska, is seeking information about Japanese immigration to Alaska. She is working on an oral history, and has requested help from the Seattle JACL in locating people who have stories they might share with her. If you have information or knowledge of people with information about Japanese immigration and settlement in Alaska, please write to: Sylvia Kobayashi, Kobayashi Enterprises, 3437 Stanford Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508.

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Calendar of events

Compiled by Ed Suguro

Free weekly ballroom dance sessions — every Wed, 1-3pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St. Info: 772-1160.

Sculptural works by Gerard Tsutakawa—through Aug. 26, Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 Seventh Ave. S., Tues-Fri from 11am-4:30pm, Sat-Sun from noon-4pm. Info: 623-5124.

Chapter board meeting — Wilton ne 20, 7pm, Japanese Language School, CANCELLED ne 20, 7pm, Weller St.

Deadline for buying tickets for Tomo no kai cruise, "Spirit of Puget Sound" — Sat, June 23. See story in Chapter Focus.

In the Spirit of Cooperation documentary — Mon, June 25, 8pm, KCTS Channel 9 film about the work of American and Japanese Peace Corps and Overseas Cooperation volunteers in villages of Ghana.

Discovery Group meeting, Dr. Yasuko Takezawa on Nikkei in the American community — Wed, June 27, 12 noon, Blaine Methodist Church, 3001 24th Ave. S. No admission charge; brown bag lunch. Info: 723-1536.

Doshi Kai dinner meeting—Tues, July 3, 6:30pm. Call Wayne Kimura, 869-5174 for name and address of restaurant.

continued on next page





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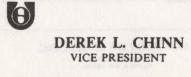


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OFFICEMPORIUM

Calendar, continued from page 5

Seattle Keiro Benefit Dinner — Mon, July 9, 4pm-9pm, sponsored by Perry Ko's South China restaurant, 2714 Beacon Ave. S. Tickets: \$8, available at Seattle Keiro, 1601 E. Yesler Way, or South China Restaurant. For info: 323-7100.

Grand Kabuki Theatre of Japan — Thurs-Sat, July 12–14, 8pm, Seattle Center Opera House. Presented in Japanese with headset translation available. Tickets \$15-60, Ticketmaster Northwest, 628-0888.

Nikkei community monthly dance—Sat, July 14. 8-11:30pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St. Bring drinks and refreshments, ice provided. Cost: \$2 per person. Info: Mike, 772-1160.

International District Summer Festival — Sun, July 15, 11am-6pm, Hing Hay Park, Maynard Ave. S. and S. King St. Foods, arts and crafts, performances, demonstrations, and exhibits. Info: 725-1842.

Tacoma Bon Odori — Sun, July 15, 6–9pm, Tacoma Buddhist Church, 1717 S. Fawcett. For more information call 1-627-1417.

Deadline for Seattle JACL 1000 Club Golf Tournament entries - Sun, July 15. See story in Chapter Focus.

Word of Mouth: Women Reading and Singing for Peace — Tues, July 17, 7:30pm, Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway. Dramatic readings, original music by multi-ethnic artists about women opposing war and social injustice. A group of Soviet students will be participating in a post-play discussion at this performance. Donation: \$7 adults, \$5 seniors & students. Info: Katherine Hanson, 329-2039 or Bret Daughtery, 296-5630.

Seattle Bon Odori — Sat, July 21, 5–11pm and Sun, July 22, 5-9pm, Seattle Buddhist Church, 1427 S. Main St. Info: 329-0800.

Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community Reunion Picnic — Sun, Aug. 12, 11am—4pm. Strawberry Hill Park, Bainbridge Island. No charge; bring your own picnic lunch. The historical photo exhibit, Kodomo no tame ni, will also open at the Bainbridge Island Historical Society Museum adjacent to the park. More in future editions of this newsletter. For more information contact Dr. Frank Kitamoto, 842-4772 or Lucille Galbraith, 842-5914.

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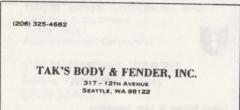
The Bellevue Police Department is actively recruiting qualified applicants for the position of Police Officer. Requirements include

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ALLEN B. UYENO

Seattle JACL — Join us today!

The JACL is the only na tional Japanese American nonprofit civil rights organization. Our most recent success was the 18-year effort to win redress for Nikkei who were evacuated from their homes and relocated into concentration camps during World War II. We are also involved in cultural events, providing scholarships, and dealing with issues of concern in many areas, including education, affirmative action, leadership training, and more.

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Your membership allows you to attend any or all JACL meetings at your option. For more information, call Lynn Uyehara at 235-7385.

To join JACL, complete the form below and return to:

Ms. Lynn Uyehara c/o JACL District Office 671 So. Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104

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PHONE (indicate whether day or eve/weekend):	
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Ms. Lynn Uyehara

c/o JACL District Office, 671 So. Jackson, Seattle, WA 98104

Thank you for your support!

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The Seattle Chapter JACL newsletter is published the 2nd Wednesday of 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.

Japanese American Citizens League

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