

SEATTLE JACL CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

MAY 1994

VOLUME 31, NO. 5

President's Report

by Ray Ishii

The Chapter has been busy with many activities. This month I want to give you an update on some of them.

Under the leadership of Belle Nishioka, the Anti-Discrimination Committee has been busy meeting with leaders from other civil rights organizations and planning future activities. The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 5 when representatives from Hands Off Washington will give an update on the fight against Initiatives 608 and 610. Future items on the committee's agenda include meetings and activities with the NAACP, American Jewish Committee and the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment.

The Chapter's Scholarship Banquet is scheduled for May 18. The Chapter will be awarding scholarships to three of our outstanding high school graduates. Thanks to Ann Fujii-Lindwall and her committee for doing an outstanding job! The Chapter's commitment to education has always been strong. For the second year, Joy St. Germain is chairing the National Scholarships Committee. During the next few weeks Joy and her committee will be reviewing hundreds of applications for the national JACL scholarships. Thanks Joy!

Along with the Seattle Buddhist Church, the Chapter will be sponsoring a fashion show fundraising event on Saturday, June 25. A designer from Los Angeles, specializing in fashions for both Asian women and men will be showing her latest fashions. Thanks to May Namba and Elaine Akagi for chairing this event for us!

May is Asian Pacific Heritage Month. There are many activities planned for this month to highlight, educate and celebrate the rich and diverse history of our community. Included this year is the Seattle Asian American Film Festival, May 6 through 9 at the Seattle Art Museum. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our diverse Asian cultures and have fun while doing it!

Continued on next page



KANOJO – Festival of Fashion committee: (seated, from left) JACL co-chairs May Namba & Elaine Akagi. (Standing, from left) Seattle Adult Buddhist Association committee members Irene Mano; co-chairs Frances Tamekuni & Fran Shintaku; Yoshi Hiroo. Not pictured: co-chair Kiyo Takashima. —Mas Tamekuni photo

Benefit fashion show features clothes for Asian clientele

The Seattle JACL, along with the Seattle Adult Buddhist Association, will sponsor a joint fund-raiser "A Festival of Fashion" from 1 to 5 P.M. on Saturday, June 25 at the Seattle Buddhist Church, 1427 South Main Street. Additional shopping will be available from noon to 3 P.M. on Sunday, June 26. Admission is a \$3 donation.

The event presented by Kanojo USA, will be the Pacific Northwest premiere of Kanojo's exciting new 1994 collection of 2,000 garments which are modestly priced classic fashions in rich, vibrant colors, all uniquely styled for the Asian American clientele.

Over 30 models who are volunteers from Asian American organizations, churches and other affiliations will participate. King County Executive Gary Locke, Seattle City Councilwoman Martha Choe and 11th District State Representative Velma Veloria will be featured models.

Shunju Club affiliate members Shinobu Adachi and Junko Maeda, Ayame Kai representatives Suzanne Yoshitome and Tomoko Matsuno, and Puyallup Valley and Lake Washington JACL members Elsie Taniguchi and Rose Nohara, respectively, will also walk down the runway modeling Kanojo outfits.

Other volunteer models are: Ann Kawasaki, Eileen Kato, Tama Murotani, Connie Sugahara, Jayna Umeda, Sharon Santos, Francene Leung, Alison Oki, Terrie Tanino, Betty Komura, Yoshiya Iwamura, Pat Kihara, Pauline Sakuma,

Continued on next page

Chapter Focus

Thank You to Consul General Saito

The Seattle Chapter would like to thank the Consul General of Japan, Masaki Saito and the consulate office for their generous donation of a fax machine to our chapter. The Japanese Consulate continues to be a faithful supporter and friend to the JACL. Over the past several years the Japanese Consulate has donated office equipment and furniture, including the fax machine this year and a beautiful conference table last year. Consul General Saito and

Fashion show, continued from page one

Andrea Mano, Laura Ichikawa, Eileen Hamamoto, Elsie Tokita, Anne Arakaki-Lock, Hats Higa, Jan Gerry, Audrey Nakanishi, Caroline Shimabukuro and Naomi Hara.

Male models who will be featuring the specialty items for men are: Jeff Hattori, Kip Tokuda, Tomio Moriguchi, Akio Hoshio and Allan Kishi.

On Saturday, the door will open at 12:15 P.M. for the fashion show which commences at 1 P.M., to be followed by open shopping, music, drawing of raffle and door prizes. Light refreshments will be served. On Sunday, starting at noon, Kanojo will be open for shopping until 3 P.M. with no admission fee.

Over the past two years, Kanojo has contributed over \$100,000 to its sponsors in California and is currently booked for events in other Western States and Hawaii. Ten

President's Report, continued from page one

Congratulations to David Kageyama and his Cherry Blossom Committee for another successful Cherry Blossom Festival. Thank you to Shea Aoki and David Hoekendorf for organizing the Chapter's booth at the Cherry Blossom Festival. This year the Seattle Chapter sold yakisoba, sushi and mochi which all quickly sold out! Thank you to all the volunteers whose hard work made our booth a success. Next month we will have a complete list of all the volunteers and donors of the event. Thanks again for supporting our chapter!

his staff have also been loyal supporters of the Seattle Chapter's activities, especially with our U.S. Japan Relations Committee. Again, thank you Consul General Saito!

Golf Tournament Date Change

The correct date for the Seattle JACL/1000 Club Golf Tournament will be Sunday, July 24 at the Jefferson Park Golf Course. Entry fee of \$25 will include the award dinner at South China Restaurant. Guests for dinner only will be \$15. Call 282-8978 or 721-0717 before July 1 to sign up.

percent of each sale is donated to charitable and social organization sponsors. Kanojo has no stores and markets its line almost exclusively through sponsorship by Asian American organizations.

Two Sansei cousins, Vicki Yamaguchi Ragasa (designer) and Eileen Tabata Fitzpatrick (director of marketing), originated the Kanojo concept and run the business.

"We are all very excited about the debut of Kanojo in the Northwest," commented the local sponsors, "because our relatives and friends in California have told us about the Kanojo Collection and its appeal for proportioned sizing and classic good taste. For those career professionals, homemakers or retired people who have difficulty finding quality clothing, Kanojo may be the answer."

For further information on the event you may call 784-3824, 772-4845 or 227-0931.

The 33rd Annual JACL National Convention will be held in Salt Lake City this year. The convention is from August 2-8. There are several interesting workshops and fun activities planned for the week. For more information, please call Karen Yoshitomi at the District Office.

CREDITS

The Seattle JACL Newsletter is edited by Bob Shimabukuro and Mayumi Tsutakawa. Proofreading by Alice Ito. Contributors: Cherry Kinoshita, Ed Suguro and Mas Tamekuni.

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Community Notes

Sansei Volunteers Needed for Study

Sansei are needed for a study exploring the psychological well being and daily living of third generation Japanese Americans. The study is specifically looking for Sansei who meet the following criteria:

1. thirty to fifty years old.
2. born after 1944
3. both parents were Nisei
4. both parents lived their entire lifetimes in the United States or its territories
5. both parents were born before 1942.

Participation involves completing a survey through the mail. The response should take only thirty minutes. All responses and identities will be kept confidential and anonymous.

Commentary

Ingredients for racial and ethnic separation still exist

by Mayumi Tsutakawa

"Aliens ineligible for citizenship."

For some reason that phrase, which the United States government used to describe Japanese persons in 1924, came to me a day or so after I heard the South African essayist Mark Mathabane speak at Elliott Bay Book Co. this past month.

I had gone to the bookstore store on a leisurely Saturday night, with my daughter and an out of town guest looking for a tourbook about Shanghai. On the way to the restroom downstairs, I wandered by the large room where readings are held. I was captured by the quiet, insistent voice of the writer Mathabane, who has written several searing nonfiction books about the lives of Black persons in his South African homeland.

More than anything, though, I was captured by the pride the writer felt in the thought of so many Black South Africans being able to vote for the first time. Especially the elderly persons such as his grandmother, who still lives in the economically oppressed township north of Johannesburg where Mathabane was born. These native-born Africans had never been allowed to have an active legitimate political voice in the country where they were born.

This is what made me think of our Issei grandparents, living and working in the United States, granted only second class status, with no hope of owning land, due to the Alien Land Laws. Or of the Japanese and other Asians deemed "aliens ineligible for citizenship" and prevented from immigrating to the United States because they were prejudged as unfit to become Americans. It wasn't until

mous. A lottery for token gift prizes will be done at the end of the study for those individuals who participate.

The study is being conducted by Debra Kawahara, MA, a doctoral candidate working toward her Ph.D. in clinical psychology. From the information collected, Kawahara hopes to study the generational impact of the internment on Sansei. The study hopes to clarify whether there are differences between Sansei who have one or both parents who were interned and those whose parents were not interned. Kawahara especially needs to hear from those individuals who meet the above criteria but whose parents were not interned.

If you would like to volunteer to fill out a survey, please call Debra Kawahara at 310-535-1662 or contact her at the Sansei Internment Project, P.O. BOX 4383, Culver City, CA 90231-4383.

the passage of the Walter-McCarran Act of 1952 that all races became eligible for immigration and citizenship.

That night, I also noted the quiet insistence with which Mathabane asked Americans of all races to work together, to build bridges rather than boundaries, to unite rather than separate ourselves from each other whether for differences in values, education level or the color of our skin.

When I was a student of Asian American Studies at the University of Washington, I read about and wrote papers about exclusionary laws based on racial differences. I found out about the conservative lobbying groups, newspaper editorials and common people's ignorance which made a case for the exclusion and incarceration of groups of people based solely on their race. Many of the incarcerated were American citizens who became imprisoned in camps not because they had committed illegal acts, but because they were of Japanese ancestry.

The other night, I felt a personal tie with this writer I had never met, born in a country on the opposite side of the globe from me. He was happy for his grandmother's first visit to the polling booth, this small act symbolic of the destruction of an enormous racial barrier. But, he said, there is still so much work needed to knit together the torn strands of a divided society in South Africa.

I look around the world and see that the human potential for hate is not automatically overturned with the flow of one year to the next. The racist laws which excluded our Issei grandparents and imprisoned our Nisei parents have been overturned, yet the ingredients that make for racial and ethnic separations in America still exist.

Calendar of Events

Compiled by Ed Suguro

Meetings

Seattle JAACL Board Meeting and Scholarship Awards, May 18, 5:30 P.M., Kawabe House, 221-18th Ave. S.. Bring main dish, side dish or salad. Info: Ann Fujii-Lindwall, 367-8749.

Doshi Kai meeting, June 1, 7 P.M. Call Wayne Kimura for location. 827-0460 day, 869-5174, eve./weekend.

Community and Social Events

Ayame Kai Rummage Sale, May 21, 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Seattle Buddhist Church gymnasium, 1427 S. Main St. Drop-off dates: May 17-20, 10:00 A.M. to 9 P.M. Japanese antiques, clothing, kitchenware, furniture, small ap-


pliances, jewelry, toys, books, new items and baked goods are desired as donations. Info: Faye, 725-6367 or Nina, 326-2415 wk, 722-2541 hm.

Seattle Japanese Community Queen Scholarship Pageant, May 28, Seattle Sheraton Hotel and Towers, 1400 6th Ave., 5 P.M. cocktails, 6 P.M. dinner, 8 P.M. pageant, \$45 dinner/pageant, \$12 pageant only. Tickets: Elaine Yoshihara, 725-6539 (eve).

Nisei Vets Memorial Day Service, May 30, 10 A.M. Lake View Cemetery, 1554-15th Ave. E., Seattle. Guest Speaker, Dean Koyama of Seattle Buddhist Church.

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

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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 1st of the month to: JACL Newsletter, c/o Bob Shimabukuro, 6621 S. Bangor St., Seattle, WA 98178.

Japanese American Citizens League

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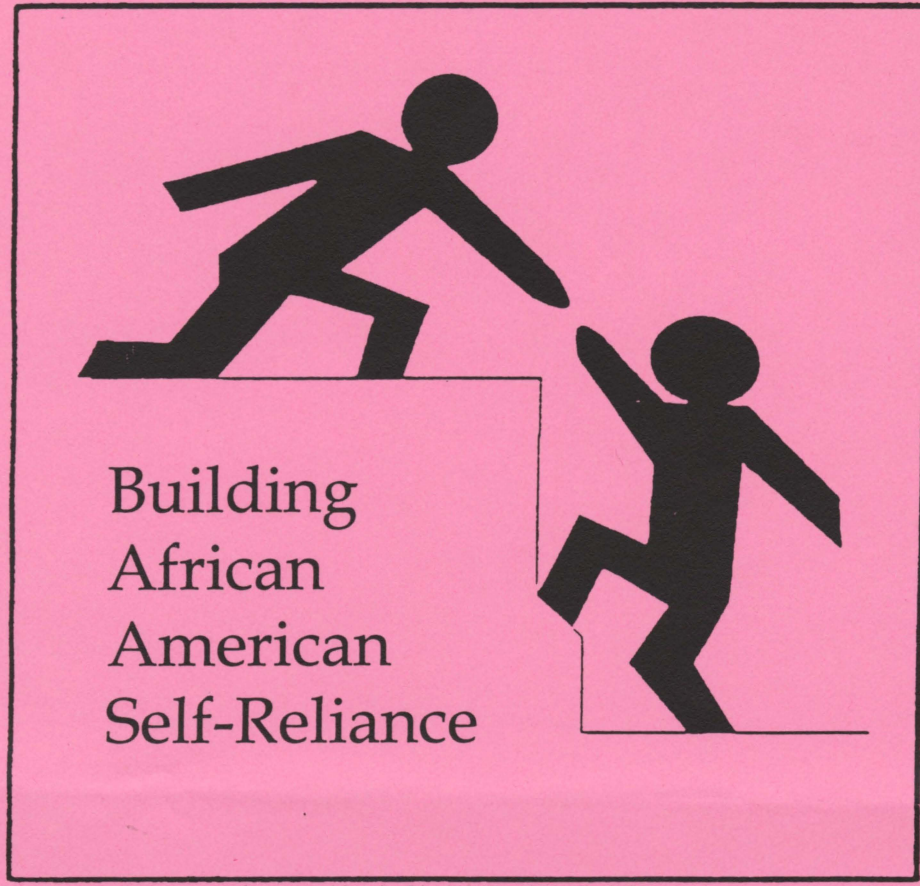
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The Anti-discrimination Committee of JAACL invites and encourages members of the Asian/Pacific Islander Community to express their support for

Campaign 5000

for "Campaign 5000" by attending this kick-off walk! We hope to see you there!

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We often hear "help is right around the corner," when often it is not. Our goal for Campaign 5000 is to ensure that finances are available for African American businesses to develop successfully in our community. Finances owned by you, controlled by you, administered by you.

With your help, this goal will be accomplished. We invite you to help secure this community's future by participating in our "Campaign 5000 Kick-off Community Walk". We are building a \$1.5 million endowment fund for Seattle's African American Community. Let's join together and demonstrate for all of Seattle that we are serious about the economic future of this community! **Call 323-0534 for more information.**

May 30th 9:00 a.m.

114 - 21st Avenue

(Next to New Hope Baptist Church)

Walk begins at Campaign 5000 headquarters and ends at Barnett Park. Please join us for the free community picnic following the walk.

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Fashion Show: 1:00 pm

Open Tryons and Shopping: 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Additional Shopping: Sunday: 12:00 - 3:00 pm

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