

J A C L NEWSLETTER

SEATTLE CHAPTER

APRIL 1991

VOLUME 28, NO. 4

President's Message

by Gail Tanaka

The Chapter's activities have really taken off!

Currently committees are very busy working on anti-Asian violence; a pre-retirement seminar; planning for next year's Installation Banquet, which will mark our 70th anniversary; hosting a workshop with the Office of Redress Administration; the Cherry Blossom Festival; and choosing among scholarship applicants for the awards to be made in May. I encourage all members to become involved in these

activities as well as suggesting others. Call any of the officers on the back page of the newsletter to volunteer.

I had the pleasure of representing Seattle JACL at the Nisei Veteran Committee's (NVC) 46th Annual Installation Banquet in March. This included a very inspirational afternoon dedication to "Uncommon Heros." I am looking forward to working with the new NVC Commander, Jim Suzuki this year.

American Arab/Japanese American Forum on Racism, Violence, and War

by G. Tim Gojio

On March 23, speakers from the Seattle Japanese American and American Arab communities shared their views at a forum entitled: *Breaking the Cycle: Racism-Violence-War*. This forum was sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, the Seattle Coalition for Peace in the Midwest, and the Seattle Chapter JACL. It was held in order to address the effects of the Gulf War on American Arabs and to discuss the internment experience of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Aki Kurose, a longtime Quaker peace activist and Seattle JACL member, spoke about her experiences during World War II. She shared her views about the jolting effects of the outbreak of war upon her life.

Ibrahim Mohamed, an Arab and Muslim rights activist from the Islamic Center of Seattle, spoke about the treatment of the nearly 6,000,000 Muslims living in the U.S. Among his topics was how media stereotypes have gone from the harmless romantic

image of the early part of this century to the terrorist image now prevalent in the media.

Father Timothy Nakayama of St. Peter's Episcopal Parish shared his thoughts about how World War II affected Japanese Canadians, and how the Japanese American and Japanese Canadian experiences differed. Riyadh Kayyali from the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee spoke eloquently about how racism in the U.S. is affected by U.S. foreign policy. Danny Howe, editor of the *International Examiner* newspaper, spoke about student activism among Asian Americans on the University of Washington campus.

I was fortunate to serve as moderator for this event, which was attended by about fifty people. In addition to the excellent presentations, the members of the audience made very insightful contributions to the debate and discussion in this unique and timely cross-cultural forum.

Chapter Focus

Thank you

The thoughtfulness and generosity of the following donors are gratefully acknowledged for contributions received in March.

Contributors include: Kishie Hasegawa, Shiro Iwana, Kiyoshi Matsuda, Father Timothy Nakayama, and Suehiko Tanabe contributed to the General Fund. Endowment Fund donations were received from Akio Hoshino, Yoshiye Hoshino, and K. Catherine Sakura. Ayu Kozu donated to the Min Matsuda Fund for a scholarship.

Scholarship potluck dinner

The Annual Seattle JACL Scholarship potluck dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 15, at 6:00pm


at the Kawabe House. All chapter members are invited. There will be a guest speaker and the scholarship awards will be presented. The chapter board meeting will follow.

Attention Golfers

Golfers, save this date — Sunday, August 4, 1991. The Annual Seattle JACL-sponsored tournament for members and nonmembers will be held at Jefferson Golf Course for women and at the West Seattle Golf Course for men. Starting time for both women and men is scheduled for 12:00 noon. Further details and entry forms for the Golf Tournament will appear in subsequent issues of this newsletter.

— submitted by Chuck and Mary Furuta


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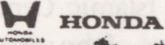

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Community Notes

Rev Timothy Nakayama to leave Seattle

The St. Peter's Episcopal Parish will hold a farewell celebration dinner for the Rev. Timothy Nakayama. Father Nakayama, who has been the rector for the past 25 years will be leaving to become the rector of All Soul's Church in Okinawa in June. Under Father Nakayama's guidance, St. Peter's has been one of the strongest supporters of redress and refugee immigration and settlement in the Seattle area.

Father Nakayama has been involved in countless community activities. He has been active on the steering committee for the Diocese of Olympia. As an officer with the Church Council of Greater Seattle, he fought redlining in the central area, which prevented people of color from buying property. In his work with the Jackson Place Council, he championed worked to prevent commercial businesses from overtaking the residential areas in the upper Jackson Street area. Recently, he was awarded the JACL Don Kazama Human Rights Award for his tireless ministry and work in assisting disadvantaged people.

The farewell dinner for Father Nakayama will be held on Saturday, May 4, 1991 at the Butcher Restaurant-Atrium, 5701 6th Avenue S. A social hour will begin at 6:00pm followed by dinner. For further information or reservations contact Don Matsumoto at 725-3966 or Mel Asato at 883-0779.

Redress Workshop

Well over 200 individual cases were processed at the recent Office of Redress Administration (ORA) workshop, held on March 21. This was the greatest number of individuals assisted at any workshop held

to date, according to Paul Suddes, Deputy ORA Administrator. Suddes, along with Marygrace Jennings, Program Analyst, and Frank Pfeiffer, Special Verification Analyst, provided computerized case status data and reviewed documentation on a one-on-one basis at the workshop. The session extended until 11:30pm, extending the scheduled four-hour workshop to eight hours.

Approximately 24,100 redress payments have been made during the 1991 fiscal year disbursement, which began in October 1990. Approximately 600 applications are in process, and funds for 300 cases are being held in reserve for the initial year's disbursement. Verification letters are currently being mailed to those whose birthdates are from July 1, 1920 through 1925, in preparation for the anticipated 1991 payments, Suddes said.

Suddes expressed appreciation to the JACL for assisting in notifying potential eligibles and in making arrangements for the workshop. Those who helped in the workshop were: Sam Shoji, Massie Tomita, Chuck Kato, Ken Nakano, Takako Yoda, Tom Nakao, Cherry Kinoshita, and Regional Director Karen Yoshitomi and staffperson Stacie Uchida.

Nisei Vets Installation and Awards

Jim Suzuki was installed as the Commander of the Nisei Veterans Committee for 1991-92 at a banquet held on March 23, 1991. The dinner program also included presentation of community service awards to two Seattle Chapter JACL board members, Cherry Kinoshita and Ken Nakano.

continued on next page

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Community Notes, *continued from page 3*

Nippon Kan Japanese Dance Festival

The Nippon Kan Heritage Association will present its Spring Festival of Japanese Dance on Saturday, May 18, at 7:30pm at the Nippon Kan Theatre, 628 S. Washington.

The festival will feature Hanayagi Yohsono and Fujima Fujimine, who represent two major dance traditions in classical dance derived from Kabuki. The performance will include full costumes and a variety of spring-theme dances.

Tickets are \$8 adults, \$5 students and seniors. Patrons over 75 are admitted free. Group discounts available for groups of 8 or more. Tickets can be purchased at Uwajimaya, House of Rice, or at the door. For more information contact Midori Kono Thiel, 633-2017.

Japanese Film Festival

In conjunction with the 16th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival, three outstanding Japanese films will be presented at Kane Hall on the University of Washington campus.

The first film will screen on April 14, *An Autumn Afternoon*, directed by Yasuhiro Ozu. In the best style of the master, this is a story about a father giving up his daughter in marriage. On April 21 the 1981 top prize winner in Japan, *Muddy River*, directed by Kohei Oguri will be featured. On April 28, *Horse*, directed by Kajiro Yamamoto with Akira Kurosawa as assistant director, will be presented. This is a bittersweet story about a young village girl and her horse. All films will begin at 2pm and tickets are available at Uwajimaya, Mercer Street Tower Books, Elliott Bay Bookstore, and ASUW Ticket office; \$5 advance, \$6 at the door.

Seattle Times-Blethen Family Minority Scholarships

Applications for up to five \$1,000 scholarships for UW or WSU students whose major field of study is journalism or print advertising will be reviewed this month, according to Ed Bassett, director of the University of Washington School of Communications.

Applicants may be high school graduates, university freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or graduate students working toward a Masters degree. The scholarships, which include internships at the *Seattle Times* and the *Walla Walla Union Bulletin*, are renewable for up to four years. For more information, contact Ed Bassett, 543-2660.

Heart Mountain Reunion

The fourth Heart Mountain Reunion will be held on September 11, 12, and 13 in Seattle at the Sea-Tac Red Lion Inn. The reunion will be chaired by Gilbert Inada and will include a golf tournament, exhibits, a slide presentation, dinner banquet, as well as other activities. All former Heart Mountain internees are encouraged to attend the next planning meeting on May 3, 1991, 7:30pm at the Nisei Veterans Hall. For more information contact Gilbert Inada at 364-3594.



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Commentary

Why Support the JACL Legacy Fund?

by Cherry Kinoshita, Seattle JACL Legacy Fund Chair

The Seattle JACL can rightly be proud of its pioneering research on redress and the early impetus it gave to the redress movement during the 70s. Key individuals in other chapters also provided early motivation to spur the redress effort forward. Beyond the 70s, however, I believe it took the nationwide organization of JACL (with all local chapters playing an integral part) to carry the redress bill through to its successful passage.

Congressman Bob Matsui has stated that without the national organization of JACL "having developed this powerful force ... redress could not have happened." Senator Daniel Inouye, speaking at the recent Nisei Vets Dedication Ceremony, stated strongly that it was the JACL which persisted ... kept this issue of redress alive, and "we owe them a great debt of gratitude."

The need for support for our national organization is crucial. JACL needs the clout of a national focus to address issues such as anti-Asian violence, hate crimes, and discriminatory practices in corporate and educational institutions. We need to address, beyond the local level, concerns about U.S.-Japan bilateral relations as they impact on us as Japanese Americans.

Federal legislation such as the \$1.25 billion redress bill could not have been accomplished, in my view, without the muscle of a strong national organization with the ability to mobilize the grassroots efforts nationwide and to strategize the lobbying power to most effectively influence the inner workings of the political structure.

The redress fight was long and expensive. Now is the time to assure that sufficient funds will be provided for a solid financial foundation for our

national organization, not only to act on such issues as redress and other important civil rights issues, but to maintain regional offices to effectively represent and service outlying areas and, most importantly, to provide professional staff and support for a strong Washington D.C. office to monitor and influence national policies.

Over the 60 years since its beginnings, the National JACL has resolutely carried on the fight against racism on a shoestring budget. It needs more than that. It deserves more than that. Your support of the JACL Legacy Fund is vital.

Thank you, Seattle donors, for generously answering this call. Your donations will at the same time provide a constant return to the Seattle Chapter for local programs every year.

* * * * *

Appreciation is gratefully extended to the following donors whose contributions to the JACL Legacy Fund were received between February 14 and March 1 at National Headquarters, up to March 22 locally; or whose names were inadvertently omitted previously:

\$1,000+: Yuriko K. Kumasaka, Dr. & Mrs. Roland Kumasaka, Dr. & Mrs. S. Fukuda, Kaz & Kiku Tatsumi

\$500+: George & Martha Matsuno, Mumeo Hideshima, Kiyoshi Mizuhata, Mac Yamamura, Yoshiye Horino, Shun Iwasaki

Other: K. Catherine Sakura, Maki Hada, Mr. & Mrs. Tetsuo Kuramoto

As of March 12, the total contributions credited to the Seattle chapter is \$109,450.

Seattle JACL — Join us today!

The JACL is the only national 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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Calendar of events

compiled by Ed Suguro

Weekly ballroom dance — every Wed, 1-3pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St.

Paintings by Roger Shimomura — through April 28, Greg Kucera Gallery, 608 Second Ave, Tues-Sat 10:30am-5:30pm, Sun noon-5pm. For information: 624-0770.

Chapter Board Meeting — Wed, April 17, 7pm, Japanese Language School, 1414 S. Weller St. Everybody welcome.

Fourth Annual Japanese Film Festival — Sun, April 14, *An Autumn Afternoon*; Sun April 21, *Muddy River*; Sun, April 28, *Horse*, at 2pm, 120 Kane Hall, University of Washington. Tickets available at Tower Books, Elliot Bay Bookstore, Cinema Bookstore, and ASUW Ticket Office; \$5 advance, \$6 at the door.

Readings by Tina Koyama, Arlene Naganawa, and Mayumi Tsutakawa from *The Forbidden Stitch* — Fri, April 26, North Seattle Community College Northstar Diningroom, 9600 College Way N., 7:30-9:30pm. Admission \$3. For pre-registration or information: 527-3705.

Japanese Baptist Church's annual sukiyaki dinner — Sat, April 27, 160 Broadway, lunch 11am-2pm, dinner 4-7pm, culture program at 7pm. Tickets: \$6 adults, \$4 seniors 70 and over and children 12 and under. For information: 622-7351.

Nichiren Buddhist Church bazaar — Sun, April 28, 11am-4:30pm, 1042 S. Weller St. Tickets: \$2.50 available from church members.

Heart Mountain Reunion planning meeting — Friday, May 3, 7:30pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St. For information: Gilbert Inaba, 364-3594.

Doshi Kai meeting — Tues, May 7, 6:30pm. Call Wayne Kimura for name and address of restaurant, 827-0460 (days) or 869-5174 (eves/weekends).

Nikkei community dance — Sat, May 11, 8-11:30pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St. Admission: \$2. For information: Kurt, 242-5519.

The Nippon Kan Heritage Association Spring Festival of Japanese Dance — Sat, May 18, 7:30pm, Nippon Kan Theatre, 628 S. Washington. Tickets: \$8 adults, \$5 students/seniors, over 75 free. Tickets can be purchased at Uwajimaya, House of Rice, or at the door. For more information call Midori Kono Thiel, 633-2017.

Japanese community queen coronation — Sat, May 25, Seattle Sheraton, 1400 Sixth Ave, 5pm cocktails, 6pm dinner, 8pm pageant, 10:30pm dance. Tickets: \$40 for dinner, pageant, and dance; \$10 for pageant and dance with bid, \$12 at the door. For information: Jane, 722-2375 (eves/weekends) or 684-1114 (days).

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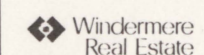
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Japanese American Citizens League

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ATTENTION

1991 JACL SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

Time: *6:00 P.M.*

PLACE: *KAWABE HOUSE -221 18TH S.*

DATE: *MAY 15, 1991*

THE ANNUAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP POTLUCK BANQUET WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1991. THE BANQUET WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE KAWABE MEMORIAL HOUSE LOCATED AT 221 18TH SOUTH, SEATTLE, WA. THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM WILL FEATURE A GUEST SPEAKER WITH THE AWARDS PRESENTATION TAKING PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS. IN ADDITION TO THE BANQUET, AN ABBREVIATED BOARD MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY. ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. DONATIONS OF FOOD WILL GLADLY BE ACCEPTED. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE AT 725-8656.