
SEATTLE JACL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1994

VOLUME 31, NO. 10

Youth Representative's Report

by Anne Uemura

In August I had the opportunity to attend my first JACL national convention as one of eight youth representatives from around the country. It was both a memorable and eye-opening experience for a number of reasons. As one of the Pacific Northwest youth reps, I attended all of the business sessions in which national JACL resolutions and amendments to the JACL constitution were discussed and voted upon. As reps we also had the chance to vote for the national officers. We sat down and talked to each candidate about issues facing our youth, their feelings on these issues and how they would address these issues, if elected.

Having the power to vote and seeing the election process so close-up made me realize even more how vital it is to not only be informed, but involved. We as individuals can have an incredible impact on those around us. At the national convention the decisions we made affected not only members in the Seattle chapter but members across the country as well. Experiencing this really helped to ignite a spark in me to become more involved in the political process in other arenas.

After the business portion of the convention was over, we had the opportunity to go on a pilgrimage to the Topaz internment campsite in Delta, Utah. I and three other youth got a tiny, yet invaluable, glimpse into our own Japanese American history. As a Sansei, I knew of the camps only from what I was told by my family or what I had read in books. I had always been touched by the stories and angered that such a clear injustice could have taken place. But I knew I could never understand what those interned really went through and how they felt. I think for many Japanese American youth the camp experience is difficult to truly comprehend. It's hard to really understand an ex-

Continued on next page

President's Report

by Ray Ishii

We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people.

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I was listening to the news recently when a guest commentator suggested that the reason why there were so many "scandals" in the news is that the American people's sense of what is right and wrong has shifted. He pointed out that there was relatively little outcry from the general public about issues such as the Iran-Contra affair and the savings and loan system fraud. Politicians and public officials with a history of very questionable activity are re-elected, or become such cult heroes that they run for public office (see the Virginia Senate race). The commentator concludes that since there was little action on the part of the general public, we must be willing to tolerate and accept this type of behavior. This then only fosters the situation in which more people engage in what was previously (and I hope still is) unacceptable behavior.

We need to change this trend of cynicism and inaction. It is all too easy to be cynical and leave it to someone else to work for the changes we want. If meaningful and substantive changes are to occur, then we all need to take responsibility for making the changes. We read about the need for welfare reform, health care reform, immigration reform, education reform, campaign financing reform, litigation reform and a host of other "reforms." All too often that is all we do, read. We don't act. We all need to voice our concerns and opinions. Writing letters, participating in meetings, volunteering in the community are all important ways to make a difference.

An easy and effective way for all of us to participate is to vote in the upcoming elections. Many people suffered and sacrificed so we do have the right to vote. Recently, the people in South Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America were able to vote in free elections for the first time because people fought and sacrificed for this right. In South Africa people walked for miles and waited in line for hours, so they could vote for the first time in their lives. We, too, need to value this right and accept these responsibilities just as much as people around the world do.

Please Remember to Vote Next Month!

Chapter Focus

Nominations for 1995 Chapter officers and board now open

The Seattle Chapter JACL Nominations Committee is accepting nominations for its 1995 officer and board positions. Persons who are interested in serving as an officer or board member or who wish to submit the name of someone to serve must submit those names either:

- To the nominations committee chairperson, Vickie H. Toyohara-Mukai, who can be reached at 705-5327 (days) or 865-0272 (evenings),
- Or to the Board at its next meeting, which will take place on Wednesday, October 19, 1994, from 7 P.M. until 9 P.M. at the Seattle JACL office located at 316 Maynard Ave. S., Room 111.

No additional nominations for officer or board positions will be accepted after the adjournment of the October 19, 1994, board meeting. If you have questions or require information, please contact committee chairperson Vickie Toyohara-Mukai.

Buy Pacific Citizen/Holiday Issue ads!

Want to help the Seattle Chapter raise funds for its operation? An easy way is to buy and/or sell ads for the Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue. Here's how it works:

A personal one-line ad costs \$7.50, while a 1 column by 1" ad runs \$15. The reimbursement to the chapter depends on the number of pages a chapter sells. One page of ads sold by a chapter results in a commission rate of 24%. (At \$1,350 a page, the commission would be \$324.) Two pages of ads results in 38% commission rate or \$1026. At four pages, the rate jumps to 43%; and so on until eight pages brings in 50%. (Chapter commission would be \$5,400 on eight pages.)

So by extending your holiday greetings all over the country via the Pacific Citizen, you help your chapter receive funds for programs which help you. And you help the Pacific Citizen too. Good deal for all, isn't it?

Please check the accompanying insert or call Shea Aoki, (206) 723-6061, for further details.

Ayame Kai 13th Annual Holiday Craft Fair

November 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Seattle Buddhist Church

1427 S. Main St.

'a glimpse of history I'll always remember'

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perience when we cannot imagine it happening to ourselves.

After the three-hour drive to Delta, we arrived in what seemed like the middle of nowhere. All that surrounded us was a desert wasteland with a few remnants of camp days. As most of the others went looking around for specific barracks or landmarks from their memories, we wandered around not knowing what we were looking for. We were simply trying to understand a little better what it must have been like to call this place home.

Exploring the desolate land, we stumbled upon rotted wood and rusted nails where barracks used to stand and mangled barbed wire that had once held thousands of Japanese Americans prisoner for over three years. We found where a guard tower, recreation area and a bathroom-laundry area had once been since pieces of the foundations still stood. And even though they were just remnants, it became a little bit easier to visualize how it might have looked over fifty years ago.

At one point, in the middle of this nothingness, we all stood there, speechless, not knowing what to say, but overcome with emotion. It was such a strange feeling that is difficult to describe. But it all helped give me a different understanding of what camp life might have been like. It made me see and feel things that I would have probably never experienced had I not gone to Topaz. It was a glimpse of history that I'll always remember.

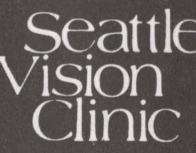
.....
Correction: Last month's National Convention Roundup was written by Chapter President Ray Ishii.
.....



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Text of Rep. Norman Mineta's speech supporting same sex marriage

Congressman Norman Mineta played a key role in persuading the JACL National Convention not to rescind the National Board action endorsing the issue of same sex marriage. The text of his speech delivered to the convention on August 6, 1994 follows.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. It has been many years since I spoke on a resolution pending before a national convention, But I am compelled to do so in this case.

I believe it would be disastrous if this convention were to repudiate the action of our National Board in this matter.

There are those who have argued that gay rights issues are not Japanese American issues.

I cannot think of any more dangerous precedent for this organization to set than to take position on an issue of principle based solely on how it directly affects Americans of Japanese ancestry.

When we fought our decade long battle for redress, we won. We could not have done so if we had stood alone in that fight.

Where would we be today if the NAACP, or the National Council of La Raza or the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force had taken the position that redress was a Japanese American issue—and had nothing to do with African Americans, Hispanic Americans or gay and lesbian Americans?

Those organizations, and their members, joined us because they understood and believed in our argument that a threat to the civil rights of one American is a threat to the civil rights of all Americans. They acted based on that principle and not on a narrow evaluation of how redress affected their own communities. We could not have won without their help. But for all the support we garnered outside the Congress, redress did not begin moving in the Congress until 1987.

For years, the Administrative Law Subcommittee in the House of Representatives had been chaired by an enemy of redress. He held hearings, but stacked the witness list against us. And he made sure that the Civil Liberties Act

died at the end of each Congress.

Those roadblocks came tumbling down in 1987, when the leadership of the subcommittee changed—and Congressman Barney Frank became its Chairman.

I remember I mentioned to my staff that I should go and ask Barney if there was any way to get redress moving.

I never had the chance to go to him. He came to me in the opening days of the 100th Congress. He told me that his top priority as Chair would be to make the promise of redress a reality—and by the end of the 100th Congress, redress was written into the laws of this country.

A gay Congressman from Massachusetts, with only a tiny Asian Pacific American constituency, makes redress his top priority. Why? Because, he saw our civil rights as an issue of fundamental principle for this country.

Our success came from the willingness of countless Americans of all backgrounds to take the same position. How can we as an organization turn around and say that civil rights of other Americans have nothing to do with us?

I do not think we can. Our reputation as a national civil rights organization is based, more than anything else, on our dedication to principle and our resolve to stand by our decisions.


Doing what is right is often controversial. Doing what is just is often unpopular.

But if we are to remain a viable voice in the national civil rights movement, we cannot back away from our commitments simply because the issue is difficult.

I urge the National Council to reject the resolution (overturning the National Board's endorsement of same sex marriage).

CREDITS

The Seattle JACL Newsletter is edited by Bob Shimabukuro and Mayumi Tsutakawa. Proofreader: Alice Ito. Contributors: Shea Aoki, Ray Ishii, May Namba, Ed Suguro and Anne Uemura.



Shimabukuro
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Dennis Sakamoto

Calendar of Events

Compiled by Ed Suguro

Meetings

Seattle JACL Board Meeting, everyone invited, October 19, 7 P.M., 316 Maynard Ave. S., Room 111.

Doshi Kai meeting, November 2, 7 P.M. Call Wayne Kimura for location. 827-0460 day, 869-5174, eve./week-end.

Community and Social Events

Autograph party for Evelyn Iritani, Seattle P-I writer. She will autograph her book *An Ocean Between Us*, Oct. 15, 1 P.M., Second Storey Bookstore, 1815 N. 45th St. Seattle. Info: 547-4605.

White River Buddhist Church Bazaar, Oct. 16, 11 A.M. to 6 P.M., 3625 Auburn Way N. Info: 833-1442.

University Students Club Scholarship Reception: five local area Nikkei students will be awarded scholarships to attend the University of Washington; Nov. 5, 7:30 P.M., Kawabe House, 221-18th Ave. E. Info: 363-1414.

20th Annual Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation Championship, Nov. 6, 9:30 A.M. to 6 P.M. Renton Community Ctr, 1715 Maple Valley Hwy, Renton, Free. Info: 522-1995

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

Ayame Kai 13th Annual Holiday Craft Fair, Nov. 19, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., Seattle Buddhist Church, 1427 S. Main St.

Wing Luke Asian Museum Annual Art Auction, reservations available for gala affair honoring the lifetime achievements of artist Paul Horiuchi, Feb. 11, Westin Hotel. Tickets, \$65 guest, \$100 patron, \$200 benefactor, \$650 table of 10. Credit card payments accepted. Deadline Jan. 11. Info: 623-5124.

Weekly ballroom dance class, every Wednesday from 1 to 3 P.M., Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St.

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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
Thousand Club Life	\$1,000
Century Club Life	\$2,000
Youth/Student membership	
(25 years or younger)	\$14
Seattle JACL only	
Booster Club regular	\$20
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

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- Seattle Chapter monthly newsletter
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- Eligible to join JACL credit union

1000 Club life membership

- Member receives benefits listed above for his/her families



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


Booster Club membership

- Membership to Seattle Chapter JACL
- Seattle Chapter monthly newsletter

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CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Please return to:
May Namba, Membership chair
2324 NW 94th St., Seattle, WA 98117

Thank you for your support!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Calendar, continued from page 4

Arts and Cultural Events

FOB by David Henry Hwang, Northwest Asian American Theatre, through Nov. 6. Theatre Off Jackson, 409-7th Ave.S., Thursday through Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 4 p.m. Admission: \$12, \$9 seniors/students/physically challenged (\$6 on Thursdays), \$6 children/actors. Tickets and info: 340-1445. Also available at Play's the Thing Bookstore.

International Cultural Celebration: Honoring cultural diversity through the performing arts, featuring Katsura Bunpuku, Katsura Ayame, Kabuki Academy, the Chinese Performing Arts Institute and the Morning Star Dancers, Oct. 15, 3 P.M. and 7 P.M., 5th Avenue Theatre. Tickets: \$18, (\$20 at the door), children under 18 \$9 (\$10 at the door), available by calling 524-4971, at Uwajimaya, Elliott Bay Books and 5th Avenue Theatre box office.

Reading by Lydia Minatoya from her book *Talking to High Monks in the Snow*, Oct. 19, 5 P.M. Cunningham Hall, Univ. of Wash, free. info: 685-1090.

Activities at **Hyogo Cultural Center:** "Introduction to Shodo," Japanese calligraphy, five week session October 19, 26, Nov. 2,9,16, 5:30 to 7 P.M. "Japanese card making," Oct. 20, 5:30 to 7 P.M. \$5 fee each session—register for these by Oct. 17. "Video discussion night: Japanese Families through popular TV programs," Nov. 3, 5:30 to 7 P.M. no fee—register by Nov. 1. "Taste of Fall: Japanese

Cooking demonstration, Nov. 7, 5:30 to 7 P.M. \$5 fee—register by Nov.3. Hyogo Cultural Center, 2001-6th Ave. 11th Fl. Westin Bldg, Info: 728-0610.

Reading by **Mayumi Tsutakawa**, editor of *Edge Walking on the Western Rim: New Works by 12 Northwest Writers*, and others. Oct. 21, 7 P.M. 220 Kane Hall, Univ. of Wash. Free.

First Annual Festival of the Pacific: Celebration of Asian and Pacific Islander Culture, exhibits on display from Oct. 22, opening ceremony Oct. 28 6:30 P.M., festival will run through Oct. 30. Factoria Square Mall, Bellevue. Info: 443-1410.

Two concerts presented by Earshot Jazz and the Seattle Asian Art Museum: "**Sumi Tonooka/Kenny Endo Taiko Jazz Trio**," featuring Sumi Tonooka on the piano, Kenny Endo on the taiko and Kiyoshi Kitagawa on the bass, on Oct. 27, 7:30 P.M. "**Glen Horiuchi Trio**," featuring pianist Glen Horiuchi, tenor sax Francis Wong and shamisen player Lillian Nakano, Nov. 3, 7:30 P.M. Both at Seattle Asian Art Museum Auditorium, 15th Ave.E. and E. Prospect St. Tickets: \$10.50 for SAM/Earshot members, \$13.50 for nonmembers available at Ticketmaster (628-088), Earshot Jazz (547-6763), Wall of Sound (441-9880) or Bud's Jazz Records (628-0445).

Japanese Music Concert: **100th anniversary celebration of birth of Miyagi Michio**, concert by Seattle Miyagi Kai

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with koto, shamisen and shakuhachi, Nov. 6, 2 P.M. Seattle Art Museum, 100 University St. Free. Info: 654-3100.

Museum Programs

"Asia/America: Identities in Contemporary Asian American Art," works by 20 foreign-born Asian American artists from 11 countries reflecting their bicultural identities and multilayered experiences as Asians in America, is on view through November 27 at Tacoma Art Museum, 12th St. and Pacific Avenue in Tacoma. Hours Tues. through Sat. 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., Thurs. until 7 P.M., Sun. noon to 5 P.M. Admission: \$3, \$2 seniors/students, \$1 children 6 to 12. Tacoma Art Museum, Wing Luke Asian Museum and Burke Museum members free, and everyone free admission on Tuesdays. Info: (206) 272-4258.


"Strength and Diversity: Japanese American Women 1885-1990," an exhibit originally created by the National Japanese American Historical Society and the Oakland Museum, with a new local Northwest component, through December 4. Burke Museum at the Univ. of Wash., 17th Ave.N.E. and N.E. 45th St. Hours daily 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Admission \$3, \$2 for seniors and students, \$1.50 for ages 6 to 18, under 6 free. Burke Museum, Tacoma Art Museum and Wing Luke Asian Museum members free. Info: 543-5590.

Special Burke Museum events: "**Hidden History: Japanese American Women's Perspectives on World War II In-**

ternment and the Redress Movement," a panel consisting of Nikkei women including Cherry Kinoshita. Oct.23 2 P.M. Burke Room. "**An Evening with Japanese American Women Writers and Poets,"** Nov. 4, 8 P.M. "**Demonstration of Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Experience,"** local JA artisans will demonstrate quilting, Japanese paper cutting, making propeller toys and other crafts, with hands on activities for all ages. Nov.13, noon to 4 P.M., Burke Museum.

"They Painted From their Hearts: Pioneer Asian American Artists," a groundbreaking exhibit of pioneer Washington State Asian American artists, with works from 1900 to 1960, on view at Wing Luke Asian Museum through January 15, 407-7th Ave. S. Hours Tues. through Fri. 11 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Sat. and Sun. noon to 4 p.m. Admission \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 seniors/students, \$.75 children 5 to 12. Free for Wing Luke Museum, Burke Museum and Tacoma Art Museum members. Info: 623-5124.

Special Wing Luke Asian Museum events: "**Early Asian American Artists of Washington State,"** a four session course with instructor Mayumi Tsutakawa and guest speakers. Cosponsored by Seattle Central Community College, Tuesdays, October 18 through November 8, 7 to 9 p.m. Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407-7th Ave.S. Fee \$45 for general public, \$35 for museum members, includes classroom materials. To register, call Seattle Central Community College Edventure Program at 587-5448. Individual lectures may be attended for \$7 general public and \$5 museum members. Info: Charlene, 623-5124.



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