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## Leadership conference empowering, memorable

*Vicky Yuki*

I would like to take this moment to thank the Japanese American Citizens League for giving me the opportunity to attend this incredible conference. The conference is held every year in Washington, DC, and jointly with the Organization of Chinese Americans for the last four. I had the opportunity to learn about the political process, as well as meet with Asian Pacific American members of Congress for an inside view of the recent legislative reforms passed in Congress. Various leaders/representatives from key organizations, dedicated to civil rights, also shared their views in the areas of immigration, affirmative action, census 2000, and English-only legislation.

The conference lasted for three days, packed with meetings, roundtables and skills-building sessions. There were many highlights to the conference: meeting with Congresswoman Patsy Mink (D-HI), Congressman Robert Matsui (D-CA), Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Doris Matsui, Deputy Assistant to the President, Deputy Director of Public Liaison, the list goes on and on.

The most memorable moments of the conference were the late evenings spent networking and coalition-building with participants from other chapters of JACL and OCA. On the national level, all the major minority organizations work very closely together, fighting for civil rights, anti-defamation and basic quality of life issues. The participants of the conference were given an opportunity to experience this team-work first hand by working on a response to the campaign financing scandals and the basic stereotyping of the Asian Pacific American Community.

I will always remember this conference with fond memories of meeting people, seeing the internment exhibit, "A More Perfect Union" at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, and being a part of a cause. I hope to carry this feeling of empowerment with me in my everyday life, committing myself to civil rights issues affecting Asian Pacific Americans.

## Scholarship applications due!

*by Christine Shigaki*

There is still time to get your local scholarship applications in! All applications must be postmarked by APRIL 15th in order to qualify for the selection process. All JACL members please mark your calendars for this year's award banquet. Seattle Chapter Local Scholarship Awards banquet will be a potluck affair held May 21, 1997 at 6:00pm. This year's scholarship banquet will be held at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at: 1610 South King Street Seattle, WA 98144. Please join us in supporting our youth! If you would like more information regarding this event, please call Christine Shigaki at (206)721-1187.

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# SEATTLE JACL CHAPTER

## NEWSLETTER

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## JA directory committee begins planning; volunteers needed

*by Vicky Yuki*

The 1997 Japanese American Community Directory committee is scheduling a planning meeting for Thursday, April 24, 6:00 PM at the Seattle Chapter JACL office, 316 Maynard Ave. South. There has been a good response from interested people willing to dedicate their time and talents to make this Directory a success.

The Directory will be a free compilation of the Seattle/King County area Japanese American community and businesses. The first section of the Directory will include private residences in alphabetical order, and the second will list businesses by services offered. There will be an opportunity to place advertisements for your businesses in the second section. The cost of the advertisements has not been determined as of yet.

Volunteers interested in being part of a fulfilling hard-working team dedicated to providing a very needed service for our community should contact Vicky Yuki at 624-1221 before attending the meeting.

## Record setting makisushi for Cherry Blossom Festival?

*by Shea Aoki*

Want to participate in the 100-foot sushiroll for a Guinness Book of Records mention? Well, you need to practice for this one. The 22nd Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival (SCBJCF), "Trans-Pacific Century 2," will be attempting to set the record for the largest roll ever made in the U.S. on April 26 at the Seattle Center House 12 - 2 p.m. There will be 16 teams made up of four people each.

All team leaders are required to attend the practice session, April 12, 1997, 2 p.m., at the St. Peter's Church Fellowship Hall, 1610 King Street. If you're interested, call Jane Tsuboi (722-2375), Fujie Yamasaki (325-2238) or Shea Aoki (723-6061).

The SCBJCF committee is also looking for volunteers to help in a number of different areas, so those who are interested should call Shea Aoki at 723-6061.

## President's report: Active, committed board keeps on working for us

by Jeffrey Hattori

### Springing Forward

Despite the arrival of spring, cherry blossoms and the promise of better weather, "clouds" continue to be cast in the form of the reintroduction of English Only legislation, on-going issues with Welfare and Immigration Reform Legislation, and the "Washington State Civil Rights Act" Initiative, recently introduced by State Representative Scott Smith, that proposes rollbacks on affirmative action. Our Seattle JACL Board has been actively participating in a variety of activities to address these and other issues.

### Civil Rights/Coalition Building Retreat

In March, a "mini" retreat was conducted by Arlene Oki, 3rd Vice President, to develop a more cohesive and long-term strategy for our Chapter's work in civil rights and coalition building. The outcomes of the meeting included consolidating the Political Education, Legislative Advocacy and Anti-Discrimination committees into one, creating a broader coordinated framework and increased capacity to address issues both internally and with other community organizations.

The reorganized committee, currently called the Anti-Discrimination committee, will focus efforts around the following areas: Media Watch, English Only, Welfare and Immigration Reform, Hate Crimes, Affirmative Action, and pursuit of increased funding for the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. The next meeting of the Anti-Discrimination committee has been scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 14, 1997, at the Seattle Chapter Office. All who are interested in participating on this important committee are invited.

### Legislative Alert

As some of you may know, federal welfare reform bars legal immigrants from receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and food stamps. Federal welfare reform, however, allows state governments the discretion to decide if other assistance programs will be available to legal immigrants. Governor Locke's welfare re-

form proposal will help indigent legal immigrants by making state-funding available to them. In addition, the budget before houses includes funding for naturalization/citizenship assistance. Please call your state legislators or call the toll-free hotline (1-800-562-6000) to express your support for state funding to assist legal immigrants. Related to this issue, the Chapter is currently researching the implications of proposed legislation on the Nikkei community. We will update all of you in the near future.

### A Panel Discussion, co-sponsored with the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA)

Your Seattle Chapter, in partnership with the OCA, is co-sponsoring a panel discussion to address, yet again, an issue that confuses activities and perceptions of foreign nationals with Asian Pacific American (APA) citizens. This particular issue is tied to Democratic National Committee fund raising controversy, which has received significant national media attention and created negative reverberations for the APA community.

According to a recent memo from National JACL, former Congressman Norm Mineta was crossed off the list

of potential cabinet level appointees, and donors with Asian surnames have been questioned about their credit history and financial backgrounds.

Some of you may have seen The National Review's March 24th issue, depicting the President, Vice President and Hillary Clinton as stereotypically negative Asian cartoon caricatures. In a broader context, this issue certainly has implications on APA's involvement in the overall political process. And it is in this context that OCA and JACL are co-sponsoring this discussion. I hope many of you will be able to attend! Many thanks to Frank Kiuchi, JACL Board Member for his work on this project!

### Internal Housekeeping and other matters

#### March Board Meeting

Though I pride myself in practicing efficient time management, See "Hattori" on next page

**Panel on  
Campaign Contribution Scandal and Racism  
April 19, 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
Architecture Hall, University of Washington**

**For info and reservations  
Wang Yung 401-9737 or Frank Kiuchi 622-4098  
sponsored by JACL and OCA**

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## Hattori, continued from previous page

our board meetings have consistently extended beyond the scheduled two hours despite bleary eyes and a longing, for many, to eat dinner. This is actually more of a reflection of the commitment and energy of our officers and board members and the work ahead of us. There is much to do! We have also been very fortunate that a number of new individuals have been attending our meetings and getting involved.

I would like to acknowledge two new appointed Board Members, **Linda Tanouye** and **Alice Richardson**. Welcome aboard! Please be reminded that the Board meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month at the JACL office and are open to anyone interested.

We are also pleased to announce that our Newsletter will be sent out every month of the year. This is due to your continued generosity and support of your Chapter and the need to keep our members informed of on-going activities and issues. Thank you!

The Board also formally endorsed the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation's (NJAMF) project to raise funds to place a standing memorial/park in Washington DC. Many JACLers are involved in different capacities including National President, Helen Kawagoe, who serves on the NJAMF Board of Directors and Bob Sato, past Seattle Chapter President, who is the coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Region. Please be on the lookout for more information on this very significant, timely and meaningful project.

### "A More Perfect Union..."

I had the privilege of speaking on behalf of the PNW District March 21, at the opening of the traveling exhibit, "A More Perfect

## Newsletter Mailout

by Jill Beppu

Thanks to all who helped out at the March newsletter mailout: Chris Anderson, Jeffrey Hattori, Michelle Ota, Janice Yee, Michiko Yee, Kelly Wicker, Jon Matsui, Dave Yamaguchi, Elaine Akagi, Chuck Kato, Yogi Katayama (Mits), Kyle Okada, Christine Shigaki, Shea Aoki, Arlene Oki, Jill Beppu, Sam Shoji, Kazzie Katayama, George Fukano, and Iris Miyahira.

All are welcome to help. As we all know, the more the merrier, and the mailout takes a lot less time! See you at the next mailout, May 8, 6 p.m., at the Seattle JACL office.



### Nikkei Concerns

1601 East Yesler Way • Seattle, WA 98122  
Phone: (206) 323-7100 Fax: (206) 325-1502

#### Seattle Keiro

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Union: Japanese Americans and the US Constitution," sponsored by the University of Washington Libraries. Two panel discussions were also organized to offer personal perspectives on the exhibit. On April 2, Shea Aoki, our Historian, shared her personal story in a discussion entitled "Seattle Japanese American Women in the World War II Incarceration Camps," sponsored by our own Japanese American Youth Society (JAYS). Over 100 individuals were in attendance to learn, remember and share. Many thanks to the JAYS for their work on this project.

On Thursday, April 17, 7:30 pm, at the UW's Kane Hall, Kazzie Katayama will be one of the panelists on the "Survivors of the Justice Department Crystal City, Texas, Internment Camp" discussion. Please mark this on your calendar!

### Asian American Studies National Conference

The University of Washington is hosting the Association for Asian American Studies National Conference, "Defining the Asian Pacific Century: Nurturing Roots", April 17-19, 1997. Your Seattle JACL is involved by participating in the "K-12 Day" on Saturday, April 19, where Mako Nakagawa will serve on a panel discussion on how to integrate the internment experience into curriculum and Sharon Klosterman, chair of our Education Committee, will share with teachers and attendees various resource materials available on internment. Thanks to Mako and Sharon!

## Take-out Bento

by Polly Shigaki

St. Peter's Episcopal Parish is breaking tradition this year. Instead of the annual Sukiyaki Dinner, a "Big Take-Out" featuring take-out Spareribs Bento and Sukiyaki Bento will be held May 4, 2-6 p.m., at the church, 1610 S. King St. Limited seating for on-site dining will be available.

Advance tickets are available from members, or by calling 323-5250. Donation: \$8 for adults; \$5 for children. All proceeds benefit outreach ministries.



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## Japanese American Citizens League

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