

ORA Update

More claims accepted for redress payments

Redress eligibility rulings:

Three actions have recently favorably affected the status of certain claims made to the Office of Redress Administration. *Ishida* regulations received final approval and two new categories of claimants have been found potentially eligible through administrative decision.

- Children born on or before January 20, 1945, in the interior after their parents either were interned or evacuated from the prohibited zones are potentially eligible for redress, according to Attorney General Janet Reno, who signed the *Ishida* regulations April 14, 1997. Claimants will be notified 30 days after the regulations were posted in the Federal Register (April 24), in accordance with Federal Government policy.

To date, the ORA has 1,400 claims under review. The ORA estimates that payments for eligible *Ishida* claimants will begin in the fall.

- ORA reconsidered the claims of individuals who were born in an internment camp to a mother on visitor status or individuals who lived in camp as a "visitor" while still a minor. ORA recognized that children born in internment camps to "visiting" mothers or brought into camp as minors could not voluntarily choose to enter camp.

- Claimants who left the West Coast for graduate school in the non-prohibitive zone before the voluntary evacuation period are now eligible for redress. It was previously held that graduate students had voluntarily changed their permanent domicile. A review of similar cases involving undergraduate students showed that individuals who left their homes in the prohibited zone to attend school in the interior did not necessarily change their permanent domicile. Applying this rationale to graduate students, an administrative decision reversed the ineligibility status of this small group of claimants. To date, four claims have been found potentially eligible.

ORA community outreach

ORA Director of Operations Joanne Chiedi, and Project Manager Lisa Johnson, will be attending the 1997 JACL Tri-District Conference to be held in the Stardust Hotel in

SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

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Congratulations, Ken!

by *Bob Shimabukuro*

Congratulations are due longtime board member Ken Nakano, who received a 1997 Jefferson Award, sponsored by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, given annually to individuals with outstanding public service records. Ken is well-known to Seattle chapter members for his dedicated work with hibakusha and "downwinders," redress, U.S.-Japan relations, and community service, all of which played a part his being chosen for the award.

But I remember first meeting Ken when he came up to me and told me of his idea that we should try to change the "official" abbreviation of Japan (and Japanese) from "Jap" to "Jpn."

"A Don Quixote figure, if I ever saw one," I thought.

But his little idea grew into a project and a short time later, he convinced Rep. Mike Lowry to introduce a Congressional bill designating "Jpn" as the official abbreviation of "Japan" and "Japanese." Look up in the more recently revised American English dictionaries and you'll find the result of Ken's quixotic quest: "Jap" listed as a "racial slur" and "Jpn" listed as an abbreviation for "Japan" and "Japanese."

So there. Ken won his Jefferson Award for his etymological work too. When I first met Ken, I never dreamed that he was also an etymologist. Of English, no less.

Scholarship Awards Banquet

by *Christine Shigaki*

Applications are now being processed for this year's scholarship award winners. The scholarship awards banquet has been changed to Wednesday May 28, 1997. It will be held at St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 1610 S. King Street in Seattle. Please join us in supporting you youth! If you would like more information regarding this event, please call Christine Shigaki at (206) 721-1187.

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Providing our youth opportunities for leadership development

The lifeblood of all organizations is the constant influx of younger individuals who possess and share their new ideas, boundless energy, and commitment to sustain and expand the mission and goals. Organizations must continually cultivate and nurture their participation and provide opportunities and resources to be in leadership positions. Organizations must also be flexible and open, addressing areas that are relevant to the world of today.

For our community, today's generation has an unprecedented opportunity to *choose* how to live their lives, compared to prior generations. Whether it be the type of career, where to live, where to go to school, with whom to raise a family, or for whom to volunteer, the options seem almost limitless. What a wonderful opportunity for our youth! This broader opportunity to choose also presents a unique challenge for organizations to attract youth participation.

The Seattle Chapter has been very fortunate that young people have decided to "choose" us. For the past five years, I have seen an increasing number of young people, primarily college students and emerging professionals, who have joined our Board or served on committees with a commitment to learning and serving on behalf of our community. During this time, the Seattle Chapter's Japanese American Youth Society has been revitalized. A growing number of young adults have not only organized to develop social activities but also to create a volunteer resource for the Board and many other organizations. These young adults also address issues that are germane to their generation and the community.

At our January Board retreat, the Seattle Chapter dedicated itself to creating more access to resources and opportunities for our youth to develop and exercise their leadership. Over the past four months we have:

- Installed Jonathon Matsui as our 3rd Vice President/ Youth Leadership Development and Education.

- Raised over \$3,000.00, specifically for youth programs, through the drawing at the Installation Banquet (thank you to all who bought tickets!).
- Increased funds available for our scholarship awards.
- Sent a Board Member to the National JACL Leadership Conference in Washington DC.
- Organized a two day "Youth Community and Career Symposium" for the Bi-District meeting. This symposium is being developed by our younger board members and volunteers and promises to be a great event.
- Provided full or partial subsidies for youth to attend events, including our Installation Banquet, so that they could learn more about the many organizations and issues in our community.
- Set aside funds to send youth representatives to the National JACL's Youth Leadership Conference in June.

There is still much more to do! However, I believe we are making the necessary positive "first" steps towards establishing an inviting and supportive structure.

Honoring our Youth

I hope many of you will be able to attend our annual Scholarship Ceremony, 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 28, 1997 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. This year we are pleased to announce that deserving individuals will each receive scholarships. At this ceremony, we will also recognize and congratulate the following board members on their graduation: Randy Aoyama, Law; Hugh Matsubayashi, Law; Danny Okada, Law; Kyle Okada, Education; Jill Yamagiwa, JAYS President, American Ethnic Studies; all at the University of Washington, and Miyuki Yoshida, Law, Seattle University.

Despite their rigorous schedule of attending school and working part-time, they have each made wonderful and meaningful contributions in organizing, assisting and sup-

See "Hattori" on page 5

Good news for 'Downwinders'

by Ken Nakano

Good news has just been released by the U.S. Agency of Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR). In a March 20, 1997 press release, ATSDR announced that a medical monitoring program is needed for people exposed to past radiation releases from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation site in Eastern Washington.

Festival makes history!

by Jeff Hattori

The Seattle Chapter partners annually with the Kisaragi-Kai to organize, make and sell wonderfully delicious "homemade" sushi, manju and other items at the Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival. This year proved to be another successful venture where most of the food items sold out well before the close of Saturday (4/26) and Sunday (4/27).

Each organization also participated in the making of a history making 101 1/2 foot long makizushi!

I would like to acknowledge the following volunteers for their great work. Thank you very much!

Aoki, Shea Forrester, Tsuchino Sasaki, Tazue	JACL Chair for the Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival President, Kisaragi-Kai Chairperson, Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival	Akiyama, Linda Amano, Chiya Aoyama, Randy Asakura, Rose Asato, Jennifer Asato, Jo Ann Asato, Mel Asato, Stacy Beppu, Jill Calhoun, Hazel Casada, Mihoko Chesterfield, Kuniko Chikusua, Eva Chin, Kiyoe Cullen, Keiko Dodson, Tokiko Doi, Makiko Ebira, Sekiko Eguchi, Mitsuko Endo, Bill	Farrington, Harue Fujiwara, Mary Furuichi, Hisako Gilbert, Midori Goto, Dee Heider, Miki Higuchi, Yoshiko Hill, Ayako Hirai, Emi Ige, Fumiko Inouye, Keiko Kato, Hana Kikuchi, Tami Kinitsugu, Mitsuo Kitahara, Minako Kitasaka, Sue Kojima, Fumi Kouchi, Alice Kubo, Masako Kusumi, Fusako	Livingston, Teruko Maekawa, Yuki Matsubayashi, Hugh Matsumoto, Sadako Matsuzawa, Yuri Mori, Paul Mori, Yoshie Nakanishi, Kimi Nakata, Marie Nishida, Madoka Noritake, Shinako Ogino, France Okada, Bessie Okada, Dan Okada, Kyle Okada, Shizue Oki, Arlene Otami, Yaeko Otsuji, Nobu Park, Masako	Pearce, Kesa Perry, Mitsuko Petersen, Yuki Richardson, Alice Seaman, Sumie Sekine, Narachiyo Sumimoto, Chieko Takagi, Cal Terao, Kazuko Thompson, Miyoko Uno, Shigeiko Willis, Sadako Wirth, Keiko Wright, Nobuko Yajima, Masayo Yamanouchi, Akiko Yamasaki, Fujie Yee, Fukuyo Yee, Janice Yoda, Takako
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Before the program can be set up, however, the U.S. Energy Department and Congress must be persuaded to spend more than \$9.6 million per year, according to ATSDR spokesperson Loretta Bush.

Up to 14,000 people with significant radiation doses to the thyroid will be offered medical evaluation to detect thyroid problems.

It is estimated that 1,000 Nikkei may be affected. These persons are scattered all over the country.

Denny Yasuhara and I are working to have a Nikkei orientation on this program Friday evening, June 13, in Spokane. We will have many experts present to answer your questions.

Mi-Yo-I Kai Carnival

It's been only six months and then some since their "Fall Ball," but the very active Mi-Yo-I Kai of Nikkei Concerns is throwing a big bash May 31 (11 a.m. - 3 p.m.) on the grounds of Seattle Keiro — a carnival. Games, food and prizes, plus information on the programs of Nikkei Concerns.

Bring your family, play some games, have a hot dog, see the latest facility additions (including Keiro Intergenerational Daycare).

Or, for the talented, and not-so-talented but hardworking, co-chairs Joe Yabuki and Harold Taniguchi are still accepting volunteers willing to provide entertainment, organize games, or bake a cake or two. Call 323-7100 to get involved.



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

Seattle Keiro
Kokoro Kai • Nikkei Horizons
KIDcare (Keiro Intergenerational Day Care)
Nikkei Manor (Open December 1997)

Please call (206) 323-7100 for more information

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Don't be deterred by racist media reports, advises panel

by Sid Kuboi

The topic was racism and insensitivity in the aftermath of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) campaign contribution scandals. The panelists were all of local or national prominence: Peter Bacho of the University of Washington, Conrad Lee of the Bellevue City Council, Jim Mallory of the Seattle Times, Dr. John Tchen of New York University, Nancy Vineberg of the American Jewish Committee, Dr. Eden Woon of the China Relations Council and moderator Dr. Peter Ku of South Seattle Community College.

The discussion was lively and thoughtful, and served to highlight that, in this supposedly enlightened age of civil rights and equal opportunity, there is still much work to be done to correct institutionalized racist definitions of what is good or bad, right or wrong, and American or un-American.

JACL board member Frank Kiuchi set the tone, opening the discussion with the observation that, without the public's trust, the political effectiveness of Asian Americans would always be marginalized. The media, in their reporting on the "questionable" Asian contributions to the DNC, were serving to increase public "mistrust" of Asians.

Tchen shared his insight on the historical perspective of American citizenship and how Asians fit into that perspective. Simply put, American history's de facto definition of "citizen" was "white male property owner." Asians, who

were originally brought to the U.S. as laborers were seen as slavish and foreign-looking. By differing so far from the American cultural norm of "citizen," Tchen supposed that Asian Americans would always be considered as outsiders.

Vineberg related the parallels between the Jewish and Asian American communities. She stressed the importance of political power and that the way to achieve that power was through financial contributions, high voter turnout and political involvement.

Bacho shared some personal life experiences which defied the oft-mentioned stereotype of the Asian man as "wimp."

Woon talked of the world within the Washington, D.C. "Beltway," explaining that the White House, hungry for campaign funds, probably accepted funds of foreign origin. The Republicans, seeing an opportunity to bash the White House and China simultaneously were more than happy to alert the media. The media then jumped in, and sacrificed reporting a balanced story for the sake of pandering to the anti-China, anti-Asian rhetoric emanating from the Beltway.

Mallory, from the Seattle Times, stressed that the issue at hand was more political than racial and reminded the audience that the press was not monolithic. He added that, with the fall of the Soviet Union, China was now the next potential "enemy."

Lee shared his perspective that Asian Americans are a visible force in politics and that race issues should not deter Asian Americans from becoming involved in the political process.

ORA Update, continued from front page

Las Vegas, Nevada, June 6-8. Chiedi will give a brief ORA update at the conference. Chiedi and Johnson will sponsor an information booth and be able to answer questions on redress.

For questions, call the ORA hotline at 1-888-219-6900. It is an automated system that asks individuals to leave a detailed message regarding their concerns. An ORA representative will return the call within two weeks, or sooner if immediate attention is needed.

Community Diabetes Study begins study of menopause

by Donna Leonetti

Since 1983, the Japanese American Community Diabetes Study (JACDS) has been studying the development of diabetes and cardiovascular disease in Nisei and Sansei men and women. In our studies of Nisei and Sansei women, we have seen a dramatic increase in the development of these diseases and their risk factors.

The reason appears to be a product of the difference between pre-menopausal and post-menopausal status, which corresponds to the ages of the Sansei and Nisei women when last studied. Other studies have found similar differences between pre-menopausal and post-menopausal women.

It is our current goal to study pre-menopausal women, ages 45-53, and follow them through menopause to see how these changes take place. If we can document these

changes and the order in which they take place, we may be able to recommend action with regard to maintaining health in women as they age.

We are currently recruiting 90 Nikkei women for this very important study. The tests include those for blood fats (low and high density cholesterol, triglycerides), body composition (fat and bone density), and pattern of fat distribution, blood sugar and insulin, blood pressure, electrocardiogram, diet, physical activity and life stress evaluation. These tests will be repeated after three years. Results of those tests that may be beneficial to the medical care of individual participants will be made available to them and their health care providers. If you or someone you know is interested in participating, our number at the University is 543-5597. Please call if you have questions or want to volunteer.

Hattori, continued from page two

porting a variety of Chapter activities and committees. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Jonathon Matsui/3rd Vice-President who has recently accepted an opportunity to attend Washington University, in St. Louis, to pursue a Ph.D. and MD in Neuroscience. As some of you may know, in his "spare" time he has been the PNW District Youth Representative, assisted in revitalizing the JAYS, and served on the DENSHO's project advisory committee.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our deepest appreciation and congratulations to each of these fine individuals. I, for one, have also learned much from them. Thank you very much!

Would you like to serve on an exciting and vibrant Board as Treasurer?

Over the past four months, your President has been serving as the interim Treasurer. As much as he enjoys the work in developing and monitoring the budget and the wonderful company of the Finance Committee, Endowment Fund Committee, and Bookkeeper, he (and the Chapter!) could benefit from an energetic and skilled individual to volunteer as Treasurer. The Seattle Chapter is experiencing a sound fiscal position and is moving ahead in planning and administering

our funds in a more strategic manner.

The Treasurer's job description :

Duties:

- lead in the development of the annual operating budget;
- oversee and develop reports on monthly and year-end activities;
- monitor unrestricted and restricted accounts;
- coordinate with Bookkeeper on revenues and expenses;
- lead/assist in the development of new policy and procedures, as needed;
- assist in developing the annual report;
- chair or serve on various committees listed below; and,
- have fun working with a group of motivated individuals who care about our community!

Meetings:

- Board and Executive Committee, Member/Officer (each meets monthly)
- Finance Committee, Chair (typically meets quarterly)
- Endowment Fund Committee, Member (meets as needed)

If you or someone you know may be interested in serving as Treasurer, please call Jeffrey Hattori, President, at 630-4854. Thank you!

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter

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