

President's Report

by Cal Takagi

The month of May included a number of highlights, of which I'd like to mention three:

- The May 21st meeting sponsored by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) brought together about 50 people who gave up a beautiful Sunday to participate, but most felt the afternoon and evening well spent. These persons came from all of the Asian American communities and the Jewish American community, and in the course of the day worked toward establishing a framework for cooperation. There was recognition that as minority peoples we faced and shared many of the same problems, and there was also general agreement that we might better solve them if we could work together, especially in the political process. Speakers included Dr. Neil Sandberg, director of the AJC Pacific Rim Institute, Karen Narasaki, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, David Roth, director of the AJC Institute on American Pluralism, and Martha Choe, Seattle City Councilmember. Also present was the Consulate-General of Japan, Masaki Saito, who stated his belief that the kind of coalition-building represented by this effort was an effective strategy for the future of Asian Americans. I fully agree with his assessment. Planning for next steps is underway.

- Anyone with doubts about Nikkei youth should have attended the May 17th JACL Scholarship Awards ceremony. The story is reported elsewhere in this issue, but I cannot let the occasion go by without comment. The three winners — Jonathan Matsui, Akemi Tanemura, and Dawn Hewitt — are outstanding not just in their academic achievements but in

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their individual interests, their extracurricular activities, their volunteer community work, and their ambitions as well. These young people have it together, and deserve our congratulations. Two other young board members — Michelle Kumata and Randy Aoyama — co-chaired the Scholarship Committee and did a superb job of selecting the winners and of conducting the awards program. With folks like these around, I have no question that our future is in good hands.

- For her many years of service to the JACL on the local, district, and national levels; the contributions she has made to the welfare of Japanese Americans and to the betterment of relations between Japan and America, Cherry Kinoshita was awarded the Order of the Precious Crown, Apricot, by the Emperor of Japan. On May 23rd, she was honored in a dignified ceremony, reception, and luncheon held at the residence of the Consulate-General. Among those who know how hard and effectively Cherry has worked on so many important causes, including redress, it is unanimously agreed that she is most deserving of such recognition. Our thanks and gratitude to her for her work, which has been of benefit to us all, go along with our congratulations.



Scholarship winners (from left): Jonathan Matsui, Dawn Hewitt and Akemi Tanemura —Photo by Michelle Kumata

Chapter Scholarships awarded May 17

by Randy Aoyama

Seattle Chapter JACL Scholarship: Akemi Tanemura

Akemi Tanemura, Seattle Chapter JACL Scholarship winner, graduated in 1993 from the University of Puget Sound, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Her academic credentials are excellent, illustrated by her acceptance into the Physical Therapy Graduate School program at Boston University.

As an undergraduate student, Akemi was very involved in extracurricular activities and earned several honors. She received the "Akemi Tanemura Service Award" (given yearly by the University of Puget Sound in recognition of outstanding community service and

Continued on page two

Chapter Focus

Scholarship winners, continued from page one

named after the award winner each year). She also was the recipient of the 1993 Associated Students of UPS "Yumi Kawaji Outstanding Woman Award," recognizing her leadership and community service.

Akemi continues to volunteer much of her time in the community. Her activities include tutoring Asian immigrants, volunteering time to prepare meals for homeless people, helping to rehabilitate stroke patients at Providence Hospital, and serving as a massage therapy volunteer at Keiro Nursing Home. So it is with great pleasure that we honor Akemi Tanemura with this award.

Minoru Tamesa Scholarship: Jonathan Matsui

The Minoru Tamesa Scholarship recipient Jonathan Matsui is currently a junior at the University of Washington. He is studying in the honors program in Zoology with an emphasis in Neuroscience. He has also studied abroad, taking an honors course in Pharmacology and Physiology at the Victoria University of Manchester in Manchester, England. He will be attending Medical School this fall.

Jonathan has not only excelled in academics, he is also very active outside of the classroom. He played a pivotal role in revitalizing the Japanese American Youth at the University of Washington. He served as the Seattle Chapter JAYS president in the 1992-93 school year and is still very active in that organization. He has served as the Pacific Northwest Co-director of the National Youth Council, is a member of the Alpha Epsilon Delta

Honor Society, and spent a year in the University of Washington Symphony Orchestra.

This year, Jonathan joined the Seattle Chapter Board of Directors of the JACL. It is with great pleasure that we award Jonathan Matsui the Minoru Tamesa Scholarship.

Tazuma Family Scholarship: Dawn Hewett

Dawn Hewett, winner of this year's Tazuma Family Scholarship, is a senior at Evergreen High school. She will attend the University of Washington this fall, where she will pursue a double major in Business Administration and International Studies. Following college graduation her goals include earning a Master of Business Administration degree, opening an international marketing company and becoming a United States senator representing the state of Washington.

Dawn has received many honors and participates in many activities at Evergreen High School. She is serving as the president of the Associated Student Body, the president of the Executive Council, and as the director of the multi-cultural committee. She has also distinguished herself in both high school athletics and musical activities.

Among her many community activities, Dawn serves as an English tutor for Japanese students and spends Saturdays volunteering at Seattle Keiro. A major goal of hers is to someday build shelters for homeless children.

We proudly award Dawn Hewett the Tazuma Family Scholarship.

(1995 Scholarship Committee Co-chairs: Michelle Kumata and Randy Aoyama. Other committee members: Anne Uemura, Jeff Hattori, Ann Fujii-Lindwall, Joy Shigaki, and Lynne Sato. Thanks for your help.)

Newsletter Thanks

Thank you to Chuck Kato, Cal Takagi, Elaine Ikagi, Mike Kimura, Arlene Oki, Rose Ogino, Dave Hoeckendorf and Anne Uemura for helping with the May Newsletter mailout.

Chapter Offers Workshop For Teachers

The Seattle Chapter JACL and the Seattle Education Association will offer a workshop for teachers and other interested parties, on the "Japanese American Internment—A Lesson in American History." The goal of the workshop is to help teachers in teaching about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. It is an important part of American history that is often forgotten in the textbooks. The workshop will have, as a guest instructor, Teresa Maebori, chairperson of the National Education Committee.

Teachers as well as speakers who often visit the classroom to share their experiences, are invited to attend this day-long workshop. It will be held on August 16 at the JACL office. A bento lunch will be included for a cost of \$9. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Elaine Akagi at (206) 772-6749.

Newsletter Notes

by Bob Shimabukuro

The U.S. Postal Service has notified us that the chapter newsletter has been in violation of U.S. postal regulations governing non-profit organization bulk mail. The 1991 Postal Service Appropriations Act makes certain types of third-class matter ineligible to be mailed at the special bulk third-class rates. "Material which advertises, offers or promotes credit cards, insurance policies, or travel arrangements is usually ineligible for the special bulk rates ..."

As a result, long-time newsletter advertiser Landmark Travel Agency will no longer be advertising in this periodical. However, Victor, Karen and Lisa Kawasaki are donating the remainder of their advertising support for this year to the chapter's newsletter fund. Landmark Associate, Elsie "Leilani" Taniguchi, (a Puyallup Valley chapter member and scholarship chair for that chapter), is donating her advertising support to Seattle chapter's scholarship fund.

Seattle JACL thanks all for their donation and support through the years.

Also, in October 1995, new postal regulations will prohibit all advertising in non-profit newsletters, unless they are deemed to be "periodicals." We are now checking to see how that relates to the JACL.

Bruce "David" Yamashita takes on Goliath

Note: Captain Bruce Yamashita will keynote the 1996 JACL installation dinner January 27, 1996. The following is an article about Yamashita which first appeared in the International Examiner in March 1994.

by Robert Shimabukuro

San Francisco—Bruce Yamashita listened carefully to a young admirer, offered her advice ("hang in there, don't ever give up"), then autographed her conference folder. He had just finished delivering a polished and inspiring keynote address at the Miyako Hotel to the Japanese American Citizens League Youth Conference in February 1994. He clearly savored the moment.

Quite a difference from the previous five years. Yamashita, discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) Officer Candidate School (OCS) for "leadership failure" in 1989, fought a legal battle with the USMC to regain his dignity and pride, charging that he had been denied his commission on racial grounds. In late December 1993, he learned that he had won. In March 1994 he was commissioned as a Captain in the USMC Reserves.

Yamashita's charges (and substantiation) of racial discrimination and harassment by the Marines OCS also forced the USMC to address racial and gender inequalities in OCS policies and the U.S. Congress passed legislation requiring all branches to publish and enforce equal opportunity policies at their respective officer candidate schools. "Right makes might," Yamashita told the youthful audience. "How do I know? Because David has slain Goliath."

Yamashita began his ordeal February 6, 1989, in Quantico, Virginia, home of the Marines' Officer Candidate School. On the very first day, the verbal abuse began. "We don't want your kind around here. Go back to Japan." "Hey, Yamashita, you speak English?" "You know, during World War II, we whipped your Japanese ass."

Throughout the 10-week training, Yamashita endured verbal and physical abuse. "Humiliating," he says of the treatment. "I felt I had no choice but to accept it." When he was "disenrolled," he was devastated.

For Yamashita, born and raised in Hawaii, this treatment was an eye-opener. "I had always assumed that I was an American. I went to OCS just an American. You know, just one of the guys. (The slurs and resulting discharge) went to the very heart of my identity, of who I was."

Of the five that were discharged that day, four were men of color: an African American, a Hispanic American, a Filipino American, and a Japanese American. He didn't think much about it at the time. Yamashita was thinking mostly about what had happened to himself. "I was filled with self-doubt," he said. "You know, I was raised to accept my failures. Maybe the Marine Corps knew me better than I knew myself."

(To be continued next month)

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The Seattle JACL Newsletter is edited by Bob Shimabukuro. Proofreader: Alice Ito. Contributors: Randy Aoyama, Elaine Akagi, Michelle Kumata, Ed Suguro, Cal Takagi and Anne Uemura.

Calendar of Events

Compiled by Ed Suguro

Meetings

Seattle JACL Board Meeting, everyone invited, June 21, 7 p.m., 316 Maynard Ave. S., room 111.

Doshi Kai meeting, July 5, 7 p.m. Call Wayne Kimura for location, 827-0460 day, 869-5174 eve/weekend.

Community and Social Events

Tomo No Kai Skagit Tour and Fried Chicken Lunch, June 15. Bus will leave Jefferson Fieldhouse at 8:30 a.m. Info: 722-1576.

Pacific Northwest/Intermountain Bi-district JACL Conference, July 8-9, Red Lion Inn Downtowner, Boise, Idaho, 8 a.m. PNWD and IDC meetings, 1 p.m. joint meeting, 7 p.m. banquet. Info: Karen, PNWD regional office, 623-5088.

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

Nikkei Concerns/Seattle Keiro Benefit Dinner, sponsored by Sid and Dan Ko in celebration of Perry Ko's South China Restaurant's 15th anniversary, July 10, 4-9 p.m., South China Restaurant, 2714 Beacon Ave. S. Tickets: \$8.50 available from Seattle Keiro, South China Restaurant and community volunteers. Info: 323-7100.

Greater Portland Reunion, August 11-13, Red Lion Inn, Lloyd Center, Portland. Mixer, tours, golf tournament, banquet and picnic are planned. For registration forms, contact Greater Portland II Reunion Committee, P.O. Box 133731, Portland, OR 97213-0731.

"Come Alive in '95," 7th Annual National JACL Singles Convention, September 1-3, Westin South Coast Plaza, 686 Anton Blvd., Costa Mesa, CA. Friday mixer, Saturday lunch, Saturday banquet/dance, Sunday brunch, workshops, picnic, tennis, golf, hospitality room, optional tours to Las Vegas and the Japanese American National Museum are among the numerous activities planned. Convention package: \$135 if received by July 15. Deadline August 26. Registration forms available from Irene Kubo, 927 Folkstone Ave., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745. Info: (714) 496-7779.

Tri-State High School All Classes Reunion, October 9-15, Marriott Hotel, Marina Del Rey, California. Although it was originally planned for just the class of 1945, which will host the event, it is now open to anyone who attended the Tule Lake high school during its operation. A get-aquainted cruise to Mexico is planned for October 9-13, followed by a tour of the Japanese American National Museum. Activities are planned for Saturday with a banquet that evening and a brunch the following Sunday.

Sign-ups can be made for individual events. Info: Aiko (Outa) Kusaba (310) 391-3890, Roy Higa (310) 477-4891, June (Manji) Oga (209) 369-9063, Mary (Kawano) Fong (916) 446-5423, Tom Matsuda (409) 453-7967, Tsutomu Ota (916) 428-5310.

Heart Mountain All School Reunion, November 17-19, Union Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas. Everyone from elementary school through high school is invited to this reunion, plus any other interested parties. Info: Bacon Sakatani (818) 338-8310, Keiichi Ikeda (213) 293-6887, Tom Hide (714) 826-2211, Betty (Fujimoto) Fujiwara (818) 240-6677 or Ellen Fujiwara (818) 768-4046.

Weekly ballroom dance class, every Wednesday, from 1-3 p.m., Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St.

Arts and Cultural Events

"Picture Bride," the award-winning film by director Kayo Hatta, plays at the Seven Gables Theatre, 911 N.E. 50th St., during the month of June. Call theatre, 632-8820, for times.

Northwest Asian American Theatre presents **"Age of Wonders,"** two one-act plays by Lawrence Yep including "Pay the Chinaman" and "Fairy Bones," through June 25, Theatre Off Jackson, 409 7th Ave. S., Thursday-Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 4 p.m. Tickets: \$12 general, \$9 students,

seniors/physically challenged (\$6 Thursdays), \$6 children/actors. Reservations: 340-1049. Advance tickets may be purchased at play's the thing bookstore, 514 E. Pike St.

Intaglio Prints by Yukiko Ohyama and Yoshio Yamanobe, through July 2, Davidson Galleries, 313 Occidental Ave. S., Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Info: 624-7684.

"Machine Memory," new glass sculpture by Norie Sato, through July 2, Linda Farris Gallery, 320 2nd Ave. S., Tuesday-Saturday 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m. Info: 623-1110.

Mixed Media Works by **Miyuki Shinkai**, through July 4, Romper Room Gallery, 106 1st Ave. S., daily 4 p.m.-2 a.m. Info: 284-5003.

"Rainier to Fuji: Mountain Landscapes of Japan and the Pacific Northwest," through July 29, Carolyn Staley Fine Prints, 313 1st Ave. S., Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Info: 621-1888.

"Northwest 1930s," a group exhibit that includes works by **Kenjiro Nomura and Kamekichi Tokita**, through July 30, Seattle Art Museum, 100 University St., fourth floor, Tuesday-Sunday 10 a.m. 5 p.m., Thursday till 9 p.m. Admission: \$6 general, \$4 students/seniors, free first Tuesday of the month. Info: 625-8900 or 654-3100.



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Japanese American Citizens League

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