

SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

June 1997

VOLUME 34, NO. 6

Congratulations to our 1997 Scholarship Winners!

by *Christine Shigaki*

The scholarship committee had a tough job of choosing this year's scholarship award recipients. After hours of deliberation, five recipients were selected based on the following criteria: academic achievement, community service, financial need, letters of recommendations, extracurricular activities, and work experience. We congratulate the five outstanding winners! There is not enough space to tell you of all their accomplishments, but here are a few highlights of this year's award recipients.

Noa Piper is this year's recipient of the Minoru Tamesa Scholarship Award. Noa is a graduating senior from Port Townsend High School. She also attended Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. Noa is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club—where she has been an active officer for the past three years and has done over 200 hours of community service, Varsity Tennis, Explorers Club—a club dedicated to the building of community, among various other clubs and organizations. Noa has won numerous awards for her writing and has done countless hours in community service activities. She will be attending Whitman College this coming fall and is planning on majoring in international relations.

Jonathan Matsui is this year's recipient of the Tazuma Family Scholarship Award. Jonathan will be attending Washington University School of Medicine. He is a 1996 graduate of the University of Washington where he received his BS, with distinction, in zoology, emphasizing neuroscience. Jonathan has also studied abroad in England at Victoria University of Manchester. He has extensive research experience and has won numerous awards for his community service, scholarship accomplishments, and he even has a publication. Jonathan is also a very active member of JACL, and is currently the second vice president of the Seattle Chapter JACL. He has been key to several committees and projects. He will be greatly missed by all of us!

Ryan Chin is one of this year's Seattle JACL Scholarship Award recipients. He is currently a second year student at the University of Washington. Ryan is planning to attend the University of Ha-

See "Scholarship" on page 7

President's Report

Seattle Chapter hosts the Bi-District conference in July

by *Jeffrey Hattori*

The Seattle Chapter is pleased to host this year's Bi-District conference, "Communities Envisioning Tomorrow," July 18-20, 1997, at the Best Western Southcenter in Tukwila. This Bi-District meeting builds on the energy and rededication from the 1996 National Convention and, locally, from the commitment of the Seattle Chapter Board Members and volunteers to provide a forum that encourages the promotion of ideas, partnership and goodwill among JACLers and others from the Pacific Northwest and the Intermountain Districts. Over the course of the three days, attendees can participate in a variety of informative and fun activities.

On Friday test your skills amongst some of the best golfers(?) or "hackers(!)" in the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain area at the afternoon golf outing at River Bend Golf Course. In the evening, relax and enjoy the company of old and new friends and acquaintances while enjoying tasty food and drink at the hospitality event.

On Saturday after the continental breakfast each district will conduct their quarterly meeting. At lunch you will be treated to a dynamic speaker, Warren Furutani (former Los Angeles School Board Member). Afternoon workshops (including an Ondo workshop) will be followed by the Bon Odori festival. All are invited to the Bon Odori and those of you who participated in the Ondo workshop can apply what you learned.

On Sunday a joint district meeting in the morning will be followed by a walking history tour of Seattle's Nihonmachi in the International District.

It will be a fun-filled, information packed weekend, with most of the National Board and staff. (See page 4-5 for articles about the conference.)

This is not all! A "Young Adult Asian Pacific Islander Conference" has also been planned and scheduled for the Bi-District meeting. This conference is geared towards high school and college students and those entering their careers. Attendees will learn more about current community issues, career paths and ways to interact with community leaders. Notably, this was planned and organized by our youth!

The Bi-District meeting is truly a regional effort—the Lake Washington Chapter and Puyallup Valley Chapter and countless of volunteers and donors from both the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain Districts has made this possible. I am personally very excited about this and hope all of you will be able to attend and participate. Please remember to complete and submit the reg-

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Conference, continued from front page

istration form as quickly as possible! If you have any questions, please call Karen Yoshitomi at 623-5088. See you all in July!

Other Highlights

CLPEF education grant

Congratulations to Sharon Klosterman, Elaine Akagi, Mako Nakagawa, Janice Yee and the Education Committee for their successful proposal (\$20,000) to continue and expand teacher training sessions on integrating the internment experience into curricula. The funds will be used to increase the coverage area and capacity of these sessions by providing for statewide workshops. Planning is underway!

Initiative 200 and candidates forum

Sid Kuboi and Arlene Oki of our Anti-Discrimination Committee attended a recent community meeting to discuss strategies to defeat Initiative 200, the "Washington State Civil Rights Act." This initiative, sponsored by State Representative Scott Smith and businessperson Tim Eyman, proposes to "roll back" affirmative action in the public sector. This initiative seems to be in concert with a broader wave of negative actions and sentiments (e.g., California's Proposition 209) to repeal hard fought battles and legislation that promote equal opportunity.

The Anti-Discrimination Committee is also considering sponsoring another Candidates Forum that targets the City Mayoral and Council races and the County Executive and Council races. The Committee will be meeting soon to discuss logistics. We are pleased that our partnership with the Seattle Chapter Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), through President Wang Yung, has extended into these and many other areas.

State Representative Kip Tokuda

Our community—and our Chapter—is very fortunate to have Kip Tokuda representing us in the State Legislature. As many of you know, Kip has stood tall in advocating and demanding for the rights and needs of our youth and our community. I probably communicate with his office once to twice a week to learn about or be alerted to current and upcoming issues and forums. Kip and his Legislative Aide, Dianna, have been especially responsive and helpful in clarifying issues and providing useful guidance.

Thanks Kip and Dianna!

Scholarship ceremony

On May 28th, the Seattle Chapter held its annual Scholarship Ceremony. This year the Scholarship Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Christine Shigaki, identified five upstanding individuals to receive scholarships through the generosity of the Tazuma

Family, Tamesa Family and Seattle Chapter JACL. What was especially significant about these individuals, beyond their incredible credentials and achievements, was their articulation of views and goals to make a positive contribution to our community and to our world. This ceremony continued to validate our belief in a better future for our youth

In addition to honoring the scholarship awardees, we also wanted to acknowledge the contributions of our board members graduating from college. As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, they have all made a significant contribution to our Chapter. Hugh Matsubayashi and Jonathan Matsui are moving on, Hugh to San Jose to begin his career in law and Jonathan to St. Louis to continue his education in neuroscience. Randy Aoyama, Danny Okada, Miyuki Yoshida and Kyle Okada are staying in Seattle and will continue their involvement in JACL. We are proud of all of you! Congratulations!

Jill Yamagiwa has just completed her term as JAYS President. During the past year, the JAYS were actively involved in a variety of activities and issues including sponsoring the very informative workshop on "Pioneering Japanese American Women" at the University of Washington. They have also volunteered in support of a variety of community projects and events. Thank you to Jill and the JAYS of 1996-7 for your great work. We look forward to next year's JAYS under the helm of Brian Ohashi!

Japanese American Community Directory

In our last newsletter, an insert was included asking individuals and businesses to provide us with up-to-date information on names, addresses and phone numbers. I hope all of you can help us by submitting the forms as soon as possible and/or purchasing a listing so we can complete the directory as quickly as possible. Thanks to the leadership of Vicky Yuki, volunteers are already lining up and some donations have been received. We will keep you abreast of our progress.

Past presidents line our chapter office walls

If you have an opportunity to come by our office, you will now see the photographs of all of our past Presidents through 1989. Through the efforts of Kaz Ishimitsu and James Murakami, along with other dedicated volunteers, we can now publicly share the distinguished leadership of the Seattle Chapter. As I viewed these individuals, I was most impressed and humbled. We hope to have the pictures of the more recent Presidents on "the wall" by the Bi-District meeting. Many thanks to Mr. Ishimitsu and Mr. Murakami and crew.

Welcome to a new board member

Over the past few months, various guests have attended our

See "Highlights" on page 7

Mochizuki reads latest book July 8

by Alina Hua

"Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story," just published this May, is local children's author Ken Mochizuki's latest book that tells the true story of Chiune Sugihara, the "Japanese Schindler" who saved thousands of Jews in Lithuania during World War II. It has already won several honors, including an American Bookseller "Pick of the Lists" selection, a Publishers Weekly "Starred Review," and a Booklist "Starred Review."

Join us for a booksigning and reading with Ken Mochizuki on Tuesday, July 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wing Luke Asian Museum. Books will be available for sale.

This event is co-sponsored by the Wing Luke Asian Museum, the American Jewish Committee, and the Japanese American Citizens League. For more information, contact Alina Hua at 623-5124.

UW Nikkei Reunion

The University Students Club and the UW Department of American Ethnic Studies are co-sponsoring a reunion on August 16-18, 1997 for all Nikkei current and former students who have attended the University of Washington. This event will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the University Students Club. A banquet and dance will be held on Saturday, August 16, 1997 at the Husky Union Building (HUB) on the UW campus. Plans are also being made to host a city/campus tour, Sunday, August 17 and a golf tournament followed by a dinner on Monday, August 18 at the Mill Creek Country Club.

For information regarding the reunion and registration forms, please call Ken Sato at (206) 363-1414, Elsie Taniguchi (206) 824-2402 or Golf Chair Bob Sato/(206) 742-0784.

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter

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Recognize this man?

He'll be roasted at an Asian Pacific AIDS Council benefit, June 25, at the Four Seas Restaurant in the International District.

Entertainment by Keahi Matsui and Deems Tsutakawa, but perhaps the roasters will also add to the festivities. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30, roasting at 7:30.

Fifty dollars will enable you to join in the festivities. Call APAC for reservations and/or information: 467-0884.



The Roast:
A special tribute to
Bob Shimabukuro

Video on mochi-tsuki on sale; proceeds to fund scholarships

by Elsie Taniguchi

The Puyallup Valley chapter has just completed a video demonstrating the three methods of mochi-tsuki: the traditional way—pounding the mochi using a kine and usu; the faster way—using electric grinding machines; and the modern way, using the mochi-making machine that steams and pounds the rice into mochi in one convenient machine.

The object of the video is to share with others the traditional and cultural aspects of pounding rice into mochi like our forefathers in Japan did.

Funds for the video were made possible by a grant from the National JACL. The Puyallup Valley chapter wishes to thank videographer Steve Dorris, who is also their newest boardmember.

The video is available for purchase. Send a check for \$23, payable to Puyallup Valley JACL and mail it to: Elsie Taniguchi, 225 S.W. 197th Place, Seattle, WA 98166-4031. The money will be used to raise money for chapter scholarships.

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Pacific Northwest and Intermountain Biennial Conference: Communities Envisioning Tomorrow

Golf, workshops, obon on tap for Biennial Conference

by Elaine Akagi

Seattle chapter will host the Intermountain and Pacific Northwest District's biennial conference this July 18-20 at the Best Western Southcenter. In conjunction with the Young Adult Asian Pacific Islander Conference, an attendance of 100-150 is expected for the weekend. We are especially pleased to have a number of National JACL board members with us. President Helen Kawagoe, National Director Herb Yamanishi, Vice Presidents Lori Fujimoto, Richard Uno, and Gary Mayeda, Washington Representative Bob Sakaniwa, Youth Chair Hiromi Ueha and Youth Rep. Nicole Inouye will be joining us for this bi-district event. A number of activities are planned for the weekend.

A golf outing on Friday morning will kick off the weekend. Chaired by Bob Mizukami, the golfers will play at River Bend Golf Course, teeing off at 11:30 AM.

On Friday evening, a gala welcoming hospitality event is planned to greet our visiting delegates. The Seattle chapter will host this event at St. Peter's Episcopal Church from 6 to 9 p.m. Members are welcome to join us to meet and greet old friends.

A busy Saturday will include district meetings of the IDC and PNWDC beginning at 8 AM. The luncheon, which begins at noon, will feature keynote speaker, Warren Furutani, a

longtime Asian community activist and former Los Angeles School Board member.

Following lunch, a number of workshops will take place. The topics of Intergenerational Dialogue, Multi-racial Families, Political Empowerment, Hanford Downwinders, Educational Training on the Nikkei Wartime Experience and Cultural Arts (Calligraphy and dances).

Saturday evening will include a trip to Seattle Buddhist Church's Obon festival. We will exercise to the music of Tanko Bushi, Goshu Ondo, Soran Bushi, etc. and work out the kinks of sitting in sessions all day.

Early Sunday morning, the two districts will meet jointly to discuss common goals and projects. It will also give all an opportunity to meet and talk with our National board. The afternoon will be spent touring old Nihon machi. Hosted by the Lake Washington Chapter, we will learn some of the history of the Nippon Kan, Panama Hotel, and other historic buildings in Seattle's International District.

Included with the month's newsletter, are registration forms for the Bi-District Conference, the Golf Outing, and the Nihonmachi Tour. Please join us for one or all of the activities. For further information or questions, please call our regional office at (206)623-5088.

Community issues, careers focus of youth conference

by Jon Matsui

The Japanese American Citizens League is sponsoring a Young Adult Asian Pacific Islander Conference, "Communities Envisioning Tomorrow," a two-day conference aimed at graduating high school seniors through recent college graduates/emerging professionals. It will be held on the weekend of July 19-20, 1997 at the Best Western Southcenter. Registration costs \$15.00 and includes conference materials, breakfast on both days and lunch on Saturday.

The first half of the conference involves a career component in which various business and professionals leaders will meet and interact with conference participants. Career topics to be addressed include: art, business, education, health, law, media, and science/technology.

Conference participants are strongly encouraged to actively

participate in the workshops. Different specialties within each career choice will be represented.

The Asian Management and Business Association is organizing the business workshop. After a general introduction, they plan to break into smaller groups so that individuals can get some one-on-one assistance with interviewing skills, resume writing and "straight" answers from entrepreneurs, human resource personnel and upper management in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

Conference organizers also hope to heighten the awareness of different cultural issues among Asian Pacific Islander Americans (APIAs) by addressing pertinent issues to this age group including: gay/lesbian/bisexual APIA issues, intergenerational dialogue, inter-Asian racism, managing

See "Youth" →

Lake Washington hosts walking tour of Seattle's International District

by S. James Arima

Shigeko Uno, the first female Seattle JACL chapter president, has childhood memories of envying families trekking uphill to the communal baths located in the basement of the Panama Hotel. Shigeko can soon view for her first time the remains of the communal "furo" believed to be the first in existence in the U.S. The Panama Hotel, built in 1910 by the first Asian American architect to practice in Seattle, Sabro Ozasa, heads a list of sites on "An Afternoon of History," a Lake Washington Chapter sponsored walking tour of Seattle's International District as part of the Bi-District Council Conference July 18-20.

The Hotel basement also has on display unclaimed baggage from the World War II evacuation. In 1996, hotel owner Jan

Johnson, received a preservation award from the State of Washington's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

Please join us for the Sunday, July 20 afternoon of history: buffet lunch at Nippon Kan Theatre, briefings on other historical sites and projects, historical displays, slide shows, and a self-guided open house walking tour of Seattle's Nihonmachi.

Professor Gail Dubrow will provide us with an overview on the size and vitality of pre-World War II Japan Town, along with her current efforts to increase public awareness and appreciation of places significant in the history of Japanese Americans in Utah. Puget Sound area chapters are also being

asked to share with us their current history projects then.

Did you miss the slide presentation at the installation dinner on Seattle Chapter's 75th year history? It will be available for viewing in the Seattle Chapter's office, located in the historic Rainier Heat and Power Building, which was the site of the first national JACL convention.

Densho will have computer demonstrations of their Japanese American Legacy Project at the Pacific Northwest District JACL office. A pictorial display of Eastside Japanese American Pioneers will be on exhibit in the district office foyer. The NP Hotel lobby will be open for viewing of its pictorial display of Nihonmachi.

"An Afternoon of History" Schedule

Noon-1:00 p.m.	Buffet lunch, Nippon Kan Theatre
1:00 - 2:00	Historical briefings
2:00 - 3:00	Open House Walking Tour
3:00 - 4:00	Wing Luke Asian Museum (w/refreshments)
3:15 - 3:20 p.m.	Closing remarks

Out-of-town guests will have an opportunity to become acquainted with our new Nikkei Manor; and Uwajimaya is always a treat for visitors. Closing remarks will be conducted at the Wing Luke Asian Museum.

Space is limited - do not delay in placing your reservations for "An Afternoon of History." Early registration: \$15 payable to Seattle JACL. After July 4, \$18. Please call Karen Yoshitomi at the District Office (206/722-1824) if you have any questions.

Note: There is a July 20 Kingdome event, so be timely and minimize your driving and parking difficulties.

Youth, continued from page 4

credit card debt, multi-racial families and political empowerment.

Finally, there will be a Community Fair which will allow conference participants to meet with representatives from different government, non-profit and community organizations and businesses. This conference is sponsored in part by the JACL National Legacy Grant Foundation, PNW Council, Seattle and Olympia Chapters.

For more information or a conference brochure, please contact:

Karen Yoshitomi
JACL PNW Regional Director
671 South Jackson St., Suite 206
Seattle, Washington 98104
(206) 623-5088

MIS Northwest endorses four monuments

by Art Gorai, MIS Northwest

The Military Intelligence Service Northwest veterans group, at their annual membership meeting, voted to support four monument projects being promoted nationally to tell the story of Japanese Americans during World War II. By this vote, the group recognized the urgent need to work with others to complete these monuments as a legacy to future generations, President Hiro Nishimura reported.

The four monuments are:

- 1) the Go For Broke monument in the Los Angeles Civic Center, planned by the 100/442/MIS Foundation.
- 2) the Japanese American KIA (killed in action) Soldiers monument in Los Angeles, planned by the Americans of Japanese Ancestry Coalition.
- 3) the Brothers in Valor monument in Fort DeRussy, Honolulu, planned jointly by several veterans groups.
- 4) the monument to the Patriotism of the Japanese American People in World War II, planned by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

In March, monetary commitments were made to the Brothers in Valor monument, which honors the contributions of the 100th Battalion, the 442d Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service, and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion; and the Go For Broke Monument, which honors the 800 KIA Nisei soldiers and the 15,000 men who served overseas while many of their families were held in internment camps.

Monetary commitments will be made later this year to the two remaining projects. Plans for the Japanese American KIA Soldiers monument in Los Angeles, the only monument that would honor exclusively the KIA soldiers of World War II, are still being developed.

The final design of the Patriotism of the Japanese American People in World II monument is being completed in Washington DC. The MIS Northwest, as a veterans organization, has a special interest in how this monument describes the role of the Nisei soldier.

For further information and questions, please, contact the MIS Northwest, PO Box 18616, Seattle, WA 98118.

Monument construction in D.C. to begin; volunteers needed

by Bob Sato

By October 1999, construction will begin in Washington, D.C., on a monument to honor the loyalty, patriotism and heroism of Japanese Americans during World War II. Under Federal law, monies must be collected before construction can begin on a 33,000 square feet triangular shaped property already transferred to the Park Service. The site is just North of the U.S. Capitol Building and faces the park grounds bordering the Capitol and Senate Office Buildings.

A Pacific Northwest Committee of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation has been busy preparing for a mid-September 1997 fund-raising kickoff event. To help this committee, a cadre of volunteers are needed to type and to assist with the mailouts.

Please call me (chairman Bob Sato - 742-0784) or vice-chair Tosh Okamoto (323-6522) if you would like to help.


This monument will inspire all believers in democracy when

they learn of the faith in the democratic system demonstrated by Japanese Americans, the admission of a wrong committed by the government and how the government corrected the mistake.

This may be our only opportunity to build a monument in Washington, D.C. It deserves your support. We do it in memory and tribute to our Issei pioneers and our fallen comrades in arms. Please help.



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Scholarships, continued from page one

next year so that he can take intensive Japanese classes. Ryan is planning to major in business and emphasize his studies in International Business, Informational Systems, Japanese and Asian American/Far East Studies. Ryan currently works for Lucent Technologies where he is gaining valuable work experience. He has won numerous awards in academics, sports and extracurricular activities. Most of all, Ryan has been very active in the Asian community working for the International Examiner newspaper and on several election campaigns, including those for Gary Locke and Kip Tokuda.

Jennifer Hara is also one of this year's Seattle JACL Scholarship Award recipients. Jennifer will be attending George Washington University where she plans to get her graduate degree in International Affairs, with emphasis on International Economic Development, US Foreign Policy and International Law and Organization. She graduated cum laude from Seattle University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and International Politics. Jennifer currently works as a legal assistant and has been gaining valuable work experience at Salazar Law Offices. She also has been very active in the community, especially at El Centro de la Raza.

Akiko Sakai is also one of this year's Seattle JACL Scholarship

Award recipients. Akiko is a graduate student at the University of Washington majoring in music. In 1993, she received her bachelor of music degree, concentrating in piano performance, from California State University Northridge and was honored 'Outstanding Student of the Year' upon graduation. Akiko has performed in numerous recitals and concerts and has won many awards for her very special talent. The Teaching Excellence Award in Yamaha Education System, Winner in the Concerto Competition of California State Univ. of Northridge, and honored to be the featured soloist in many concerts are a few of her awards and accomplishments. She is also a certified teacher in the Yamaha Music Education System and has taught private piano/keyboard instruction for students of all ages ranging from 6 years old to 70 years old.

JACL congratulates these fine individuals and we wish them the best in their future goals and aspirations. JACL supports their future and we know that they will succeed in their chosen fields of study.

We thank St. Peter's Episcopal Church for allowing us to use their facility for our scholarship banquet, JAE Awards, and to all who brought potluck items! Also, special thanks to Sam Shoji, Shea Aoki, Alice Richardson, and the Scholarship Committee: Elaine Akagi, Randy Aoyama, Kyle Okada, Alison Shigaki and David Yamaguchi.

Highlights, continued from page two

Board meetings to learn more about what the Seattle Chapter is involved with and to meet civic minded individuals. One of those individuals is Mike Latimer, a financial investment advisor for Merrill Lynch. Mike has not only attended our Board meetings, but also volunteered to serve on the Finance Committee. Needless to say, his experience and thoughtfulness has been a wonderful addition as the Chapter refines its fiscal systems that strategically and efficiently utilizes current and anticipated funding. Mike has just accepted an appointment to the Board. Welcome aboard Mike!

Congratulations to Puyallup Valley JACL

On Saturday, June 7th, I attended the Puyallup Valley Chapter's

Installation and Scholarship Awards Ceremony. It was an impressive event, where the past accomplishments of key individuals and the Chapter were featured on the walls of the Tacoma Buddhist Church. The pot-luck food was extremely "oishii," and the energy and commitment of Elsie Taniguchi, President, and Board members was very evident. Congratulations!

Kanojo's Benefit Fashion Show

Kanojo held a fashion show, June 7th and 8th, at the Doubletree Inn in Southcenter to benefit organizations who have sponsored their prior visits. Seattle JACL was one of five organizations to benefit from this show and your very own President was one of the models! As I left home to do "my thing," my wife was kind to leave me with this message, "I guess they need a (full-figured) man to model." She didn't exactly use the word full figured.




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