
SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

September 1996

VOLUME 33, NO. 7

Seattle chapter resolutions sail through National Council

by Cal Takagi

Any chapter may propose resolutions for adoption by the National Council. These proposals are first reviewed by the Resolutions Committee which may then place them on the agenda for discussion or reject them on a variety of grounds (mostly technical in nature). A total of 22 resolutions had been proposed of which eight were rejected by the Committee. All but one of the remaining 14 proposals were adopted by the Council with only four of them being sufficiently controversial as to require a show of hands. The one voted down would have required the National Board or Executive Director to obtain comment and reaction from members before making a public statement about any significant issue.

The Seattle Chapter submitted four resolutions. One called for the JACL to urge the review of battlefield decorations given to 442nd RCT combat veterans who might have deserved the Congressional Medal of Honor but were given a lesser award. Such a review would be equivalent to the opportunity provided earlier to veterans of Military Intelligence Service. The second resolution asked the JACL to join the Port of Seattle, NYK, and Burlington Northern Railway in commemoration of the 100th year anniversary of the arrival of the Miike Maru. Both resolutions were adopted unanimously.

A resolution asking the JACL to support the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington and to join in the amicus brief to the Supreme Court in the event the "compassion in dying" case is heard there was rejected by the Resolutions Committee on the grounds that it was already approved by the National Council in 1994. The earlier action, we were told, provides authority for joining in the brief and there is no need for additional discussion.

The final resolution pertained to adding a section to the bylaws that would allow for the removal from office of the National Youth Chairperson and Representative for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance. The proposal was discussed as an Amendment to the Bylaws and unanimously adopted. Inquiries about any resolution brought before the Council may be addressed to either of the two delegates, Jeffery Hattori or Cal Takagi.

Letter from PNWD Youth/Student Representatives

Recruitment/retention surfaces as big issue for Youth/Student Council

by Kelly Wicker and Jonathan Matsui

Greetings! We hope you are all enjoying your summer. We wanted to update you on some of the highlights from the JACL National Convention in San Jose and our plans for the next biennium:

- Hiromi Ueha and Nicole Inouye were elected as National Youth/Student Chair and National Youth/Student Representative respectively.

- The National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) finally received a line item in the budget passed by the National Council (NC). Also passed were amendments clarifying procedures for passing on information regarding budget and national concerns to District Youth/Student Representatives and for removing/impeaching National Youth/Student chairpersons and representatives.

- The NY/SC met with national director Herbert Yamanishi to discuss national JACL staff input with youth/student projects, including the College Outreach program involving internships, a speakers bureau and membership recruitment/retention programs.

- Watch for information about our next youth/student convention, "Leading into the Future," to be held in the summer of 1997.

- We are currently working on producing a World Wide Web page, a new brochure specifically aimed at prospective youth/student members, and a NY/SC handbook as part of our recruitment program.

- Regionally, plans are underway for the JACL Pacific Northwest/Intermountain Bi-District Council APIA Youth/Student Conference, "Communities Envisioning Tomorrow," which will allow young Asian Pacific Islander Americans to meet and interact with volunteers and professionals in the APIA community. The conference will be a weekend event coinciding with the 1997 JACL PNW/IDC Bi-District meeting.

We would like to thank the Seattle chapter for sponsoring two amendments at the National Convention regarding youth/students and for identifying candidates for the Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition. We would also like to thank the PNW District Council for sponsoring Jill Yamagiwa to attend the National Convention as our Oratorical Competition representative. Jill will be a senior at the UW where she is majoring in American Ethnic Studies. She is presently an intern for the Northwest Nikkei News and will be the president of the Japanese American Youth Society, UW chapter, for the 1996-7 academic year.

Thank you for all your support.

Need to build coalitions with other communities

It won't be long before the leaves begin changing colors and the weather changes to what most people around the country think it always does in Seattle—rains. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable, relaxing summer. As a teacher, my year begins with Labor Day. I always begin the school year full of enthusiasm and hope. This year will be no different, only that I'm feeling older and less energetic.

I was kept extremely busy this summer with one thing or another. The National JACL convention was one thing that consumed much of my time. Having the job of Nominations Chair was interesting and fun. In this position, I met many wonderful JACLers from across the country. Unfortunately, it kept me from attending the business sessions, so in a way I felt like I attended a different convention than our delegates, Jeff Hattori and Cal Takagi. They will report on the issues presented at the convention

elsewhere in this newsletter.

Jeff, Cal, Ken Nakano, Jonathan Matsui and Shigeko Uno made up the proud delegation from Seattle. Our chapter played an active part in the convention, and we were recognized for our chapter's efforts over the past two years, as the runner-up for the George Inagaki Chapter of the Biennium Award. The Florin Chapter was the winner of this prestigious award. Our nominee for the Japanese American of the Biennium, George Tsutakawa, was one of the three honorees. The others recognized were George Takei and Yuri Kochiyama.

Following the convention, I had the privilege of attending a ceremony in Michigan recognizing "Murphy's Dissent." The Michigan State Bar Association's 24th Legal Milestone dedication honored former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy. Murphy was one of the three dissenting justices in the Fred Korematsu

case. He challenged the thinking that it was acceptable to put people of Japanese ancestry in internment camps during WW II, saying, "This exclusion... ought not be approved. Such exclusion goes over 'the very brink of constitutional power' and falls into the ugly abyss of racism." The ceremony was held in his hometown and was attended by many, including Fred Korematsu and his wife.

It is very heartwarming to know that the Michigan Bar felt that Murphy's Dissent was worthy of being a legal milestone. Michigan, as you might recall, was the setting of much anti-Asian sentiment about 15 years ago. I was chapter president in Detroit when there were many incidents of Japan bashing by the auto companies and workers. The ultimate case of the anti-Japanese sentiment was the killing of Vincent Chin, a young Chinese American, who was attacked and killed because two laid off auto workers thought he was Japanese.

It was a frightening time to live in Detroit, and it was then that I found myself relating to my parent's and other Nisei living in 1941. It was also then that the Asian community in Detroit, for the very first time, organized and rallied together to form a coalition that still exists today.

I know that we still need to build coalitions with Asians and other communities. There is work to be done. Our chapter has been moving towards building coalitions in the past year, and will continue to do so.

Special notice:

Helen Kawagoe, our new National President, will be visiting the Puget Sound area on September 28. The Seattle chapter will meet with her at the JACL office at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend and meet her. If you have questions, please call Elaine at (206) 776-6749.

Candidates for governor answer questions from community organizations

by Janice Yee

Four gubernatorial candidates, Republican Warren Hanson and Democrats Jay Inslee, Gary Locke and Norm Rice, answered questions from

about 200 people who attended the July 17 Governor's Candidate Forum at the Nippon Kan.

Candidates answered 10 set questions and then answered questions from the audience. All Democrats supported affirmative action programs and opposed English Only proposals, while Hanson felt that affirmative action programs based on race was no longer necessary. He was also in favor of English as Official Language programs.

Farland Chang served as moderator for the evening. The event was organized by the Seattle Chapter JACL and co-sponsored by Lake Washington and Olympia JACL Chapters, Organization of Chinese Americans, Indian American Political Advocacy Council, League of Women Voters, Filipino American Political Action Group of Washington and many other community groups.

Nikkei Horizons fall schedule now available

Looking for something a little different? Check out the fall schedule of Nikkei Horizons, Nikkei Concerns' continuing education program. For adventure in learning (canoe trip, Port Townsend Victorian Homes Tour), Japanese culture, music (karaoke), computers, exercise and fitness, finances (investment club), and arts and crafts (including ceramics taught by JACL board member Jill Beppu), call Nikkei Concerns at 323-7100.

National Council endorses Oral History Project

by Penny Fukui, Executive Director, Japanese American Chamber of Commerce of Washington State

The JACL National Council officially endorsed "Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project—Untold Stories of the Internment," a project undertaken by the Japanese American Chamber of Commerce of Washington State (JACC-WA).

In a unanimous vote August 9 at the biennial national convention, the National Council adopted as part of its Program for Action, the Seattle-based oral history project, which will utilize videotaped personal testimonies of individuals whose lives were forever affected by Executive Order 9066 during World War II.

Outgoing president Denny Yasuhara introduced JACC-WA co-founder Scott Oki, who said that the latest technology will be used to capture personal stories of prewar Japanese American communities, the incarceration and the struggle to rebuild after the war.

Videotaped interviews and related histori-

cal photos and memorabilia will be made accessible for research and education through on-line multimedia technology. The digitized archive will be available at networked repositories in designated museums and institutions of higher education throughout the country. Foundations for the project have been laid by a diverse group of volunteers with backgrounds in business, law, computer technology, historic preservation and video production. The search for a Project Director is about to be concluded.

In the coming months, JACL National Director Herbert Yamanishi and National Board members will meet with Fukui and other representatives of the Densho project to determine how the two groups can work together. The JACL will give the Densho committee members access to its local chapters in order to identify potential interviewees. Yamanishi, optimistic about the success of the endeavor,

stresses the need to act quickly. The JACL's support will help to meet the urgent objective of collecting the irreplaceable memories of a rapidly aging population and preserving them for future generations.



TOM Y. HAYASHI, D.D.S.
DENTISTRY
BY APPOINTMENT (206) 723-1877
4215 RAINIER AVENUE S.
SEATTLE, WA 98118

M 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
78C Building, Suite 201
671 South Jackson Street
Seattle, Washington 98104
Telephone (206) 682-9932
Telecopier (206) 682-7320

Ishii & Ishii
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, L.L.P.
Raymond G. Ishii, CPA
671 South Jackson
Suite 202, T & C Building
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: (206) 623-3790
Fax: (206) 623-3659

Cheryl KITASHIMA
Certified Financial Planner
411 University Street, Suite 1200
Seattle, Washington 98101
(206) 343-0903
Securities offered through
Laney & Co.
member NASD and SIPC

UWAJIMAYA ALWAYS IN GOOD TASTE
VISIT THE LARGEST ASIAN GROCERY & GIFT STORE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.
SEATTLE: (206) 624-4248
BELLEVUE: (206) 747-9012
Open 7 Days a Week... 9-8
UWAJIMAYA Since 1928

SOUTH END FLORIST
10728 - 16th S.W. • Seattle, WA 98146
PHONE 246-5000 • FAX 246-5001
Delivery to Greater Seattle, Bellevue & Renton

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

JAE Awards
• Plaques
• Engraving
• Trophies
• Imprinted Corporate/Team Wear
• "Seattle" Japanese Logos
1775-15th Avenue South
Seattle, Washington 98144-4211
Phone: 206-325-9391
Fax: 206-325-1217
John Shigaki
Polly Shigaki

The Prudential Signature Properties
13301 Lake City Way NE
Seattle, WA 98125
Bus. (206) 362-4600
Fax (206) 365-1385
Res. (206) 363-1414
KENICHI (KEN) SATO
Associate Broker
An Independently Owned and Operated Member of The Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

OFFICERS

President

Elaine Akagi
772-6749 (h)
ReikoA@aol.com

President-elect

Jeffrey Hattori
630-4854 (h)
448-0474 (w)

First Vice-President

Tony Ishisaka
524-3503 (h)

Second Vice-President

Arlene Oki
684-0106 (w)

Third Vice-President

Kazzie Katayama
722-2266 (h)

Fourth Vice President

Sharon Klostermann
639-1682 (h)

Corresponding Secretary

Virginia Thomas
525-5451 (h)

Recording Secretary

Victoria Yuki
746-5197

Treasurer

Art Kozai
649-9032 (h)

Historian

Shea Aoki
723-6061 (h)

Board Delegate

Calvin Takagi
232-5885 (h)

BOARD

Randy Aoyama

Jill Beppu

David Hoekendorf

Ayako Hurd

Ray Ishii

Jean Joichi

Anne Katahira

Chuck Kato

Eileen Kato

Cherry Kinoshita

Sid Kuboi

Gary Maehara

Hugh Matsubayashi

Jonathan Matsui

Ken Nakano

May Namba

Chizuko Norton

Danny Okada

Michelle Ota

Joy Shigaki

Sam Shoji

Kip Tokuda

Vicki Toyohara-Mukai

Grant Yamaguchi

Janice Yee

Miyuki Yoshida

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

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. Phone: 622-4098

Issue no: Volume 33, no. 6

Seattle Chapter Newsletter Editor: Bob Shimabukuro.

Contributors: Elaine Akagi, Shea Aoki, Ann Fujii-Lindwall, May Namba, Arlene Oki, Kip Tokuda and Vicky Yuki.

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.

Japanese American Citizens League

Seattle Chapter

P.O. Box 18558

Seattle, WA 98118-0558

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

