

# SEATTLE JACL CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

August 1995

VOLUME 32, NO. 8

## President's Report

by Cal Takagi

The 50th anniversary of the ending of World War II has special significance for Japanese Americans. Reunions of men who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and in Military Intelligence during the war as well as several reunions of internment camp survivors help us not only to recall the past and to renew old relationships but also give us opportunity to rework our feelings about our personal and group experiences during that time and in that place. Media interest in the subject is exemplified by the questions we've all been asked — e.g., What happened to you during the war, and how do you feel about it? — and is reflected in books, articles and video programs that have made recent appearances or will soon be appearing.

One of the best of these, from my perspective, is the new video documentary, "Honor Bound," a story of the 100th/442nd RCT, produced and written by Wendy Tanamura in honor of her father. PBS station KCTS, channel 9, will be showing this film on August 15th and again on August 19th. On August 2nd, the station hosted a preview showing for 100 invited guests from the community.

.....

***Whether the battle against racism is ever won is questionable. What is clear is that the battle must continue.***

.....

The event was organized by Judy Nihei, of the Northwest Asian American Theater (NWAAT), at the behest of Dr. Arthur Gorai, who believed strongly in the value to the community of such a showing. A bountiful buffet was put together by NWAAT and the movie was excellent. I urge everyone to watch it.

Among other things, the movie presents an account of

## Sakamoto monument to be unveiled September 10

by Hideo Hoshide

A stone monument erected at the entrance to the Seattle Keiro Nursing Home in tribute to James Y. Sakamoto and his wife, Misao, and the Courier League, will be unveiled and dedicated on Sunday, Sept. 10, at 2 p.m. The monument of basalt stones from the Moses Lake area of Washington State was designed by well-known and talented stone sculptor John Hoge of Seattle.

Jimmie Sakamoto was an athlete during his prep days at Seattle's Franklin high school, and later at Princeton University. A tragedy in his pro boxing career, which included bouts in the Madison Square Garden, led to blindness and

.....

***... the all-English paper was badly under-capitalized, and only a few Nisei had the two dollars to pay for a year's subscription. In its 14 years of life, the Courier never provided Jimmie with more than a bare living.***

.....

Sakamoto returned to Seattle in 1927. A year later he started a weekly newspaper called the Japanese American Courier. At the same time he was working to organize a national organization for Nikkei which eventually became the Japanese American Citizens League. He served as its second national president in 1936.

Retired Denver Post editorial page editor and former Courier sports editor Bill Hosokawa recalled that the all-English paper was badly under-capitalized, and only a few Nisei had the two dollars to pay for a year's subscription. In its 14 years of life, the Courier never provided Jimmie with more than a bare living.

Hosokawa, the main speaker at the pre-dedication ceremony held on August 19, 1994, continued, "Early on, Jimmie realized that if most Nisei were still too young to concern themselves with political and economic rights through JACL, they needed other diversions through sports . . . Thus the Courier became a sponsor of baseball, boys' and girls' basketball, and football leagues for the Nisei.



## Chapter Focus .....

### Documentary reminds us about racism

continued from page 1

the rescue by the 442nd of the Texas Lost Battalion during which the number of casualties suffered by the 442 were four times the number of men rescued. The implicit question it raises is whether the sacrifice of life was worth it. The implicit but ambivalent answer given is that the gains made by the Japanese Americans after the war can be attributed in large part to the record of heroism and sacrifice on the part of Nisei men on the battlefield, and that the gains, therefore, were worth the cost.

In his address to the regiment, President Truman is shown making the assertion, "You have fought racism, and you have won." The documentary reminds us that racism and discrimination were a daily part of life for Japanese Americans at the beginning of the war. Employment, housing

and residence, land ownership, citizenship for Issei, int marriage, and the receipt of service as customers in restaurants, hotels, and barber shops were all restricted or not available. In the years following the war, most of these laws and practices were eliminated or modified.

The powerful sentiments underlying those racist practices of 1941, however, seem to be alive and well in 1995. Violent crimes against Asian Americans have increased in recent years. The current moves to enact legislation directed against immigrants and aliens, to remove affirmative action policies, and to remove protections for gays and lesbians can be viewed as products of the same kind of prejudiced mind-set that developed the discriminatory practices of pre-war America. Whether the battle against racism is ever won is questionable. What is clear is that the battle must continue.

## Celebrate 75 years of women's suffrage

On Saturday, August 26, the League of Women Voters (LWV), the National Organization of Women (NOW) and other groups are celebrating 75 years of voting rights for women. The Seattle Chapter of the League of Women voters is extending a warm welcome to all JACLers to join events commemorating this historic civil rights accomplishment. The League believes the anniversary presents "a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together to celebrate the power, freedom and importance of voting."

Join the parade which starts at 1 p.m. at 6th and Pine in downtown Seattle, and the multicultural festival of music and other entertainment at 3 p.m. at the Seattle Center House stage.

Please call the LWV office at 328-4848/622-8961 or NOW at 632-8547 for further details.

### The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter is published on the second Wednesday of the month by the Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League.

Seattle Chapter JACL mailing address: P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, Washington, 98118-0558.

Seattle Chapter JACL office address: 316 Maynard Ave. South, Seattle, Washington, 98104.

Issue no: Volume 32, no. 8

Seattle Chapter Newsletter Editor: Bob Shimabukuro.

Proofreader: Alice Ito. Contributors: Hideo Hoshide, Arlene Oki, Ed Suguro, Cal Takagi

Bylined articles represent the views of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of Seattle Chapter JACL or the National JACL.

The entire contents are copyrighted by Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter and no part of the publication may be printed without prior consent.



**MUTUAL FISH CO.**  
2335 RAINIER AVENUE S.  
SEATTLE, WA 98144  
FAX: (206) 328-5889  
TEL: (206) 322-4368

**KAWAKAMI & SAKAMOTO**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Rodney L. Kawakami  
Sharon A. Sakamoto

T&C Building, Suite 201  
671 South Jackson Street  
Seattle, Washington 98104  
Telephone (206) 682-9932  
Telecopier (206) 682-7320

**PENTHOUSE DRAPERY**  
We'll go to any lengths to get your business!

Colin Tsuchikawa

City Commerce Park  
4115 1st Avenue South  
Seattle, WA 98134  
(206) 292-8336  
Fax (206) 292-8436

## Cal Anderson's legacy: civil rights for all

Robert Shimabukuro

In his last days, my brother Sam used to say, "I don't feel sorry for myself. When I die, I die. It's Bruce I worry about. He'll still be here."

I thought of those words as I read the Seattle Times article. "Secretary of the Senate Marty Brown said Anderson was found dead by his partner, Eric Ishino, at their Seattle home when Ishino came home from work," the article read.

Early Saturday morning. What a blow. I thought of Eric. How he had maintained his optimism and strength over these months. I thought of Sam and Bruce, Sam's partner. And I thought of Cal.

While he will be remembered by most as the gay legislator who fought for the rights of sexual minorities, State Senator Cal Anderson also fought for the civil rights of all, including racial minorities, during his years in the State House (1987-94) and Senate (1995). I'll remember him as someone who offered his support when he found out that my brother had AIDS.

Cal had called me after he read an article I had written about my brother's bout with AIDS. He was particularly

intrigued that while Sam was in the hospital with a severe case of pneumocystis carinii during the 1988 election campaign, he had asked Bruce and me to get him an absentee ballot. He had been given not more than a month to live but he wanted to vote.

Cal thought that to be a powerful statement. I was touched by his concern. Later, I would be impressed by his legislative skills and courage, and his ardent support for Asian Pacific AIDS Council.

We need people like Cal in the legislature. He was the most liberal Democrat in the State legislature and he never ran from being one. And he worked hard to work with others to bring about effective legislation. It is unfortunate that he never got the bill that was most dear to him, the gay rights bill, passed.

The state will miss Cal. And whether they realize it or not, so will Japanese Americans and other racial minorities. He fought for us, and I wish we could have returned the favor.

My condolences (and thanks) to Eric and his family, and to the Anderson family. Their support for Cal carried him these last few years, and enabled him to work for all of us.

## Newsletter Notes

Once again, the U.S. Postal Service have found us in violation of postal regulations governing non-profit bulk mail. Types of advertising that are ineligible for non-profit bulk mailing rates are: "credit, debit or charge cards or similar financial instruments; insurance policies; or travel arrangements."

Because of these regulations, we are no longer running the ads of longtime newsletter advertiser, Sharon Harada, financial planner. We thank Sharon for years of support for our newsletter. She has also donated the remaining \$25 of her advertising left to the Seattle Chapter.

Thank you Sharon.

## Sakamoto

Continued from page 1

"Hundreds of youngsters throughout what is now the Seattle metropolitan area participated. The opportunity to compete developed athletic skills, teamwork, sportsmanship and perhaps most important, helped prevent serious delinquency in an environment where delinquency easily could have become rampant," Hosokawa said.

The dedication ceremony will be the culmination of a dream that Norio Wakamatsu, Hideki Sekijima, Harry Honda and Ed Tsutakawa had envisioned to memorialize

the Sakamotos and the Courier League. The former Seattleites now living in Spokane, Washington, had spearheaded the James Y. Sakamoto Memorial fund drive since the kickoff date of March 4, 1993. The overwhelming response of former Courier Leaguers and friends originally from Seattle helped push the drive over the goal.

Yoshito Mizuta and Mits Abe are co-chair of the dedication committee composed of Shiro Kashino, Art Abe, Roy Sakamoto, Matt Yorita, Tad Kuniyuki, Shigeko Uno, Kay Abe and Hideo Hoshide.



# Calendar of Events

Compiled by Ed Suguro

## MEETINGS

**Seattle JAACL Board Meeting**, everyone invited, August 16, 7 p.m., 316 Maynard Ave. S., room 111.

**Doshi Kai meeting**, September 6, 7 p.m. Call Wayne Kimura for location, 827-0460 day, 869-5174 evenings & weekends.

## COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL EVENTS

**Thomas Community Grade School and Community Reunion**, August 27, noon-5 p.m., White River Buddhist Church, 3625 Auburn Way N., Auburn. Anyone who lived in Thomas before WWII is invited. Cost: \$25. Info: Momoko (Morinaga) Kido, 722-6725; Esther (Yamada) Kojima, 725-6329; Mae (Iseri) Yamada, 852-5005.

**"Come Alive in '95," 7th Annual National JAACL Singles Convention**, September 1-3, Westin South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa, CA. Registration forms available from Irene Kubo, 927 Folkstone Ave., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745. Deadline: August 26. Info: (714) 496-7779.

**Military Intelligence Service Reunion**, September 7-9, Doubletree Suites, Tukwila. Info: George Koshi, 772-2930; Roy Inui, 868-7935; Tak Matsui, 322-3111, Ken Sato, 363-1414.

**Nikkei Community Dance**, September 9, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St., BYOB, live band, \$3 per person. Info: 772-1160.

The **Nichiren Buddhist Fujinkai** is sponsoring its annual Chow Mein Sale, September 24, 1042 So. Weller St., a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Chicken teriyaki, imogashi and baked goods will also be on sale. Tickets for the chow mein may be obtained from church members or at the church.

**Tri-State High School All Classes Reunion**, October 9-15, Marriott Hotel, Marina Del Rey, CA. 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 cruise to Mexico will precede the activities; sign-ups may 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, Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas. Everyone who attended school in Heart Mountain from elementary to high school is invited, plus any other interested parties. The high school class of 1945 will host. Info: Bacon Sakatani (818) 338-8310, Keiichi Ikeda (213) 293-6887, Tom Hide (714) 826-2211, Betty (Fujimoto) Fujiwara (818) 240-6677, Ellen Fujiwara (818) 768-4046.

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

continued on next page →

## ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS

The **Inoue Chamber Ensemble of New York** presents "East-West Intercultural Concert," a peace concert tour marking the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II and commemorating the victims of Pearl Harbor, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with musicians from the Inoue Chamber Ensemble and the Oberlin Conservatory String Orchestra, music director Kazuko Inoue, August 15, 8 p.m., Nippon Kan Theatre, 628 S. Washington St. Donation. Info: 467-6807 or 323-1868.

**"Honor Bound: A Personal Journey,"** one man's experience with the 442nd and the Nisei who fought with him, August 15, 9 p.m. and August 19, 11 a.m., KCTS-TV, channel 9.

**"Mask of Hiroshima"** by Ernest Ferlita and **"Nagasaki Dreams"** by Sean Judson and Jason Martin, in memory of the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Japan, through August 20, Ethnic Cultural Theatre, Brooklyn Ave. and NE 40th St., Thursday-Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. Admission: \$8. Info: 286-5994.

**Works by Frank Fujii**, in a group show at Andrew Chinn Gallery, 1032 S. Jackson St., suite 203, through August 25, Wednesday-Friday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Info: 325-9735.

Repertory Actors Workshop presents **"Prelude to a Kiss"** by Craig Lucas, back by popular demand. The play fea-

tures a multicultural cast directed by David Hsieh. Through August 27, Wednesday-Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 7 p.m., Theatre Off Jackson, 409 7th Ave. S. Tickets and info: 364-3283.

**Tea Ceremony Demonstration** by Urasenke School, August 27, 2:30 p.m., Teahouse in the Japanese Art Gallery, Seattle Art Museum, third floor, 100 University St. Tickets: \$4 members, \$10 nonmembers. Info: 654-3121.

**"New Glass by Five Emerging Artists,"** group show including works by **Kotaro Hamada**, through September 5, Linda Cannon Gallery, 520 2nd Ave., Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m. Info: 233-0834.

**Seattle Asian American Film Festival**, September 21-24, Seattle Art Museum, 100 University St. Info: 329-6084.

**"Harmony in Conflict: Forest Phoenix," sumi paintings by Fumiko Kimura** that explore deforestation in the Northwest, through October 1, Washington State Historical Society, 315 N. Stadium Way, Tacoma, Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m. Admission: \$2.50, \$2 seniors, \$1 youth, \$6 family, children under 6 free. Info: (206) 593-2830.

**"The Art of Urban Archeology"** by Christina M. Hashimoto, through October 6, The Bon Marche sixth floor gallery, 3rd and Pine. Call store for hours, 344-7089.



**WASH'S AUTO REPAIR**  
Washin Murakami  
5021 Rainier Avenue S. • Seattle, WA 98118 • 206.722.3205



**Nyla Nakano**  
Associate Broker  
24-Hour Access Line (206) 949-8608  
Fax 932-6121  
Windermere  
Windermere Real Estate/East, Inc.  
405 114th Avenue SE, Suite 300  
Bellevue, Washington 98004



**JAE Awards**  
John & Polly Shigaki  
1775 - 15th Avenue S.  
Seattle, WA 98144  
(206) 325-9391  
Trophies, Engraving,  
Team Uniforms,  
and T-Shirts


**ALMA MISAKO KIMURA**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
TELEPHONE (206) 386-7348  
FAX (206) 386-7343  
SUITE 3000  
1000 SECOND AVENUE  
30TH FLOOR  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104-1064



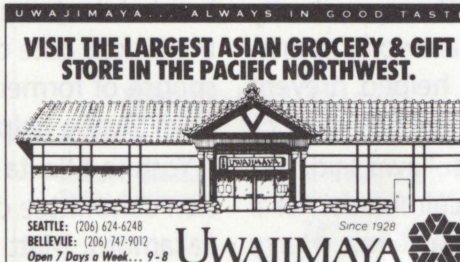
**SOUTH END FLORIST**  
10728 - 16th S.W. • Seattle, WA 98146  
PHONE 246-5000 • FAX 246-5001




**Shimabukuro**  
FURNITURE BY BOB SHIMABUKURO  
625 WESTERN AVE, 4TH FL SEATTLE, WA 98104  
(206) 343-2332  
(206) 722-1824



**West Coast Printing Inc.**  
English and Oriental Printing  
622 Rainier Avenue South Seattle, Washington 98144  
Telephone 206 323-0441



**UWAJIMAYA** ALWAYS IN GOOD TASTE  
VISIT THE LARGEST ASIAN GROCERY & GIFT STORE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.  
SEATTLE: (206) 624-6248  
BELLEVUE: (206) 747-9012  
Open 7 Days a Week... 9-8  
Since 1928  
**UWAJIMAYA**



**INTERNATIONAL REALTY CO.**  
James Matsuoka, Broker  
John Chinn, Associate  
Stephen Goon  
Timothy Lam, Associate  
King Lee, Associate  
Willy Liang, Associate  
Stephen Lock, Associate  
Jamie Matsuoka, Associate  
TEL: (206) 623-2303  
FAX: (206) 623-2305  
526 SOUTH JACKSON  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104



**Royal Glass Company, Inc.**  
Insurance Replacements  
Mobile Service  
Auto, Residential, Commercial  
1216 South Weller  
Seattle, WA 98144  
(206) 324-1340  
Dennis Sakamoto



**Higo Variety Store**  
GIFTS ☆ NOVELTIES ☆ ORIENTAL MERCHANDISE  
602 - 608 SO. JACKSON ST. SEATTLE, WA 98104  
PHONE: 622-7572



**HANK HASHIMOTO'S RS AUTO REBUILD**  
BODY & FENDER SPECIALISTS • COMPLETE CAR PAINTING  
1265 SOUTH KING STREET SEATTLE, WA 98144  
323-3112



---

**OFFICERS**

Calvin Takagi  
*President*  
232-5885 (h)

Elaine Akagi  
*President-Elect*  
772-6749 (h)

Anne Uemura  
*First Vice-President*  
723-6176

Arlene Oki  
*Second VP*  
684-0106 (w)

Dave Hoekendorf  
*Third VP*  
547-5135 (w)

Sharon Klosterman  
*Fourth Vice President*

Ayako Hurd  
*Corresponding Secretary*  
527-1464 (w)

Iris Miyahira  
*Recording Secretary*

Mike Kimura  
*Treasurer*  
544-4909 (w)

Shea Aoki  
*Historian*  
723-6061 (h)

Ray Ishii  
*Board Delegate*  
623-3790 (w)

**BOARD**

Randy Aoyama

Ken Nakano

Jeff Hattori

May Namba

Tony Ishisaka

Chizuko Norton

Kazzie Katayama

Rose Ogino

Chuck Kato

Lynne Sato

Eileen Kato

Joby Shimomura

Cherry Kinoshita

Sam Shoji

Sid Kuboi

Kip Tokuda

Michelle Kumata

Vicki Toyohara-Mukai

Hugh Matsubayashi

Grant Yamaguchi

Jonathan Matsui

Janice Yee

*The Seattle Chapter JAACL 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: JAACL Newsletter, c/o Bob Shimabukuro, 6621 S. Bangor St., Seattle, WA 98178.*

---

**Japanese American Citizens League**

Seattle Chapter  
P.O. Box 18558  
Seattle, WA 98118-0558

---

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Seattle, WA  
Permit # 9180

---

