

SEATTLE JACL CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

June 1996

VOLUME 33, NO. 6

Museum seeks input for video on JA experience

The Wing Luke Asian Museum has been approached by Living Voices, a local non-profit organization, to produce an educational video-theatrical program on the Japanese American experience. Living Voices has produced three programs depicting the immigration of various ethnic groups to the Pacific Northwest. The productions have been viewed by many school children in 30 states and Canada. The Nordic Heritage Museum helped Living Voices produce a piece about the immigration of a Norwegian family to Washington. In that piece, an actress portrays a young girl who relates the story of her family's struggles, the mood of the day, the relationships with other ethnic groups, all done with video and the live actress.

The WLAM would like community input in discussing the feasibility of such a project on the Japanese American experience. There will be a preview of a Living Voices performance followed by a discussion of community concerns on Monday, June 24, from 7-8:30 p.m. at WLAM. Those interested should call Charlene Mano at 623-5124.

JACL sponsors Washington Governor candidates' forum

by Kip Tokuda, state representative 37th district

The Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community will have a great opportunity to learn more about this year's gubernatorial candidates when the Republican and Democratic candidates for governor will present their views at a JACL-sponsored forum, Wednesday, July 17, 6-8 p.m. at the Nippon Kan Theatre. Lori Matsukawa of KING-TV and Farland Chang of KOMO-TV will serve as moderators/hosts for the event.

While I have witnessed an increasing participation by API's in political activities, my legislative experience has shown me that many important public policy issues are being developed without the strong opinions and involvement of our community. Our presence must be reflected in state and national public policies and programs.

We cannot afford to continue to be the nation's silent minority. As the nation's fastest growing population group (expected to increase from 7.3 million in 1990 to 20.2 million in 2020 - a 145% increase!), we need to accelerate the involvement of APIs in the political process. APIs must be at the cutting edge of making our country's commitment to make cultural pluralism an economic and social reality.

We are at a critical juncture in terms of setting priorities for generations to come. Whether an issue involves the nature of our environment, public safety, economic development, services for the most vulnerable in our communities such as our children and our elderly, or pocketbook

Nisei and African American WWII veterans to discuss shared experiences

Lt. Col. William Holloman III of the famed all-black "Tuskegee Airmen" and Paul Hosoda, past commander of the Nisei Veterans Committee (for Japanese American veterans), both veterans of segregated American troops during WWII, will discuss discrimination, opportunity and contributions as related to the personal experiences in the military during "Personal Reflections: WWII Veterans of Segregated Units," on June 19, 7 p.m., at Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center, 104 - 17th Ave. S. and Yesler. This forum is sponsored jointly by Wing Luke Asian Museum, Nisei Veterans Committee, Military Intelligence Service Northwest Association, Lake Washington JACL and Seattle JACL.

For information, call Charlene Mano at the Wing Luke Asian Museum, at 623-5124.

Scholarship winners recognized at JACL board meeting

by Vicky Yuki, Scholarship Chair

At the May 15 Board Meeting, two outstanding scholars were recognized for their accomplishments and presented with \$600 scholarship awards made possible by the generosity of the Tamesa family in honor of Minoru Tamesa, and the Tazuma family in honor of Bunshiro Tazuma. Keynote speaker, Washington State 37th District Representative Kip Tokuda, gave a very inspirational message to the students, their families, honored guests and the board.

Yoko Kusunose is a senior at Newport High School and wants to pursue a degree in medicine. While maintaining an outstanding 3.96 GPA,

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issues such as the taxes we pay for our homes, products, businesses, APIs should be a part of the decision-making.

Proposed immigration and welfare reform bills will significantly impact APIs who are not yet naturalized citizens or who wish to immigrate here to join their families. Proposals to create barriers for immigrants who need government assistance will present hardships for those who are particularly vulnerable — elderly persons, victims of domestic violence, disabled persons, and children in poverty. As government becomes leaner and meaner, it will most certainly affect those who are voiceless and powerless.

Now is the time for all Asian Pacific Islanders to accept the challenge of moving to a higher level of political awareness and participation. We owe it to a nation which has provided us with many opportunities to become contributing members of our society. And, most of all, I feel that we all have a responsibility to improve the quality of life of our families and community.

I hope that you will take the time to attend this important event in our community. We should be there in great numbers to demonstrate that this community cares about public policy issues and desires to be counted as equal participants in a democratic system of government.

I look forward to joining you at the API Gubernatorial Candidates' Forum on July 17.

Summer's here— but no vacation for chapter

June is here, and as a teacher, it's time for reflecting over the past school year. The rewards of teaching are many, but seeing the difference in the youngsters from the beginning of the school year to the end is the most interesting.

June is also a time to plan for the summer months. One of my plans is to attend the National JACL Convention in San Jose, August 6-10. The Seattle chapter will be well represented. Our two official delegates are Cal Takagi and Jeffrey Hattori, the past and future chapter presidents, respectively. Theirs is a job that carries with it a great deal of responsibility. A convention is not all fun and games. There are hours of business meetings with many decisions to be made. Decisions important to the direction of our organization will include the National Program for Action.

National JACL officers will be elected for the coming biennium. Most of the positions are unopposed, so the elections could be very simple. However, I, as nominations committee chair, anticipate some nominations from the floor at the convention. It is always good to have a rousing campaign and election, and I'm hoping this will be the case in San Jose.

One of the most time consuming items on the agenda is the budget. At the chapter level, we spent half of a board meeting discussing three options that were given us by the national board:

1. No dues increase, no money to replace reserves, no money for programs, no change in the number of PC issues.

2. Dues increase of \$7 over the biennium, some money to replace reserves, some money for programs, no change in the number of PC issues.

3. Dues increase of \$14 over the biennium, some money to replace reserves, some money for programs, weekly PC issues.

Our chapter chose option 1, with a note that National staff try to raise funds for reserves and programs from sources other than its memberships. The majority of chapters voted for option 2. The National board met again recently and developed another budget, which we will discuss with our board. Historically, the budget issue has incurred lengthy discussions. As the budget has already been discussed at the chapter level, voted on by mail and reworked, perhaps the budget item at the convention will not require a post-Sayonara Banquet meeting, as it did in Salt Lake City.

As members, you have a say in how the Seattle Chapter votes on issues. If you have an opinion, please contact myself, Cal or Jeffrey. We welcome your ideas. We also welcome anyone who wishes to attend the convention. If you'd like more information, contact me and I'll send what information I have.

This will be the final issue of the newsletter until the Fall. It doesn't mean that the chapter will be on vacation. We'll still be working on programs. Our Candidates Forum will take place on July 17 at the Nippon Kan Theater. Please make an effort to attend and learn about all of the candidates in the race for Washington state governor. It will be an interesting and informative evening.

Enjoy the summer.

Scholarship

continued from front page

Yoko has been actively involved in athletics and her community. Partial list of achievements: National Merit Commended Scholar, member of the "Best Overall" Knowledge Bowl team in the district, co-captain of the Newport girls' water polo team, concertmistress of her high school orchestra, involved in the Girl Scouts for over 12 years and volunteers all of her Saturdays at Seattle Keiro. Yoko will be attending Stanford University in the fall and after medical school plans to join the Peace Corps.

Yoko would like to "have made a difference...one day I hope to look back on my life and smile, knowing that I made a difference to somebody somewhere...I would like to remind people of compassion in an often cruel world, of truth and integrity in an often gilded

continued on next page

Thank you, volunteers and donors of Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival

by Shea Aoki

Dear volunteers:

Thank you for the time and energy you gave towards making the 1996 Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival a great success. The committee of the Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival works a full year and sometimes two years ahead in planning the Festival for the cultural education of our children and young adults. We invite your ideas and suggestions throughout the year and welcome you to participate in the committee.

Also, thank you to the donors who supported the Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival, Kisurage Kai (February Club) and JACL, working together with chair person Tazue Sasaki (and her husband Utaka) of the Cherry Blossom Festival for 1996.

- | | | | |
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Scholarship

continued from previous page

world, and of beauty in a world often overlooked."

Lia Dong Shimada is a senior at Garfield High School. On top of her stunning 4.00 GPA, Lia obtained her Certified Nursing Assistant certification in September 1995. Lia is President of the Earth Corps, a student environmental group, and runs the school's recycling program. Volunteering with the Urban Forestry Explorer Post #333, she has served as Vice President, President, and Newsletter Editor of this student group working for the City Department of Parks and Engineering office.

At Garfield, Lia is co-leader of the Cultural Relations committee and volunteers with Children's Hospital and Medical Center, working as a volunteer office coordinator and in the emergency room. She is attending Wellesley College in the fall to pursue a career in medicine. After becoming a doctor, Lia would like to join the Peace Corps and be "an ambassador of cultural dignity, environmental justice, and good will, all incorporated into the services of a healer".

Fashion show a success

by May Namba and Ann Fujii-Lindwall

The fashion show and luncheon fundraiser featuring Hawaii's Anne Namba was a great success as over 300 people, including a few brave men, came to see some wonderful designs and support a good cause.

During the hour-long show, between 60-70 outfits were modeled by our talented and beautiful A. C. Arai, Anne Arakaki-Lock, Eri Asamizu, Nellie Fujii-Anderson, Penny Fukui, Bev Kashino, Rose Kataoka, Eileen Kato, Ham Kawamura, Cari Murotani, Fran Shintaku, Machiko Sugiyama, Keiko Taki, Elsie Taniguchi, and Elsie Tokita.

About \$11,000 worth of Anne Namba's clothing was purchased that day. Seattle chapter received a percentage of that amount. Thank you all for helping increase JACL's treasury.

Special thanks to: Elaine Akagi, Tama Murotani, May Namba, Ann Fujii-Lindwall, Cal Takagi, Shigeko Uno and Miyuki Yoshida for spending hours in planning and working out all the details. Thanks also to Carol Nakagawa

(ticket and program design), Frank Fujii (signage), Nikkie Wilson (make-up design), and the cosmetic departments of Nordstrom and The Bon Marche.



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Rodney L. Kawakami
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T&C Building, Suite 201
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Ishii & Ishii
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Contributors: Elaine Akagi, Shea Aoki, Ann Fujii-Lindwall, May Namba, Arlene Oki, Kip Tokuda and Vicky Yuki.

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Japanese American Citizens League

Seattle Chapter
P.O. Box 18558
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ELAINE R. AKAGI
SEATTLE, WA 98178





Candidates' Forum

Come hear the Republican & Democratic candidates for Governor present their views on important issues.

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

6:00 - 8:00 pm

**Nippon Kan Theater
628 S. Washington**

For more information, contact Sharon @ 639-1682,
Janice @ 624-1221 or Winnie @ 525-7200

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