
SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

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JACL now accepting scholarship applications for 1996

by Vicky Yuki

Seattle Chapter JACL is now accepting scholarship applications for 1996. The deadline for local scholarship applications is April 15, 1996. The deadline is April 1, 1996, for the JACL National Abe and Esther Hagiwara Financial Aid Award, Undergraduate Graduate/Law scholarship, Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Creative Arts Scholarship and Aiko Susanna Tashiro Hiratsuka Performing Arts Scholarship.

Applications for the JACL National Entering Freshmen Scholarship must be submitted to the Seattle Chapter by March 22, 1996.

Seattle Chapter scholarships are made possible by the generosity of the Bunshiro Tazuma and Minoru Tamesa scholarship funds. These scholarships are available to students who are currently enrolled or are planning to enroll in institutions of higher learning for fall quarter, 1996.

For all applications, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Janice Yee, Scholarship Committee, 4814 S. Graham, Seattle, WA 98118. Please indicate which scholarship you are interested in applying for. If you have any questions, please call Vicky Yuki, Scholarship Chair at (206) 746-5197

Youth to tackle race, affirmative action, multiculturalism at conference

by Jonathan Matsui

"Faces of the Future" is a weekend conference which explores ways in which Asian Pacific Americans and JACL members can have an impact in non-profit organizations and in the areas of race relations, affirmative action and multicultural issues. One of the critical goals of the JACL National Youth/Student Council is to develop leadership skills that empower young Asian Pacific Americans. The conference will be held in San Francisco at the Miyako Hotel on February 23-24, 1996 and is sponsored by Kikkoman International and American Express. The Seattle chapter has sponsored Geoff Goebel and Owen Kikuta from the Japanese American Youth of Seattle (JAYS) to attend the conference. Jon Matsui

Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition seeks entrants

by Jonathan Matsui

The 1996 Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition will be held at the biennial National JACL Convention in San Jose. In the past, students competed in two categories: high school and college. This year, due to budgetary constraints, students will only compete at the high school level. Each chapter may nominate students for the District competition. District winners compete at the 1996 National Convention. Pacific Northwest District (PNWD) winners have been successful at the national competition. At the last two national conventions, the winner has come from the PNWD, including Owen Kikuta from the Seattle chapter.

Awards

District winners will receive travel expenses and one-night hotel accommodation to represent their District at the national competition. The first place winner of the national competition will receive \$500 and an award plaque.

Format

A 3-5 minute presentation should be committed to memory. One 4x6 index card, however, is permitted.

Topics are to be selected from the following list:

- What does it mean to be bicultural/multicultural? What can the community do to begin embracing the bicultural/multicultural background of our JACL membership?
- What does it mean to be Asian American in 1996?
- In what way will the elimination of Affirmative Action impact your future?
- Discuss an experience in which you or someone else was discriminated against solely because of their race/ethnicity/culture. How did this experience affect you?
- What should the goals of the JACL be in the next century?

Interested students should contact Jonathan Matsui at (206) 632-4293 **no later than April 15!** The PNWD Competition will be held in Seattle on May 18, 1996.

(Seattle chapter) and Kelly Wicker (Olympia) will be moderating the "Asian Americans in Non-profits: An Alternative Career" panel, which will include Bob Shimabukuro (Seattle), director of Asian Pacific AIDS Council.

Here and Now, an Asian American acting troupe, will perform skits and vignettes to raise awareness about issues facing Asian American students. The group, formed in 1989, has performed at several college campuses and at conferences, including the Midwest Asian American Student Union.

Space for the conference is still available. Please contact Jonathan Matsui at (206) 632-4293 for more information.

President's Report

Chapter business sandwiched between snow, ice, rain, floods

by Elaine Akagi

The weather has certainly played a large part in our lives in the past weeks. First the snow, ice and frigid temperatures, then rain, swollen rivers and flooded streets. I've heard it said if you don't like the weather, just wait a day. How true it is.

The snowy, icy weather waited long enough so that people who attended the chapter's installation banquet could get home safely. The event was well attended this year. The guest speaker, Capt. Bruce Yamashita, told his personal account of his struggle with the U.S. Marine Corps. His account of racial slurs while struggling in Officer Candidate School, both from senior officers and peers, was eye opening. We were captivated by his charm and down home personality. We admire his courage to stand up for his rights. He truly is an inspiration to us all.

Before the floods hit, Cal Takagi and I traveled to Olympia for the Pacific Northwest District Council's quarterly meeting. Our national organization is divided into eight regional districts, with the PNWD covering Washington, Oregon and Alaska. There are nine chapters in the PNWD, five of which are in the Puget Sound area. We meet quarterly to discuss issues which affect our district and national organization. With a national convention coming up in August, some of the issues we discussed were nominations for national offices, the national budget, the youth program, and resolutions.

Our own district budget was discussed at some length and adjustments were made so we would have a balanced budget. In order to accomplish this, we had to vote on a district dues increase. Of your membership dollars, \$36 go to the national organization, \$4 (formerly \$3) go to the district, while \$2 stay with the chapter.

As the district had not had a dues increase in five years, delegates at the meeting voted to raise the dues by a dollar.

Some of the line items in the district budget cover the expenses for a representative to the National Leadership Conference, the district oratorical contest, and representation by our district governor at the national convention. Much of this year's budget is directly tied to the national convention.

The battle over dues increases could be an issue at this year's convention. Raising the membership dues has been an issue which has surfaced at nearly every convention I can remember. There will be heated debate, some for, many against. But the bottom line is that this organization runs on membership dues. If we, as members, want the JACL to continue its civil rights work, we must expect our dues to keep up with inflation. I'm not saying that there will be a request for a dues increase, but I would not be surprised if one was made.

Of course, you, as members, have opinions and they are welcome. I'm taking a step into the 21st century and making myself available to all of the computer users. If you'd like to make your opinions heard, write me online at ReikoA@aol.com. For those who would rather phone, the phone numbers of the board are on the back of this newsletter.

Editor's note: Thanks!

by Bob Shimabukuro

I tripped over the nail once more.

As I hammered on this particularly annoying nail which seemed to pop out of the porch weekly, I noticed that another had popped out. I hammered that one down too.

For about six months, I had hammered this one nail weekly, or maybe every two weeks. In the months to come, I discovered that the other nail began to work itself out often, as did other nails close by.

Taking the easy solution, I just hammered these nails back in whenever they worked themselves loose.

Of course, in the end, it wasn't the easy solution. The problem was that the porch top was nailed to a rotten joist. The nail couldn't grip to anything. If I had heeded the warning of the first nail, I probably could have saved the joist. As it was, I ended up having to replace the whole joist as the rot had spread.

Most of us have heard the old Japanese proverb, "The nail that sticks out gets hammered." There should be a corollary: "One nail gets hammered. Many nails effect change."

I want to thank the Seattle JACL for the Don Kazama Award which Sally Kazama presented to me at the Installation Dinner. Any award given for being a "maverick human rights activist" is real special one indeed. More Don Kazama types around would certainly improve the human condition.

Thank you, Sally. Thank you, Seattle JACL.

Redress Update

A total of 79,875 redress payments have been made to date, it was reported by DeDe Greene, Administrator for Office of Redress Administration. Over the past three months, 43 payments have been made to claimants all of whom were over the age of 65.

The remaining \$45 million of the initial authorization for redress under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 has been made accessible to ORA for individual payments and will be disbursed throughout the remainder of the program, according to Greene.

Under the Ishida court decision, ORA is currently reviewing the 900 cases that were previously on appeal in addition to nearly 150 new cases which have been submitted. In order to process their claims, many claimants have been receiving a "blue letter" asking for information about their parents' internment and evacuation and requesting necessary documentation in order to process their claims.

If anyone has any questions concerning these blue forms, please contact the ORA Helpline at (202) 219-6900.

Redress fund directors appointed

The White House announced January 19 that President Clinton has made eight appointments to the board of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, established by the 1988 Civil Liberties Act ("Redress Bill").

The CLPEF board of directors is charged with administering the public education fund (with \$5 million currently appropriated), redressing the civil liberties violations committed by the government against Japanese Americans during World War II and sponsoring research and public education activities which foster understanding of circumstances which led to the violations.

The CLPEF will be terminated August 10, 1998, by statute, and all funds must be disbursed by that date.

The eight board members are:

• **Robert F. Drinan**, Massachusetts, a law professor at Georgetown University, and a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians;

• **Leo K. Goto**, Colorado, owner of the Wellshire Inn in Denver and director of the Colorado Restaurant Association;

• **Susan Hayase**, California, a software development engineer at the Hewlett Packard Company and an active member of Nihonmachi Outreach Committee in San Jose and National Coalition for Redress/Reparations;

• **Elsa Kudo**, Hawaii, a realtor and a leading spokesperson for Japanese Peruvians who were interned in the U.S.;

• **Yeichi Kuwayama**, D.C., a retired decorated WW II veteran;

• **Dale Minami**, California, a partner in the law firm Minami, Lew, Tamaki and Lee, and attorney for Fred Korematsu's *coram nobis* case;

• **Peggy Nagae**, Oregon, of PNL Consultants, attorney for Minoru Yasui's *coram nobis* case;

• **Don Toshiaki Nakanishi**, California, director of the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA.

The ninth nominee, Cherry Kinoshita, Seattle, has withdrawn.

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter

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Calendar of Events

Compiled by Ed Suguro

MEETINGS

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

Doshi Kai meeting, March 6, 7 p.m. Call Wayne Kimura for location, 827-0460 day, 869-5174 evening and weekend.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL EVENTS

JACL National Youth/Student Conference "Faces of the Future," February 23-24, Miyako Hotel, San Francisco. (See story of page 1) Fee: \$15 youth/student, \$20 others. Deadline: February 15. Info: Karen, PNWD Regional Office, 623-5088.

Seattle First Hill Lions Club Annual Pancake Breakfast, February 25, 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Kawabe House, 221 18th Ave. S., \$5.50, \$3.50 seniors, benefits Kawabe House, Seattle Nursing Home and Kin On Nursing Home.

Tomonokai Installation Luncheon, February 25, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Seatac Hotel, 18220 Pacific Highway S. Cost: \$16. Make check payable to Tomonokai, c/o Pauline Asaba, 11226 57th Ave. S., Seattle, 98178. If you need transportation, contact Katchi Ikeda, 325-1510.

Blaine Memorial Methodist Church Sukiyaki Dinner, March 2, 3001 24th Ave. S., sit-down dinner 4-7 p.m., takeout: 2-5 p.m. cooked and uncooked, 5-7 p.m. uncooked only. Tickets: \$7, \$4.50 children 11 and under. Info: 723-1536.

Nikkei Community Dance, March 9, 8-11:30 p.m., Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St., BYOB, live band, \$3 per person.

Nisei Veterans Committee Installation Dinner-Dance, March 16, Rainier Golf and Country Club, 1856 S. 112th St., 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner and program, dance after program, music by Dennis and Eddy, August speaker: Kip Tokuda, 37th District Representative, cost: \$30 per person members/nonmembers. Reservations: Taiji, 721-5359.

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

ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS

"Three Friends of Winter," works in bamboo, bronze and porcelain by **Jiro Yonezawa** and others, through February 17, Honeychurch Antiques, 1008 James St., Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Info: 622-1225.

"**Erotica: The Art of Passion**," erotic art from Japan, India, Persia, China and Korea, through February 18, Ming's Asian Gallery, 10217 Main St., Bellevue, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Must be 18 or older to view the exhibit. Info: 462-4008.

Awaji Ningyo Joruri: Classical Japanese Puppet Theatre, see this 400 year old tradition from Awaji Island in Hyogo Prefecture in their kabuki style storytelling, February 21, one hour versions for schools and general public: 10 a.m. or 12 p.m., \$8 adults, \$5 students/seniors, two hour version: 7 p.m., \$12 adults, \$8 students/seniors, Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway. Tickets available at Uwajimaya and Hyogo Cultural Center. Info: 728-0610.

Tea Ceremony Demonstrations, February 22, 6 p.m., presented by the **Urasenke Foundation**, March 10 and March 24, 2:30 p.m., presented by the Urasenke School, Teahouse in the Japanese Art

Calendar, continued from previous page

Gallery, third floor, Seattle Art Museum, 100 University St. Tickets: \$4 members, \$10 nonmembers. Info: 654-3121.

Ikebana Demonstration and Workshop, February 24, Seattle Asian Art Museum, Volunteer Park, 1400 E. Prospect St., demonstration: 1-2 p.m., workshop: 2-4 p.m., fee: \$7 at the door, all materials provided except scissors. Ikebana International presents the Chiko school of flower arranging with a workshop conducted by Mrs. Nobuko Matsuyama. Info: 745-1875.

"11:07," it's the first anniversary for this group but also its final show, **Northwest Asian American Theatre's** late night series of music, comedy and improvisation, February 24, 11:07 p.m., Nippon Kan Theatre, 628 S. Washington St., \$5, \$4 seniors/students/performers. Info: 726-8987.

Northwest Asian American Theatre presents "Oyoyo no Yo," an evening with the **Oyoyo Sisters Saiko Kobayashi and Haruno Takemori** as two kimono girls popping out of a jack-in-the-box of neo-Japanese vaudeville, March 8-17, Theatre Off Jackson, 409 7th Ave. S., Thursday-Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 4 p.m., \$12 general admission, \$9 seniors/students/physically challenged (\$6 Thursdays), actors/children \$6, Wednesday tickets \$8 general, \$6 others. Advance tickets available at play's the thing drama bookstore, 514 E. Pike St. Info: 340-1049.

"Japan-O-Rama," a **Japanese pop culture exhibit** with works by musicians, filmmakers, writers and comic book artists, also a retail shop, anime experience booth and

Hello Kitty arch and fountain, through March 9, Center on Contemporary Art (COCA), 65 Cedar St., Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission: \$2, COCA members free. Info: 728-1980.

Taste of Spring: **Japanese Cooking Demonstration**, Mr. Kozo Nakayama will demonstrate his techniques to herald the arrival of spring, March 11, 5:30-7 p.m., Hyogo Cultural Center, 2001 6th Ave., suite 1101, \$5 fee, registration deadline: March 8. Info: 728-0610.

Reading by **Julie Shigekuni** from her novel "A Bridge Between Us," March 12, Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St. Check with bookstore for time, 624-6600.

Japanese Packaging Concepts with John Marshall, hands-on demonstrations of Japanese gift wrapping as well as learning the Japanese concept of gift-giving and its cultural significance, March 22, 4:30-8:30 p.m., Hyogo Cultural Center, 2001 6th Ave., suite 1101, \$20 fee (includes materials and dinner), registration deadline: March 20. Info: 728-0610.

"From the Floating World to the Street," **woodblock prints by Ando Hiroshige** and street photography by contemporary North-

west photographers, through March 24, Seattle Art Museum Photo and Prints Gallery, 100 University St., Tuesday-Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday until 9 p.m. Admission: \$6 adults, \$4 seniors/students, children under 12 free. Info: 654-3100.

"Out of Focus: Media Stereotypes of Asian Pacific Americans," through May 12, **Wing Luke Asian Museum**, 407 7th Ave. S., Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday-Sunday noon-4 p.m., \$2.50 adults, \$1.50 seniors/students, 75¢ children 5 to 12. Info: 623-5124.

Japanese Popular Painting of the 17th to the 19th Century, **screens and scrolls from the Seattle Art Museum's collections** showing popular painting in Japan, through June 16, Seattle Asian Art Museum Gould Gallery, Volunteer Park, 1400 E. Prospect St., Tuesday-Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., until 9 p.m. Thursday. Admission: \$6 adults, \$4 seniors/students, children under 12 free. Info: 654-3100.

Ikebana Demonstrations, Saturdays 11 a.m., Thursdays 7 p.m., followed by an introductory course, fee: \$12 at the door, all materials provided, Seattle Asian Art Museum Kado Tea Garden at Volunteer Park, 1400 E. Prospect St. Info: 344-5265.



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