

J A C L NEWSLETTER

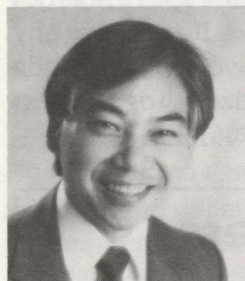
SEATTLE CHAPTER

AUGUST 1993

VOLUME 30, NO.8

President's Report: Initiative 602

by Kip Tokuda



I have been impressed, after seven months in office, by the passion, commitment, and action by our board on such issues as "Hands Off Washington," the shooting death of Yoshihiro Hattori, the film *Rising Sun*, and malicious harass-

ment legislation. The board, largely due to the strength of the anti-discrimination committee, has been highly responsive to critical issues. It has been deliberative and decisive and above all has maintained high standards for advocating civil and human rights for all.

We have a major issue facing us this September: Initiative 602. It may be argued that this initiative does not deal with civil rights or human rights. My opinion is that it *does* raise issues of discrimination: against the elderly, children, and the poor, who are the most vulnerable citizens in our society.

Supporters of Initiative 602 argue that waste in state government has caused the deficit and that new taxes are not needed to balance the budget. There *is* waste in government, and Governor Lowry has responded by cutting hundreds of positions and shepherding civil service reform through the legislature. But while state government must continue to cut waste and increase efficiency, let's not kid ourselves. The only way to reduce the state deficit on the expenditure side is to cut spending in education and human services.

The initiative would constrain the legislature's ability to fund essential services in three ways: 1) It

would limit the amount of taxes that can be raised by tying taxes to growth in personal income, regardless of needs. 2) It would repeal all new taxes, tuition increases, assessment increases, and fees related to permits, certifications, and licensing. 3) It would require a supermajority (60%) vote of each house to enact any tax increase — this would essentially give determinative power to the minority party in both houses of the legislature.

The repeal of \$950 million in tax and fee increases would mean the end of education and health care reforms. What does this mean for citizens?

- Reneging of the promise of health care for all, including expansion of Medicaid and the Basic Health Plan. 150,000 fewer people will receive health care.

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Board opposes Anti-Gay Initiative

by Lori Bannai

You have read about anti-gay discrimination in the news and perhaps you have heard the issues debated in the chambers of the U.S. Congress, town halls, and around your own dinner table. It is now a critical issue here in Washington because of a proposed initiative that would allow discrimination against gays and lesbians solely on the grounds of sexual orientation.

The initiative will probably be similar to Measure 9, which was narrowly defeated in Oregon last year. It would prevent the government from passing laws to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination. For example, prohibition of discrimination against gays in employment or housing and laws against homophobic hate crimes would be illegal if the initiative is passed. A statewide coalition of civil

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Anti-gay Initiative *continued from page 1*

rights, ethnic minority, labor unions and other organizations, the Washington Citizens for Fairness, has begun a campaign called Hands Off Washington to resist the anti-gay initiative.

Why is this an issue for JACL and the community? At its July meeting, the Seattle Chapter board discussed this question with a panel of individuals concerned with the issue: Bob Shimabukuro and Judy Chen, of the Asian Pacific AIDS Council; Jeff Sakuma, chair of the People of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN), and Frieda Takamura, board member of Washington Citizens for Fairness Hands Off Washington.

The panelists raised two major points. First, the initiative would impact members of our community. It would validate continued discrimination against

Japanese American gays and lesbians who are our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, friends and coworkers. Gay and lesbian members of our community are particularly vulnerable, often isolated and sometimes leaving their homes to save their families from embarrassment. Second, the initiative represents an assault on the civil liberties of all Americans. JACL, in its charter, is committed to preventing discrimination against any persons in recognition that the violation of the rights of one group threatens the rights of all.

In response to those who might feel threatened by gays, Cherry Kinoshita pointed out that supporting Hands Off Washington does not mean supporting a gay lifestyle; it means that JACL opposes discrimination aimed at any targeted group. Others noted that redress for

Japanese Americans was won, in part, through the efforts of non-Nikkei organizations who saw the issue as one involving not only Japanese Americans, but the civil liberties of all.

After lengthy discussion, including some debate over the question of whether the issue of gay rights might be beyond the concern of JACL, the Chapter Board voted to endorse Hands Off Washington and to oppose the proposed initiative.

In this era of increased discrimination against gays, often in the form of violent assault, the government should not be restrained from providing civil liberties protections where they are needed. If you have any further questions about the initiative, contact Frieda Takamura at the Washington Citizens for Fairness Hands Off Washington office at (206) 233-1932.

Washington Citizens for Fairness Hands Off Washington

Mission: Washington Citizens for Fairness/Hands Off Washington (WCF/HOW) is an organization established to defeat organized statewide political efforts which limit or deny the civil rights of any resident of Washington. Our immediate goal is to defeat threats to civil rights based on anyone's actual or perceived sexual orientation.

The 12-member board of WCF/HOW includes straights, gays, lesbians, Jews, African Americans, Asian Americans, politicians, environmentalists, educators, members of urban communities and members of rural communities. Frieda Takamura, Washington Education Association Human Relations Field Director and member of the WCF board notes: "Much of the public . . . sees this strictly as a gay/lesbian/bisexual issue, but as a person of color I see it as more. If it's gays/lesbians/bisexuals today, who is it tomorrow? As a person of color I am where I am today partly because of my allies."

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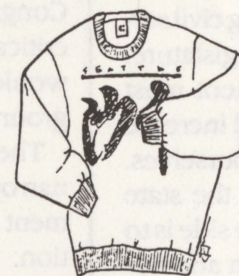
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Chapter Focus

JACL picnic

The 4th annual JACL picnic, sponsored by Doshi Kai, will be held on Saturday, August 14 at 11 a.m. at the #4 picnic site at Lincoln Park in West Seattle. Bring a dish or something to share according to the initials of your last name: A - H salad; I - M side dish/rice dish; N - S main dish; T - Z dessert. For information call Ann Fujii-Lindwall at 367-8749 or Louise Kato at 725-0546.

Candidates Forum

The Seattle JACL is cosponsoring a candidates' forum with the League of Women Voters and the Political Caucus of Black Women. The forum will feature candidates seeking to represent District 5 and District 10 on the King County Council. The forum will be a meeting and debate and will take place on Thursday, September 2 at the Langston Hughes Cultural Center, 104 17th Avenue S., from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The issue of under-representation of people of color in the League of Women Voters was brought up at the Political Education workshop, during the JACL Legacy Fund program. This is our opportunity to participate and demonstrate our interest in the political system and its elected officials. Important issues involving our community and many of our neighborhoods will be discussed.

1000 Club/JACL Golf Tourney

Forty golfers participated in the 17th annual Golf Tournament on Sunday, July 25 at the Jefferson Park Golf Course, with the awards dinner at the South China Cafe.

Winners in the women's division were: 1st - Reiko Strauch, 68; 2nd - Reiko Tsubota, 69; 3rd - Ayako Hill, 72; 4th - Ann Takisaki, 73; 5th - Kimi Nakanishi, 74; 6th - Nobuko Thiesen and Fumi Yamasaki, 75. KP Hole #6 - Fumi Yamasaki; KP Hole #16 - Kiyo Sakahara.

Winners in the men's 1st Flight were: 1st - George Kiuchi, Jim Murakami, and Al Fukushima, 66; 4th -

Jiro Takasaki, 67; 5th - Mas Kinoshita and Tak Matsui, 69; 7th George Ozawa and Jim Zumoto, 70. KP Hole #6 - Hiram Akita; KP Hole #16 - Bob Mizukami.

Winners in the men's 2nd Flight were: 1st - Harry Kadoshima and Joe Maita, 69; 3rd - Ry Tanino and John Matsumoto, 71; 5th - Dick Yamasaki, 72; 6th Mas Odoi, 73; 7th - Larry MaGruder, 75. KP Hole #6 - Dick Yamasaki; KP Hole #16 - Mas Odoi.

1000 Club Trophy winners were Reiko Tsubota and Mas Kinoshita. Good food and golf were enjoyed by all. In addition to the \$100 support from our Chapter, Bob Mizukami, Art Susumi, Tsubota Industrial Supply, Mas Kinoshita, Kiyo Sakahara, and Matt Kohler of Seafirst Bank provided the Golf Ball prizes. The most delightful surprise was a donation of \$25 to the Seattle Chapter from Al Fukushima, one of the winners.

Thank you

The Seattle Chapter JACL would like to acknowledge the following donations: Fred S. Mori, Suye Mori Memorial; Chizuko M. Nagaoka in memory of Eira; Bill and Beth Kawahara in appreciation for their son, and Mr. & Mrs. Kay M. and Catherine Kawahara, in appreciation for their grandson, Brent, who received the Tamesa Scholarship. The Seattle Chapter appreciates and sincerely thanks the donors for their generous contributions.

Newsletter Mailout

Thanks to the volunteers who helped with the July newsletter mailout: Haruo Fujino, Rose Ogino, Louise Kato, Eileen Kato, Sharen Kato, Janice Yee, Iris Miyahira, Mari Maruyama, Jon Matsui, Own Kikuta, Steve Chin, Connie Sugahara, Jerry Shigaki, Ayako Hurd, Lee Hurd, May Namba, Anne Uemura, Craig Matsuda. The next mailout will be Wednesday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Japanese Language School, 1414 S. Weller Street. If you have some free time, please stop by to lend a hand.

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Community Notes

Computer training

The Center for Career Alternatives is offering free vocational training and job-placement assistance in Computer Applications for those who are eligible. The program offers training in data entry, word processing, and office information systems. Classes start September 22, 1993 and run through March 11, 1994 at North Seattle Community College. For more information or to apply, call Joseph Rogel at 723-2286.

Japanese Language courses

Registration for the Seattle Japanese Language School's fall term will take place Saturday, August 28, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the school, 1414 S. Weller St. The fall term begins September 11, 1993, with classes held on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and two sessions on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (new classes). The Kindergarten class is held on Saturdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$25, and quarterly tuition is \$75.

From Hiroshima to Hope

The annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration and Lantern-Floating Ceremony was held Friday evening, August 6 on the shore of Green Lake. Approximately 800 people attended the event, which was co-sponsored by the Seattle Chapter JACL, along with a variety of community organizations such as the Church Council of Greater Seattle, the December 13 Network for Poland, El Salvador, and Disarmament, the Jewish Peace Fellowship, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Wing Luke Asian Museum. The program was notably multicultural, with taiko drums, a reading by Native American poet Shanawa Littlebow, a keynote speech by African American mediator Darrell Edmonds, and an excerpt from the play *Abraham's Land*, about reconciliation efforts by Arabs and Jews in the Middle East, all with ASL interpretation.



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

What you receive for your membership dollars ...

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- Membership to National JACL and Seattle Chapter JACL
- One-year subscription to Pacific Citizen, weekly publication of National JACL
- Seattle Chapter monthly newsletter
- Eligible for JACL group health insurance
- Eligible to join JACL credit union

1000 Club life membership

- Member receives benefits listed above for his/her families

Youth membership

- Membership to National JACL and Seattle Chapter JACL
- Seattle Chapter monthly newsletter

Booster Club membership

- Membership to Seattle Chapter JACL
- Seattle Chapter monthly newsletter

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.
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Seattle Chapter JACL

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NAME: _____

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PHONE (indicate whether day or eves/weekend): _____

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Calendar of events

compiled by Ed Suguro

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

Wing Luke Asian Museum presents **One Song, Many Voices** — an exhibit chronicling the history of Asian Americans in Washington state, 407 Seventh Ave. S., Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun. noon-4 p.m., open until 7 p.m. on Thurs. during the summer. Admission: \$2.50 adults, \$1.50 seniors/students, 75¢ children under 12. For information: 623-5124.

In this Great Land of Freedom: Japanese American Pioneers in Oregon — opens Sun, Aug. 8, Oregon Historical Society, 1200 SW Park Ave., Portland, Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m., closed Mon. Admission: \$4.50 adults, \$1.50 students, children under 5 free. Thurs. free for seniors 60 and older. For information: (503) 222-1741.

U.S.-Japan Fair in Seattle — display booths, exhibits, Japanese foods, martial arts, koto, taiko, jazz, karaoke. Fri.-Sun. Aug. 13-15, Seattle Center Exhibition Hall, Fri. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.,

Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and children 6-16, free for children under 6. Tickets available at Uwajimaya (Seattle and Bellevue), or call 624-6248 or 747-9012.

4th Annual JACL picnic — sponsored by Doshi Kai, Sat., Aug. 14, 11 a.m., Lincoln Park, West Seattle, picnic site #4. See *Chapter Focus* for information on what to bring. For information: Ann Fujii-Lindwall, 367-8749 or Louise Kato 725-0546.

Chapter Board Meeting — Wed., Aug 18, 7 p.m., Japanese Language School, 1414 S. Weller St. Everyone welcome.

Nikkei Horizons Open House — learn what classes are being offered this fall; meet teachers and students; displays from past classes, registration for new classes. Sat., Aug. 28, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Seattle Buddhist Church gym, 1427 S. Main St. For information: 323-7100.

King County Council Candidates' Forum — co-sponsored by JACL and League of Women Voters.

Thurs., Sept. 2, 7 p.m., Langston Hughes Cultural Center, 104 17th Ave. S. See *Chapter Focus* for more details. For information: Arlene Oki, 684-0106.

Doshi Kai meeting — Tues., Sept. 7, 7 p.m. Call Wayne Kimura for name and address of restaurant, 827-0460 (days) or 869-5174 (eves/wknds).

Nikkei Community Dance — Sat., Sept. 11, 8 p.m.-11 p.m., Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St., BYOB, ice provided, live band. Admission: \$3 per person. For information: 772-1160.

Tomo no kai meeting — Mon., Sept. 13, 7 p.m., Seattle Keiro, 1601 E. Yesler Way. Speaker: attorney Sharon Sakamoto on wills and related documents.

Beyond the Mask of Denial, an Asian/Pacific substance abuse conference — Thurs.-Fri., Sept. 16-17, Seattle Central Community College, 1701 Broadway. Registration by Aug 15. Keynote speakers: Dr. Daryl Inaba, Pharm.D., Director, Haight Ashbury Free

Medical Clinic Drug Programs, San Francisco; Peter Jamero, Lead Specialist, Seattle Schools South Pacific Islanders Dropout Prevention Program; Dr. Ford Kuramoto, Ph.D., National Director, National Asian Pacific American Families against Substance Abuse, Los Angeles. For information: 587-4901.

Celebrating Diversity at the Top, Seattle Chinese Post/Northwest Asian Weekly annual dinner — honoring Phyllis Takisaki Campbell, President and CEO, U.S. Bank of Washington; Andy Man, Chief Operating Officer, Children's Hospital; Robert Toledo, President, Miller Brands, Inc.; Dr. William Wiley, Director, Batelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories; Betty Woods, CEO, Blue Cross of Washington and Alaska. Fri., Sept. 17, The Atrium, 5701 Sixth Ave. S., 6 p.m. no-host cocktails, 6:45 p.m. dinner. Tickets: main sponsor \$1,000; corporate sponsor \$650 for 10; individual \$45. Send reservation check to Seattle Chinese Post, 414 Eighth Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98104. For information: Seattle Chinese Post, 223-0623.

President's Report, *continued from page 1*

- Reductions in child care, programs for the elderly, and mental health services.
- Fewer opportunities for low-income students to attend institutions of higher education.
- Elimination or reduction of school enrichment and support programs such as bilingual classes, dropout-prevention, and subsidized school meals for the needy.

The tax increases now slated to fund health care programs are on tobacco, liquor, insurance premi-

ums, and hospitals. Other programs are slated to be funded by an extension of the sales tax to fitness clubs, steam baths, massage, escort services, tanning salons, and selected professional services.

At a time when the economy is in a lull, we must take time to study the issues and make the best long-term decision. I believe that Initiative 602 is not good policy, whether considering future costs, access to health care, education, or care for our young or elderly.

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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 JACL Newsletter, P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, WA 98118-0558.

Japanese American Citizens League

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