

## Bringing students together through social activities

by Jill Yamagiwa, JAYS

Who are the JAYS? JAYS stands for Japanese American Youth Society and we are a UW-based student organization for people who are interested in the culture of Japanese Americans (JA). Our goals include: increasing awareness, participating in community events, and bringing students together through social activities. We also provide opportunities to hear guest speakers and address problems and issues that directly affect us as Asian Americans. We are not one of the larger student group on the UW's campus but we find that that leads to a more friendly and relaxed atmosphere. We encourage everyone to get involved, to be an active planner, because we would like the whole group to benefit from everyone's ideas.

Many of our JAYS events are community oriented. We can often be seen volunteering at various functions of the JA community. In the past years, we have helped out at the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Asian American Film Festival, and Seattle Keiro. This year, we are also volunteering with Mi-Yo-I Kai and the Legacy Project. But we like to have fun too, so volunteering

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is not the only thing we do. We have also been involved with UW sporting events, and attended Asian American films and plays. Kicking off this year's social events is our Make-Your-Own-Sushi Night which is always one of the most popular events of the year. We are also breaking tradition and working more with the Japanese Student Association (JSA), which is the UW organization for Japanese nationals. In the past, there hasn't been much interaction between the two clubs but we are hoping to change that and are planning a New Year's party for both clubs to attend. We are also sharing a table at the Student Activities Fair with JSA, planning on selling sushi with them at the UW's Bite of Asia in May.

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# SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

November 1996

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## President's Report

### PNW District Meeting: taking care of business

by Elaine Akagi

A few weeks ago, Cal Takagi, Jonathan Matsui and I awoke at the crack of dawn to drive down to Portland for our Fall district meeting. We were fortunate that the weather was decent, so the drive was pleasant. The meeting was well attended, as eight of the ten chapters in the district were represented. For the first time in recent history, a representative of the Alaska chapter was present. It was interesting to get a viewpoint of someone from a small chapter that seems so far away.

There were no pressing issues to discuss at this meeting, just the usual business. Some of the highlights were:

1. Our district office now has a new computer and modem. Our regional director, Karen Yoshitomi, is now able to communicate with the National office and other regional offices. The upgrading of the district computer was not in the national budget, but our district budget was able to provide it.
2. The mileage allocation for delegates to attend district meet-

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### Dig out those old photos!

The Seattle Chapter needs your photo of JACL activities over the last 75 years. If you have any such photos, and are willing to lend them to us (we will take good care of them), please contact Cal Takagi (232-5885) or the JACL office at 622-4098.

The photos will be used for a slide show celebrating 75 years of Seattle JACL activities. The slide show will be presented at the Seattle JACL Diamond Anniversary Banquet, January 25, 1997. Reception is at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$50.



## 75th Anniversary Celebration and Installation Dinner

# Respecting our legacy, inspiring our diamonds in the rough

by Arlene Oki, second vice-president

The dedicated corps of volunteers serving on the 75th Anniversary Celebration and Installation Dinner committee are working hard to sponsor a moving tribute to the JACL and its past and future leaders. With the tribute, appropriately named "Our Legacy, Our Future," the committee hopes to inspire future leaders within our community and, at the same time, acknowledge the sacrifice and skills of so many pioneers who made the organization what it is today. The committee urges everyone to save

Saturday, January 25, 1997, for the diamond anniversary celebration. It will provide a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet old friends and to mark a new, exciting era of JACL leadership.

Nationally recognized Northwest artist Frank Fujii has produced a beautiful commemorative piece especially for the 75th anniversary. The work, which he has generously donated to the Seattle Chapter, will be copied for the invitation and program book cover.

## Book reading features Asian American children's book writers

by Karen Yoshitomi

Mark your calendars and join us for a book signing and an evening of Asian American storytelling with five Asian American children's authors. The event will be held Thursday, November 14, from 7 p.m. at Borders Books, Music and Cafe (17501 Southcenter Parkway in Tukwila). The store is located across the street from the Pavilion Mall and just north of Levitz Furniture in a small outdoor shopping complex.

The readings will be accompanied by slides and is intended to be an entertaining and educational event for the entire family. A 10% discount on all of the books featured and purchased at the event is offered, as well an opportunity for you to have your own copy signed by the author. These books would be a wonderful addition to your own children or grandchildren's collection and would make a special holiday or birthday gift for any child's library. No charge.

Featured:

Cynthia Chin-Lee — author of *Almond*

*Cookies & Dragon Well Tea*, about a friendship between a Chinese American and a European American girl;

Elaine Hosozawa-Nagano — an Orange County sansei and author of *Chopsticks From America*, about two yonsei who move to Japan;

Marlene Shigekawa — author of *Blue Jay in the Desert*, about the internment and its effects on an adult as seen through the eyes of his grandson.

Marie Villanueva — Filipino author of *Nene and the Horrible Math Monster* and "Patintero," a short story about a boy who has trouble pronouncing the letter "F."

Sandra S. Yamate, sansei editor of *Children of Asian America* and author of *Char Siu Bao Boy* and *Ashok By Any Other Name*.

The evening is sponsored by PNW JACL, in coordination with the Polychrome Publishing Corporation. For more information, contact PNW District Office at 623-5088.

## Mailing Day Change

Please note that the time and date for newsletter mailings will be at 6:00 P.M. on the second Thursdays of the month (excepting July and August) at the Seattle Chapter JACL office, 316 Maynard South.

The change is being made to accommodate a "smoother" production and distribution schedule.

We would appreciate more volunteers on these mailout evenings. To volunteer, just come to the office for the next mailout on December 12 or call the office at 622-4098.

## JAYS, continued from page 1

Our first meeting of the year had a turnout of about 20 but we have a membership list of over 60 people. The members are enthusiastic, hard working, and willing to help out whenever needed, so I think we're going to have a great year.

It's hard to get JA students to join an ethnic organization, especially since we do not have as large a population as other Asian groups at the UW. However, I'm optimistic that membership will be at an all-time high this year since we have tried to open up our membership to Japanese nationals and non-Japanese students. I hope that there will be many opportunities for JAYS to show their presence in the JA community and that we will be able to work more closely with JACL than we have in the past.

If you are interested in joining the JAYS, please call me at 524-9450. You don't have to be a UW student to join.

## District Meeting, continued from page 1

gas was increased to \$.30/mile. As most chapter budgets are not able to cover delegate transportation costs, the district is able to help.

3. The district membership drive came to a close. Portland took first prize in the greatest net increase as well as the greatest percentage increase of members from the period of June, 1995 to June, 1996. Spokane came in second in the category of percentage increase, while Seattle came in second for largest net increase. Our district governor, Terry Yamada, awarded cash prizes to the winning chapters.

4. The Alaska chapter showed a video produced by two high school students on the subject of the JA internment. The two students, who were not of Japanese decent, produced the film because they felt it was a subject worth studying. It was a school project and the girls went on to a national competition in New York with the video.

The video was very moving and shows that teaching about the internment is important to youngsters.

5. A presentation to Denny Yasuhara, past national president, was made on behalf of our district. Denny spent two tumultuous years as president, spending many hours on our behalf and many of his own dollars. The presentation was our way of thanking him.

6. The district youth received a National Legacy Grant for a youth conference to be held next summer in conjunction with the Bi-district Conference. Up to 100 youth are expected to attend to discuss careers and other issues. The conference will take place sometime in July of 1997.

7. Presidents and representatives of the five Puget sound area chapters have been meeting over the past few months. Projects and events are in the planning stages at this time. The Lake Washington, Olympia, Puyallup, Seattle and White River chapters have met to try to promote more dialogue and to work together on common issues.

The next district meeting will be hosted

by the Puyallup chapter on January 25, 1997. The date was chosen since our chapter, Seattle, will be celebrating our 75th anniversary installation that day. It will be a full day, as Pacific Northwest District delegates will be invited to attend our dinner. We hope all of you will be at the dinner to meet JACLers from the Pacific Northwest.



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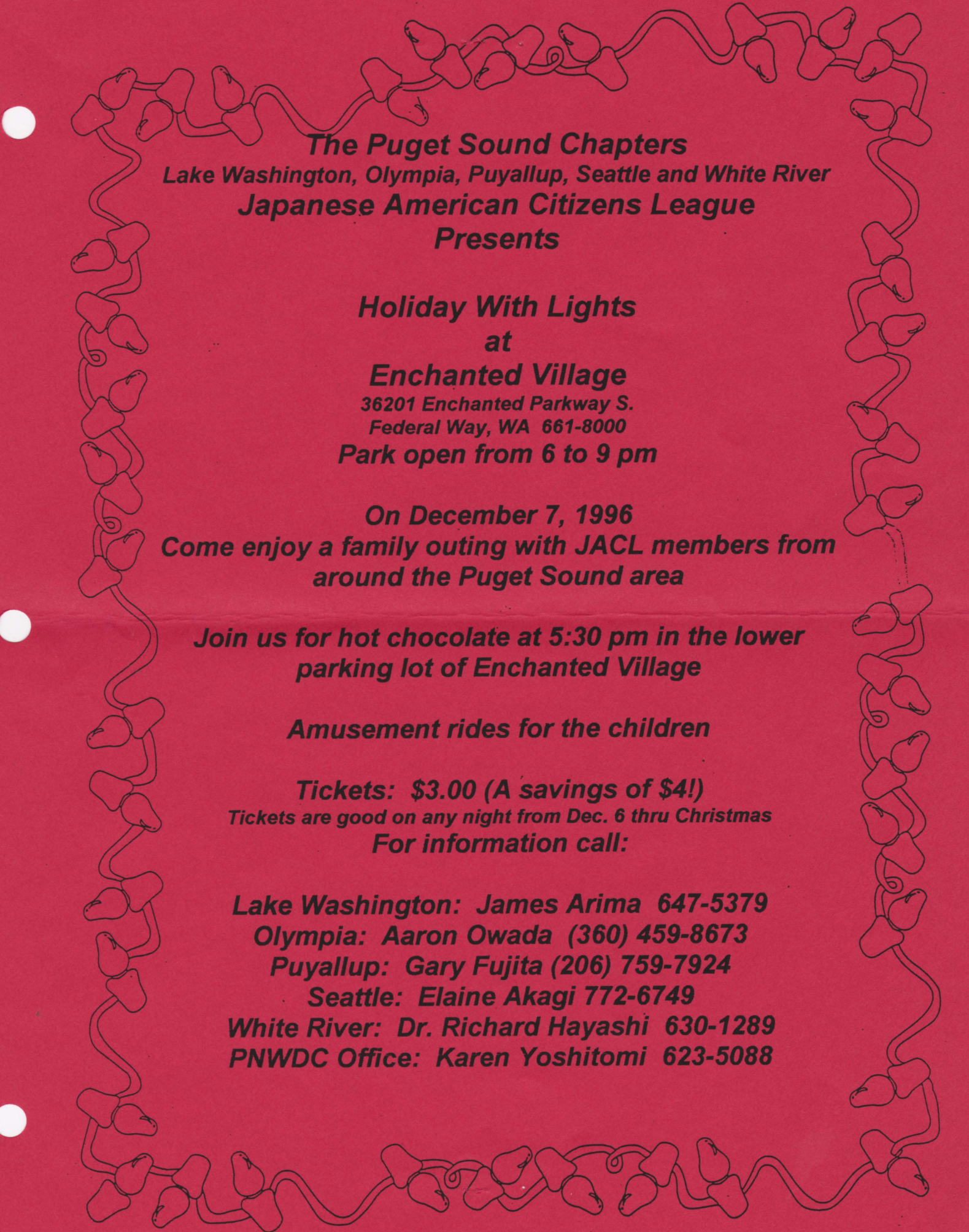
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