

SEATTLE JACL CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

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President's Report

by Ray Ishii

I would like to thank the members of the Banquet Committee who did such a professional job in organizing our 72nd Installation Banquet. Well done! Having our National President, Lillian Kimura, in attendance to give the keynote address and install the new officers and board members helped give us all a sense of being part of a national organization.

When I reflect on the history of JACL, it is remarkable how much JACL members have accomplished during the past seventy-plus years. From citizenship and property ownership rights for the Issei to the desegregation of our schools to the matter of redress, the JACL has played an integral role in the fight for civil rights for all people. It would be nice if I could report that our work is done, that today all members of our community enjoy the human rights to which we are all entitled.

However, this past weekend at the annual board retreat, I was clearly reminded of how much work is still before us. The lawsuit against the state Democratic Party by the Spokane Chapter is ongoing. Issues such as hate crimes, employment discrimination and how health care reform will impact the Asian/Pacific Islander community all will de-

New determination on redress claims

The federal government's Office of Redress Administration (ORA) last month announced decisions affecting over 270 redress claims. James Turner, acting assistant attorney general for civil rights in the Department of Justice, informed the JACL national office that ORA has agreed to reverse its earlier position and make redress payments in 164 cases involving individuals who, due to their Japanese ancestry, were removed from the Puuloa area of the Hawaiian island of Oahu by the federal government during World War II.

ORA also announced it has decided to maintain its ear-



Seattle president Ray Ishii describes the role of Seattle JACL while National JACL president Lillian Kimura looks on. — Sam Shoji photo

mand our attention this year. It will be important that we monitor the efforts to reform our public education system. It also is crucial that we continue to work with other communities and develop relationships with organizations that have similar goals and missions.

This being the year of our national convention, JACL as an organization will also be busy with internal issues. The national JACL, with representation from the local chapters, will be looking at our organizational structure so we'll be prepared to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Developing and adopting a new Program for Action as well as clarifying the role of the Pacific Citizen will both be important agenda items at the national convention.

It will be a busy and exciting year!

lier decision to deny 91 claims from individuals removed from the Iwilei (Hawaii) area, based on its determination that the removal also included Americans not of Japanese descent. Further, ORA decided to continue to reject 20 cases involving children born after their parents were evacuated to teach Japanese at a military language school in Boulder, Colorado.

ORA is continuing to review cases involving:

- individuals removed from the Waiau area and other Hawaii related cases;

continued on page 4

Family Tradition Lives on at art auction

by Mayumi Tsutakawa, contributing editor

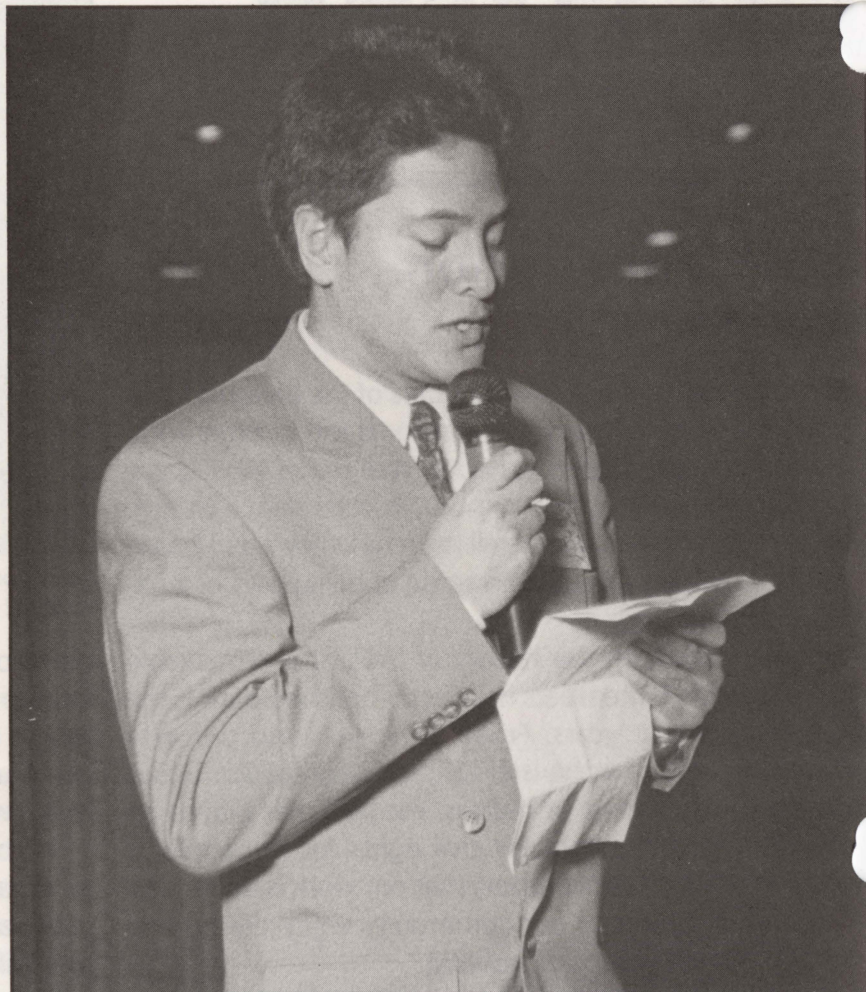
The other night at the Wing Luke Asian Museum's annual art auction, I was reminded of the seriousness with which some people take family matters. I thought my grouping of four members of my family made for a strong show of support for this worthy International District cultural institution.

I was wrong. The truly awesome show of support was the seven tables of family members who attended to join in the museum's tribute to the late, great Val Laigo, artist and art professor at Seattle University who passed away last year. The Laigo-Castillano-Cordova clan attendance was venerable, led by matriarch Bibiana Castillano (Val's mother) and his widow and two sons Rene and Adrian. Val's nephew Andre Tiffany presented a touching videotape about the noted artist's life.

Aside from the major artistic accomplishments of Mr. Laigo (major murals at Seattle University and Jose Rizal Park on Beacon Hill), there was poetic justice in seeing him alive again in the video, just as we remember him, dressed in a dapper ascot with champagne glass lifted in a rambling philosophical toast to something or other. I remember his speeches at early Asian American conferences — with the abstract references to different civilizations and peoples, widening our perspective beyond the immediate problems in the 'hood.

There was something awesome beyond just the sheer number of people that seven tables of Val's family represented (70 people!). It was the fine sight of relatives of all ages, the handsome young men in new suits helping the stylin' elderly ladies from their seats, the faces beaming with tears and pride at the tribute.

Now that's family life — and something we all could better emulate. Too often we're too busy to make the family connections. But dammit, those are the ones that last — because you can't get away from them and because they



Adrian Laigo gives tribute to his father (the late Val Laigo) at the Wing Luke Asian Museum's annual art auction January 29.— WLAM photo by Rick Wong

are a part of you.

No reason not to bury the hatchet this year, make friends with those in-laws, communicate with those troublesome teenagers, gather with the distant cousins, stop and take the time to explain cultural traditions with the young ones and get them to visit their grandparents. Trace the family lineage with Obaasan and Ojiisan — who else knows?

You can never anticipate when greetings might have to be replaced with tribute. It happens all too soon, all too often.

Happy Year of the Dog!



Chapter Focus

Nikkei women pioneers honored at Installation Dinner.

by Arlene Oki

The Seattle Chapter JACL's 72nd annual installation dinner, held on January 22, 1994, featured a glowing tribute to five Nikkei women who have made significant contributions to our community. Approximately 340 people dined at the Sea Tac Red Lion Inn and listened to moving accounts of the lives and accomplishments of the five honorees.

They are: Dr. Ruby Inouye (first Nikkei female physician in Seattle and active in Nikkei health issues), Iku Matsumoto (one of the first Nikkei pharmacists), Misao Sakamoto (one of the first Nikkei female journalists who, with her husband, published the *Japanese American Courier*), Clare Suguro (one of the first Nikkei teachers in the Seattle Public Schools), and Shigeko Uno (first female president of Seattle JACL chapter, in 1947, and property manager who helped development of the International District)

Following an invocation by Reverend Nomi, newly-elected King County Executive Gary Locke and Seattle Mayor Norm Rice presented welcoming remarks. Other elected officials who attended the event included City Councilmembers Martha Choe,

Cheryl Chow, Sue Donaldson, Jan Drago and Jim Street. County Councilman Larry Gossett was also present for a short while.

Remarks presented by Lillian Kimura, national president of the JACL, focused on the contributions of Nikkei women throughout the organization's history (Lillian was introduced by her niece, Patricia Lee of the Seattle chapter).

Following her remarks, she presided over the annual oath of office taken by officers and board members. Wayne Kimura received the Silver Pin, a well deserved honor from the national organization, for more than ten years of meritorious service to JACL.

Elaine Akagi served as mistress of ceremonies and Dr. Cal Takagi introduced the five honorees.

Kudos and thanks to the chapter's hardworking installation dinner committee. Members are: Elaine Akagi, Ann Fujii Lindall, Ayako Hurd, Mike Kimura, Dave

Hoekendoerf, Kazzie Katayama, Mits Katayama, Darrell Mihara, Iris Miyahara, May Namba, Arlene Oki, Sam Shoji and Shigeko Uno.



Nikkei pioneers (Standing, from left): Clare Suguro, teacher; Shigeko Uno, Seattle JACL's first female president; Iku Matsumoto, pharmacist; and Dr. Ruby Inouye, M.D. Seated is Misao Sakamoto, journalist and publisher. — Sam Shoji photo



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Redress, continued from page 1

- children who relocated to Japan with their parents during World War II;
- Peruvians and other Latin Americans of Japanese ancestry who were interned in the United States but did not have permanent resident alien status retroactive to the internment period.

For more information, contact Randy Senzaki, JACL national director at 415-921-5225.

CREDITS

The Seattle JACL Newsletter is edited by Bob Shimabukuro and Mayumi Tsutakawa. Proof-reading by Alice Ito. Contributing writers: Arlene Oki. Photos by Sam Shoji and Rick Wong. Illustrations by Michelle Kumata.

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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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Thank you for your support!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Calendar of Events

Compiled by Ed Suguro

Meetings

Seattle JAACL Board Meeting, everyone invited, Feb. 16, 7 pm at Japanese Language School, 1414 S. Weller St.

Discussion of Japanese Television Entertainment, led by Sarah Stanley (former Japan Exchange and Teaching participant), Feb. 23 5:30 to 7 P.M., Hyogo Cultural Center, 2001-6th Ave., Suite 1101, deadline for reservations is Feb. 16. For info, call 728-0610.

Doshi Kai Meeting: March 2, 7 pm, Call Wayne Kimura for location, 827-0460 day, 869-5174 eve/wkend.

Tomo no Kai Meeting, March 14, 7 pm, Keiro Nursing Home, 1601 E. Yesler Wy., guest speaker from Nikkei Concerns will speak on the upcoming Nikkei Horizons program. Info: Kim at 324-0862.

Community and Social Events

Center for Career Alternatives will hold its Fourteenth Annual dinner on February 11 at Sheraton Hotel, beginning at 5:30 P.M. Featured speakers will be Judith Billings, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and King County Executive Gary Locke.

Seattle First Hill Lions Club will hold a pancake breakfast to benefit Kawabe Memorial House and Keiro Nursing

Home on February 13 from 7:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. The event will be held at Kawabe House, 221-18th Ave. S.. For info contact Joyce Yoshikawa at 723-1648.

Blaine Memorial Methodist Church Sukiyaki Diner will be held March 5 with sitdown dining from 4 P.M. to 7 P.M. at 3001-24th Ave. S. For take-out, cooked and uncooked portions will be available from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. and uncooked only from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. Cost is \$6.50/person, \$4.50 for children 11 and under. For info, call 723-1536.

Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community Teriyaki Dinner, March 20. Details to follow.

Nikkei Community Dance, March 12, 8 P.M. to 11:30 P.M. Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St., BYOB, live band, \$3 per person. For info, 772-1160.

Nisei Vets Installation Dinner/Dance, March 19, Rainier Golf and Country Club. 6 P.M. cocktails, 7 P.M. dinner, 9 P.M. dancing. For info, contact George Yano, 723-6616.

Weekly Ballroom Dance Class, every Wednesday from 1-3 pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St.

Arts and Cultural Events

Maceo: Demon Drummer from East L.A., a video documentary by John Esaki of Los Angeles, and a performance by Seattle Kokon Taiko, will be held Feb. 20, 7 P.M. at Seattle

continued on next page

Calendar, continued from page 6

Art Museum, 100 University St. Esaki and Maceo Hernandez will be present at the event. Tickets are \$12 per person, \$14 at the door, \$10 for seniors/students and groups of 10 or more. Tickets available at Uwajimaya, Elliott Bay Book Co., Red and Black Books and Bailey Coy Books. This premiere will benefit the **Seattle Asian American Film Festival** (which will be held May 6 to 9 at Seattle Art Museum) and **Kokon Taiko**. For info call 251-1181.


Bunka no Tsuki (A Month of Culture), an exhibit celebrating Japanese culture curated by Rev. Dennis J. Shinseki of the White River Buddhist Church includes *sumi-e* painting, *ikebana* flower arranging, *kakemono* scrolls and *kokeshi* dolls, through Feb. 25, at Auburn City Hall, 25 W. Main St., Mon.-Fri. 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. For info contact: White River Buddhist Church 833-1442.

Paintings and Works on Paper by Keiko Hara, through March 6, Foster/White Gallery, 126 Central Way, Kirkland, Mon.-Fri., 11 A.M. to 9 P.M., Sat. 10 A.M. to 9 P.M., Sun. 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. For info, contact 822-2305.

Northwest Asian American Theatre presents *Origami*, a play by D.A. Tsufura, opening March 16. Details to follow. Schedule: (Info: 340-1049)

Repertory Actors Workshop presents *The Dining Room* by A.R. Gurney, directed by Kathy Hsieh and featuring a multiracial cast, Feb. 24 to March 6, Thurs.-Sat. 8 P.M., Sun. 4 P.M. at Theatre Off Jackson, 409-7th Ave. S., \$8 per person, \$6 for seniors and students, \$4 actors and children. Reservations 364-3283.


Wing Luke Asian Museum's Asian New Year Traditions exhibit continues through March 6 and new permanent exhibit *International District: A Portrait of a Community* complements the permanent exhibit of history of Asian Americans in Washington State. Museum is located at 407-7th Ave. S.. Hours: Tues.-Fri., 11 A.M.-4:30 P.M., Sat.-Sun., noon to 5 P.M. Admission \$2.50 adults, \$1.50 seniors/students, \$.75 children under 12. Info: 623-5124.



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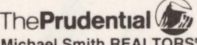


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Japanese American Citizens League

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