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NEWSLETTER

SEATTLE CHAPTER

APRIL 1993

VOLUME 30, NO. 4

President's Message



by Kip Tokuda

As we commemorate this 25th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., it seems appropriate to reflect on some fundamental issues facing JACL. A recurring question is, "What next after redress?"

My recurring response is: "Exactly what it was prior to and during redress!" One purpose of JACL has been and I hope will continue to be advocacy for civil rights. The recent positions taken by the Seattle Chap-

ter of JACL supporting the Civil Rights Act and Malicious Harassment legislation to protect the civil rights of gays and lesbians are heartening to me. I can say the same of the forthright position taken by the Spokane Chapter of JACL in response to racial slurs directed at local Asian hotel owners and JACL members.

The issues are integrity, respect, and fairness ... and that should remain JACL's focus. We are an increasingly diverse group, with different opinions and attitudes, but we must stand together on these issues for the good of all.

JACL workshop probes interracial marriages

by Fidelius Kuo*

One question that moderator Calvin Takagi advised the audience not to ask a panel of interracial couples was: "Why did you decide to marry?" because the answer would be obvious: "We fell in love ..."

However, beyond attraction, what are the issues and experiences for those Japanese Americans who choose to "marry out"?

On Thursday, March 18, three couples and two others from interracial relationships met at the Asian Counseling & Referral Center's social hall for the JACL's workshop, "Interracial Marriages." Takagi, retired professor of Social Work at the University of Washington, reminded the audience that fifty percent of third-generation Japanese Americans choose to marry people other than Japanese. The trend is expected to increase for the next generation.

The panel members were asked what kind of "pros" and "cons" they had to consider when choosing their spouses. Joy St. Germain who is Japanese American, said that when she made her own "pro and con" list ten years ago, her husband's skin color wasn't on

either list. For her, it was not an issue.

Having grown up on the East Coast where she and her family were the only Asian Americans in town, she noted that it was almost statistically inevitable that she would marry a Caucasian.

Jeff Hattori, who grew up in ethnically diverse Beacon Hill, married his high-school sweetheart, Theresa, who is African American. Before marrying, his major apprehension was not whether and family would accept them, but a more universal male feeling — cold feet; he wasn't sure if he was ready.

Janice Deguchi Yee said she didn't consider her marriage to Chinese American Michael Yee an out-

Address change

The address for the *JACL newsletter* has been changed from P.O. Box 75272 to the street address: 3626 Evanston Ave. N., #B, Seattle, WA 98103. *This change of address is for the newsletter only.*

The address for Seattle Chapter and all chapter business *except* the newsletter remains: P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, WA 98118-0558

^{*} This article is an edited version of an article published in the Northwest Asian Weekly.

Interracial Marriages continued from page 1

Deguchi family gatherings he did feel like an oddity. The Caucasian-Japanese American combination was more common, he said.

However, Michael Yee said that he dated Caucasian women exclusively while growing up in Los Angeles. In Seattle he "discovered" his Asian American identity. Now he considers himself so pro-Asian that sion by asking the women if they if his daughter, wanted to marry a non-Asian, he might have some reservations. But he allowed that attitudes can change over time.

The panel and audience members agreed that the generation ceptable interracial marriages are.

Chizuko Norton, who is Japanese American, married her Caucasian husband in 1950. She recalled makes more money than I do."

marriage, but Michael said that at how her paternal grandfather rejected both her and her father ... for allowing her marriage. She said racial objections from family and friends were couched in other questions, such as "What if you two end up without friends from either the marry a Caucasian woman. white or Japanese community?"

> jected some tension into the discusconsidered their marriages to white husbands symbolic of the socioeconomic dominance of whites over Asians, and in the Hattori's case, Asian over African American.

Chizuko Norton and Theresa makes a difference as to how ac- Hattori tersely replied that they never felt socio-economically subordinate to their spouses.

"Actually," said Jeff, "Theresa

"The irony is that the

more American Asian

Americans get, the less

involved in the politi-

cal process they get,"

Takagi, after a moment of reflection, noted that in the 50's, while the combination of an Asian American woman was somewhat acceptable, it was almost unthinkable for an Asian American man to date or

David Hoekendorf, who is of A white audience member in- Japanese and Caucasian heritage, recalled that when he told his friends he was engaged, they assumed his fianceé was Japanese (she is Caucasian).

> Please Choose One playwright Nancy Decalos-Nakano asked the panel about their expectations for their biracial children.

> Joy St. Germain said she hoped her children would be interested in their heritage. But, she conceded, "...it's like piano lessons, you can't force it on a kid."

JACL Workshop: Asian Americans and Political Action

by Fidelius Kuo

Fever than 30% of all Asian American register voters vote regularly. However, per person per group, Asian Americans donated far more money to political campaigns last year. This was just one of the ironies discussed at the JACL Political Action workshop held

on Thursday, April 1 at the ACRS Center on Thursday, April 1. Former Seattle City Treasurer Lloyd Hara moderated the small, but lively discussion.

JACL arranged for Charles Rolland, state chair of the Democratic Party and Ken Eikenberry, state chair of the Republican Party, to attend and to vie for the hearts of the Asian American attendees.

One audience member felt that there was a natural overlap between the conservative Republican platform and traditional Asian values. Eikenberry could only agree, and said his office was more than eager to invite more of Washington's Asian Americans in.

Rolland, from the largely winning party statewide last year, the Democrats, should have had an equally easy pitch to make. However, with Chris Marr in the audience, he had to defend the Democratic Party record regarding racial slurs made in Spokane recently, one of which was directed at Marr personally.

"The apology is sincere, heartfelt ... and Chris has accepted it," Rolland said. Though Marr has accepted the apology, the Asian American community has not, having received none for the original slur against the Chinese American owners of the Davenport Hotel.

> In discussing how more Asian Americans need to get involved, another irony appeared: Asian Americans are extremely critical of their own candidates. "Any group is tougher on its own colleagues," explained conference attendee Vera Ing. However, that critical look gets less intense among younger

Asian Americans, who may simply not care.

"The irony is that the more American Asian Americans get, the less involved in the political process they get," said Hara. While issei and nisei remember digging deep into their pockets for campaign contributions, they see younger and more affluent Japanese Americans giving less.

So, how to get the younger Asian American generation involved? JACL remains non-partisan, but one member suggested a massive voter registration drive within the organization to push for greater representation in both parties.

Chapter Focus

Seattle JAYS

After a long hiatus, JAYs are re-establishing a Seattle Chapter. Membership is open to any young adult. JAYs is now concentrating on building membership, but in the future would like to provide a social and cultural awareness group for young Japanese American adults. The next JAYs meeting is April 19, 1993 at 7:30 pm at the UW Husky Union Building (meet at the Information Desk). Other important dates include a theatre-sports outing on April 25 and a picnic in May. If you are interested in joining the Seattle JAYs or if you have questions, call Jon Matsui at 634-0991.

Newsletter Mailout

Thanks to the voluntters who did the March newsletter mailout: Arlene Oki, Patricia Lee, Helen Akita, Cal Takagi, Ken Nakano, Cherry Kinoshita, Takako Yode, Rose Ogino, Mako Nakagawa, Miyo Kiba, Shigeru Kiba, Ayako Hurd, Lee Hurd, Shea Aoki, Kiyoshi G. Fukano, Sam Shoji, Mike Kimura. Mailouts take place on the second Wednesday each month at the Japanese Language School at 1414 S. Weller and help is always appreciated.

Youth Rep needed

The JACL Pacific Northwest District needs a youth respesentative to sit on the National Youth Council. If you are interested, call the JACL PNW District Office at 623-5088

Former JACL Newsletter editor publishes book

Ken Mochizuki, former JACL Newsletter editor, has published his first children's book, Baseball Saved Us. The fictional story follows "Shorty," a Japanese American boy through the World War II internment and the lessons he learns through playing baseball, in camp and afterwards. The illustrator, Dom Lee grew up in Korea, and the publisher, Lee & Low Books, is a multicultural children's book publisher owned by Asian Americans. Kirkus Review calls the illustrations "splendidly evocative," and the book "a fine debut for author, illustrator, and publisher. American Bookseller, the trade magazine for bookstores, selected Mochizuki's book as a "Pick of the Lists" title in its Spring Children's Books issue.



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Community Notes

Cherry Blossom Festival

The 18th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival is scheduled for April 23-25 at the Seattle Center. In addition to food, music, dancing, martial arts and other arts demonstrations and exhibitions, this year's celebration will feature home furnishing design and textile design. Special guest artist Shizuo Okawahara will demonstrate the 200year old art of textile design in the Flag Pavilion, which will be decorated with colorful curtains and fishing banners. A major exhibit of Japanese toys and crafts is another unique attraction, including both traditional and modern toys and a puppet theatre with performances by artists from Japan. This exhibit will continue throughout the spring at the Seattle Center, as part of the International Children's Festival (May 10-15) and the Northwest Folklife Festival (May 28-31).

From Seattle to Honolulu

Allicyn Hikada, daughter of Seattle JACL members Albert and Shig Hikada, was recently elected and installed as president of the Honolulu Chapter of the JACL. She was born in Seattle, graduated from Cleveland High School and the University of Washington. She has been living in Hawaii for approximately five years.

Hyogo Cultural Center classes

The Hyogo Cultural Center is offering classes in *ikebana* and *sumi-e* in April and May. In addition, orientation sessions for people planning to visit Japan

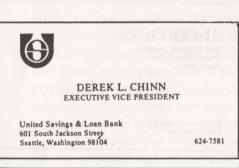
or who wish to learn more about Japan are offered. These include viewpoints from both an American teacher of English in Japan and a Japanese business consultant. For more information, call 728-0610.

Okimoto receives Community Service Award

The Atlantic Street Center has awarded its 1993 Community Service Award to David Okimoto. This award is given to an individual who has made notable contributions to improving the services and resources available to the low-income and minority populations in our community. He was cited particularly for his work with the development of the Asian Pacific Islander Task Force on Gangs, his service with the Multicultural and At-Risk Advisory Council for Action of the Seattle Public Schools, and his leadership with the Church Council of Greater Seattle's Racial Justice Coordinating Committee.

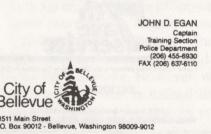
Fujiwara to leave ACRS

Theresa Fujiwara, former executive director of the Asian Counseling and Referral Service, will begin a new job in May with the Seattle Office of Intergovernmental Relations. Fujiwara was with ACRS for 19 years; 14 years as staff and five years as a volunteer. Under her leadership, ACRS grew into a multi-service agency serving about 19,000 Asian and Pacific Islanders last year. The budget has more than tripled to \$3 million since her tenure began seven years ago; a satellite office has been opened in Bellevue and services expanded to Snohomish County.













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.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES	
Regular membership	\$42
Couple membership	\$76
1000 Club membership	
Fifty Club (annual)	\$60
Century Club (annual)	\$120
Spouse (annual)	\$35
Lifetime (one-time payment)	\$500
Student membership (College to 23 years)	\$14
Youth membership (High school and younger)	\$4
Seattle JACL only	
Booster Club regular	\$15
Booster Club seniors	\$10

Your membership allows you to attend any or all JACL meetings at your option.

To join JACL, complete the form below, make your check payable to SEATTLE CHAPTER, JACL and return it to:

May Namba, Membership chair Seattle Chapter JACL 2324 NW 94th St. Seattle, WA 98117 What you receive for your membership dollars ...

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Calendar of events

complied by Ed Suguro

Elements of a Japanese Garden — exhibit of stone lanterns, water basins, sculpture and other garden items, through April 24, Honeychurch Antiques, 1008 James St., Mon-Sat 10am-6pm. For information: 622-

Kodomo no tame ni — a pictorial history of the Japanese Americans of Bainbridge Island, through April 28, Evergreen State College. Call college for times and location.

Executive Order 9066: 50 Years Before and 50 **Years After** — the same exhibit that was on display at the Wing Luke Asian Museum last year will be displayed in Tacoma through April 30, Tacoma Public Library's Handforth Gallery, 1102 Tacoma Ave. S., Mon-Thurs 9am-9pm, Fri-Sat 9am-6pm.

Adrift in a Floating World — Tacoma Art Museum's display of woodblock prints, through May 30, Tacoma Art Museum, 1123 Pacific Ave., Tues-Wed-Fri-Sat 10am-5pm, Thurs 10am-7pm, Sun noon-5pm. Admission: adults \$3, seniors/students \$2, children 6-12 \$1, under 6 free. For information: 272-4258.

JAYs meeting — Mon, April 19, 7:30 pm, UW Husky Union Building, meet at the Information Desk. For more information: Jon Matsui, 634-0991.

Chapter board meeting — Wed, April 21, 7pm, Japanese Language School, 1414 S. Weller St. Everyone welcome.

Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival - highlights of this year's festival include textile designer Shizuo Okawahara and an exhibit of Japanese toys and crafts, Fri-Sun, April 23-25, Seattle Center, Fri noon-9pm, Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 10am-6pm. See story in Community Notes. For more information: 626-4140.

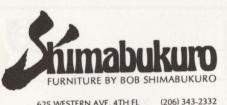
Seattle Japanese Bonsai Club annual exhibit — Sat-Sun, April 24-25, Sat 11am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm,

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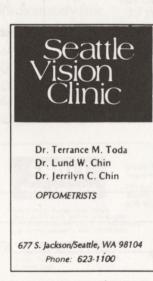


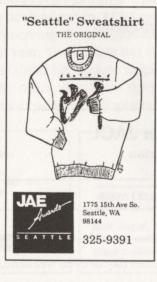
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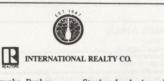


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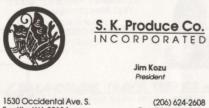




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Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St. Free. For information: 525-3242.

Japanese Baptist Church's sukiyaki dinner — Sat, April 24, 160 Broadway, lunch 11:30am-2pm, dinner 4-7pm, cultural program 7pm, also crafts, baked goods and cookbook sale. Tickets: adults \$6.50. children under 12 and seniors over 70 \$4. For information: 622-7351.

Nichiren Buddhist Church bazaar — Sun, April 25, 1042 S. Weller St., 11am-4pm. Tickets: \$3 available from members or from the church.

St. Peter's Parish annual sukiyaki dinner — Sat, May 1, 1610 S. King St., 4:30-7:30pm. Tickets: adults \$6, children under 10 \$4. Craft items and cookbooks on sale, and Children's Day decorations and ikebana displays. For information: 323-5250 or 747-7769.

Senke Seishin School of Japanese Flower Arrangement's Flora and Fans — Sat-Sun, Scottish Rite Temple, 1155 Broadway E., Sat 1-5pm, Sun noon-5pm. Free admission.

Doshi Kai meeting—Tues, May 4,7pm. Call Wayne Kimura for name and address of restaurant, 927-0460 (days) or 869-5174 (eves/wknds).

Nikkei community dance — Sat, May 8, 8:00-11:30pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St., BYOB, ice provided, live band. Admission: \$3 per person. For information: 772-1160.

Ikebana International's Haru no Hana (Spring Flowers) — Sat-Sun, May 8-9, Seattle University Campion Tower Ballroom, 919 E. James St., Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-4pm. Free admission.

Nikkei Horizons day tour: King County Courthouse—learn what goes on behind the doors to this building, Thurs, May 13, 8:30am-1:30pm. Cost: \$10. For information: 323-7100.

Senke School of Japanese Flower Arrangement spring exhibit — Sat-Sun, May 15-16, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 1610 S. King St. Free. For information: 324-9049.

Ayame Kai's Keiro Rummage Sale — Sat, May 15, 9:30am-4:30pm, Seattle Buddhist Church gymnasium, 1427 S. Main St. Drop-off dates: Tues-Fri, May 11-14, 10am-9pm. For information: Brenda, 271-1667 or Jean, 721-0369

Fifth Avenue Musical Theatre Company presents Sayonora — an East/West love story based on the novel by James Michener, May 25-June 13. For tickets and information: 292-2787 or at the box office or any Ticketmaster center.

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