

SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

September 1997

VOLUME 34, NO. 9

Launching the fund drive for patriotism monument

by *Ken Mochizuki*

'Beyond Barbed Wire'

Sansei (third generation Americans of Japanese descent) have often remarked that getting their parents to talk about their World War II experiences is "like pulling teeth."

"Beyond Barbed Wire" is a pioneering effort that explains why.

"Beyond Barbed Wire," an 88-minute documentary film which first premiered at the Seattle Film Festival, returns for one showing only on Saturday, September 20, 2 p.m. at the King Cat Theatre, 130 6th Ave. in Seattle.

The showing of this film is part of an afternoon-long event to benefit the building fund for the National Monument to Japanese American Patriotism in Washington, D.C. Construction on the Monument, which will honor the loyalty, patriotism and heroism of Japanese Americans during World War II, is expected to begin next year.

This event is being sponsored by Seattle Sansei, a Sansei support group to the Nisei Veterans Committee of Seattle.

Interviews with veterans of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service are the core of "Beyond Barbed Wire." However, unlike other documentary films recounting the experiences of Nisei World War II veterans, "Beyond Barbed Wire" not only features riveting and emotional testimony to their combat experiences, but also answers to questions from their wives and children: Why did they go quietly to the camps and war? Why have they kept silent about this time in their life for over 50 years?

John Hartl, film reviewer for The Seattle Times, praised "Beyond Barbed Wire" as a "gripping non-fiction film."

Lori Matsukawa, KING-TV News anchor/reporter, will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies for this event which will include a reception for Yukio Sumida, executive producer of "Beyond Barbed Wire," the film's director Steve Rosen and producer Terri DeBono. Popular jazz pianist Deems Tsutakawa will provide entertainment before the film and during the reception.

See "Patriotism monument," page 7

President's Report

Career changes for board members, politicians signal approach of autumn

by *Jeffrey Hattori*

Seattle Mayoral Candidates Forum

Our Seattle Chapter along with the Organization of Chinese Americans, Filipino American Political Action Group of Washington, Indian American Political Action Council, Asian Management Business Association and the North American Post sponsored a Seattle Mayoral Candidates Forum on Thursday, August 28, 1997, at the Nippon Kan Theater. This was the second forum (last year a gubernatorial candidates forum was sponsored) organized with the goal of providing our community and candidates with an opportunity to listen, learn, share and speak on issues that are germane to our community, neighborhoods and families.

Close to 150 individuals attended the forum posing a variety of questions to the seven candidates who accepted our invitation to participate: Scott Breen, Charlie Chong, Cheryl Chow, Scott Lippman, Stan Lippman, Greg Nickels, Jane Noland, and Paul Schell, ranging from their position on Initiative 200, domestic violence, refugee assistance, public safety, and affordable housing. All in all, the forum was successful in three ways: 1) it provided our community with an opportunity to hear the candidates articulate their views and plans; 2) given the large turnout, the forum demonstrated to the candidates our community's interest in the electoral process; and 3) it furthered our relationships with the spon-

See "President's Report," page 2

Submit those board nominations!

by *Vicki Toyohara, chair, Nominations Committee*

The Seattle Chapter JAACL Nominations Committee is accepting nominations of persons for its 1998 officer and board positions. Persons who are interested in serving as an officer or board member or who wish to submit the name of someone to serve must submit those names either to: 1) the Nominations Committee chairperson, Vicki J. Toyohara, at (425) 339-1921 (days), or (425) 865-0272 (evenings); or 2) the Board meeting of October 15, 1997, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Seattle JAACL office (316 Maynard Ave. S., Room 111, Seattle).

No additional nominations for officer or board positions will be accepted after the adjournment of the October 15, 1997, board meeting. If you have any questions or require information, please contact me.

Message of appreciation and thanks

from Elaine Akagi

The following message was delivered by Kuniko Sugiuchi, wife of the Japanese Consul General in Seattle, at their farewell dinner on July 25 at the Doubletree Suites. The Sugiuchis were in Seattle for only 1 year and 11 months, but they left a deep impression on the Japanese American community here. Their interest in the JA community was so

keen, that on a trip to Idaho, they rented a car to drive to the site of the WRA camp, Minidoka, near Twin Falls. The Consul General, Naoto Sugiuchi, was open to the community, and he and his wife were often present at local events involving Japanese Americans. Mr. Sugiuchi returned to Japan at the end of July, to prepare for a post as Ambassador to Costa Rica. Our community will certainly miss this endearing couple.

I'd like to express my deep appreciation to you all for your kind support for us.

We were very happy with you here in Seattle except that the stay was too short.

Seattle has one absolute difference from the other places we were posted previously. That is we could meet Japanese Americans.

My first encounter to Japanese Americans was in Israel. Some twenty years ago, we were posted in Israel and had many Jewish friends.

One day when I was talking about Jewish Holocaust with a friend, who was American Jew, new immigrant from Michigan. Suddenly she said to me, 'You must have more concern to your own compatriots, Japanese Americans, over what happened to them during World War II.' I learned from her that some Americans, at least Jewish Americans, had worried about the treatment of United States government toward Japanese Americans. Though she was a school girl during war time, she was shocked with what happened in the U.S., in the country of freedom, democracy and must-be safe land for Jewish people.

Our children went to American school in Israel. My son and daughter were the only two Asian pupils there. They were very happy and they never met any bullying at school. I knew it was very rare and rather unusual case. The day of our departure from Israel, one of the teachers who were mostly Jewish Americans or Canadians, told me that they watched our children carefully in

order that they would not face any bullying at school. The first reason for that was because of the agony the Jewish people had in their long history, they didn't allow any racial discrimination in the land of Israel. The second reason was, she said, a kind of compensation for what they could not do for Japanese American's suffering during World War II. She decided not to let the Japanese children face any difficulties at least at school.

I was very much touched by what she said and as a mother I was grateful for that. I felt someone whom I didn't know was protecting us with invisible strong power.

Since then, Japanese Americans started to live deep in my mind. But to my regret, I never had a chance to meet even one Japanese American for a long time except in TV drama.

Twenty years later I could meet many Japanese Americans here in Seattle. I learned the history of Japanese Americans and could feel their influence in the community.

I think Japanese Americans are the asset and the bonds of understanding between the people of Japan and the U.S.

I hope we will see each other again sometime, somewhere, in Tokyo, in Seattle, or in Costa Rica. Please consider to visit us in Costa Rica.

All the best for you, and thank you very much again.

Kuniko Sugiuchi
July 25, 1997
Seattle

President's report, continued from page 1

soring organizations in continuing to identify and plan other collaborative efforts.

I'd like to especially thank the Anti-Discrimination Committee for their work on this project: Frank Kiuchi, Sid Kuboi, Arlene Oki, Akemi Matsumoto, and Janice Yee.

Board Nominations

It seems like the current Board and I just got started; however, it is that time of year to accept nominations to next year's board. Janice Yee will be President in 1998 and I truly believe that the Seattle Chapter will continue to grow as an exciting and meaningful organization under her leadership. I hope you will consider

encouraging family members or friends to be nominated.

76th Installation Banquet

The 76th Installation Banquet, "Common Bonds: Uniting our Communities", is scheduled for Saturday, January 31, 1998, at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel. This should be a great follow-up to the 75th anniversary banquet where over 400 individuals gathered to celebrate the Chapter's "Diamond Jubilee," hear from a number of wonderful speakers and welcome the incoming officers and board members. The banquet proved to be a highly successful fund-raise (thanks to your generosity and support!) and the Chapter was able

See "President's report" on next page

President's report, continued from page 2

to sponsor, at an unprecedented level, a variety of activities and projects that address civil rights issues and youth leadership development. Some of you may have already received a letter or request to place an ad in our program booklet. I hope you will consider saying "yes"!

I would like to thank Joseph Rogel for chairing the committee to develop an Annual Report for the Seattle Chapter. We are designing this to provide our membership and donors with a comprehensive report of our activities. Special thanks to the committee members: Mark Fukeda, Mits and Kazzie Katayama, Janice Yee and Alice Richardson, for their work on this project!

50th Anniversary of the "1000" Club

Jackpot, Nevada, sounds like a good place to try your luck on a slot machine. It sounds even better when it is the site of the 50th Anniversary of the National JACL 1000 Club Reunion and Celebration. Enclosed in the newsletter is a registration form for a fun-filled weekend of golf, tour to Camp Minidoka, banquet and personal fund-raising???. If you would like more information, please call Hid Hasegawa at (208) 529-1525.

Good Luck to Jerry Shigaki

Jerry Shigaki, past President ('84) and Board Member, will be moving to Chicago to attend the Seabury-Western Seminary. Jerry has had a lifelong passion in assisting others which is reflected throughout his professional, personal and spiritual endeavors. Being an active member and contributor for the JACL, he has served as Deputy Director of Center for Career Alternatives, providing economically disadvantaged youth and adults with needed job training and education. Jerry is also very involved at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

He has been an inspiration, mentor and true friend. I had the great fortune of working for and with him at the Center for Career Alternatives where he had encouraged me to volunteer and serve on the board of JACL. Since then, I could always count on him for support, great advice and sometimes a good game of basketball!

On behalf of the Seattle Chapter JACL Board and members, I would like to extend our deepest appreciation for all of his work for the betterment of our community and wish our friend the best of luck! There is no doubt he will be successful in touching and positively impacting the lives of others wherever he goes.

Congratulations to Vicki Toyohara-Mukai

Vicki Toyohara-Mukai, current JACL Board Member and past President ('90), has recently accepted an appointment, by Art Wang, Chief Administrative Law Judge, as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of Washington. For the past five years, she has served as the Executive Director of the Minority and Justice Commission working for Justices Charles Z. Smith and James M. Dolliver. In her new position, Judge Toyohara-Mukai will be handling Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) cases in Everett. Congratulations to Vicki and we wish her all the best!

Update on the Railroad & Mining Families/Workers

The National JACL is embarking on a letter writing campaign, directed to the Department of Justice's Office of Redress Administration, to advocate for redress for Japanese American railroad and mining families/workers who were fired during World War II. This is a follow-up to the initial strategy of identifying families and workers who were directly impacted by the firings. Excerpts from a fact sheet of this issue prepared by PSW Intern Christina Nagao and a sample letter to Attorney General Janet Reno are printed on pages 4-5. More information on this subject can be obtained from PNW Regional Director Karen Yoshitomi at 623-5088.

Mark your Calendars

2pm and 7pm, Wednesday, October 1, 1997

"The Tale of Otokichi" is a musical drama that has been organized and sponsored by the International Relations Committee and other groups to tell the fascinating story of the first Japanese to arrive in America. I have heard and read the story of Otokichi (it's like a script from a movie!) and believe you will find it equally as interesting. I encourage all of you to attend the performance! Thanks to Ken Nakano, Committee Chair and planning committee members for your great work.

2pm, Saturday, September 20, 1997


The Seattle Sansei, support group of the Nisei Veterans Committee, is sponsoring a special screening of the movie "Beyond Barbed Wire" narrated by Noriyuki "Pat" Morita. The screening will include a reception with the producers of the movie and include special guests Deems Tsutakawa and Lori Matsukawa. Portions of the proceeds will benefit the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Washington DC. This is a must see! I have my tickets and hope that you will be able to attend as well.



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"Redress for Japanese American Railroad and Mining Workers: Key Facts and Issues"

Key Issues

The 1988 Civil Liberties Act granted a formal U.S. Government apology and redress payment to over 80,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were deprived of their liberty and property as a result of U.S. Government action. However, the Department of Justice's Office of Redress Administration (ORA) has interpreted the Act to deny similar compensation to railroad and mining workers. The denial of redress and reparations for railroad and mining workers rests on the following key issues:

Who Ordered the Firings: private companies or the U.S. government

The Civil Liberties Act defines awardees as individuals of Japanese ancestry who were deprived of liberty and property as a result of federal government action. At issue is whether the U.S. Government or private companies were responsible for the firings of the railroad and mining workers. The ORA contends that the federal government played no part in the firings, and maintain that the workers' termination was the decision of railroad and mining company management. Through its position that the government is not responsible, and therefore not liable to the railroad and mining workers, ORA has ruled them ineligible and has denied their claims for redress.

U.S. Military Proclamations and the firings

Although the ORA asserts that the railroad workers were terminated by their employers, available evidence clearly shows that cooperation, if not complicity, existed between the government and the railroad and mining companies in the removal of persons of Japanese ancestry from these industries. On March 16, 1942, General DeWitt, with the consent of the United States government, issued **Proclamation No. 2**, which excluded all persons of Japanese ancestry from the vicinity of railroad company facilities and copper mines in designated military zones, restricting the liberty of Japanese American railroad workers in these zones and effectively preventing them from continuing their employment.

In addition, the government solidified its complicity in the firings of railroad workers with General DeWitt's March 24, 1942 issuance of **Proclamation No. 3**, which severely restricted the travel of all persons of Japanese ancestry, including a prohibition of travel outside a five-mile radius of their residence to seek any employment.

"Benefit of the doubt"

Contained in the 1992 Civil Liberties Act Amendments, the

"benefit of the doubt" clause requires that a balance of positive and negative evidence regarding an individual's eligibility for redress should be resolved in favor of the individual. Since Japanese American railroad and mining workers and their surviving families were victims of serious deprivations of liberty and property, JACL and NCCR assert that the "benefit of the doubt" clause should be invoked to deem them eligible and grant them redress.

Legal Action

The injustice facing the railroad and mining workers is further compounded by the August 10, 1988, deadline for the redress program. After that day, no claims will be processed and no payments will be made. Adding to the imminently approaching official deadline is the unfortunate fact that as another day passes, one more railroad or mining worker may pass away without receiving redress or a formal government apology. In the light of this urgency, some railroad workers' families have decided to take legal action.

Kaneko v. United States

Emiko Kaneko's claim against the U.S. government exemplifies the case of the railroad and mining workers. Kaneko contends that her late husband, Sotaro Kaneko, was fired on February 18, 1942, from a 27-year career with the Southern Pacific Railroad in Ogden, Utah, along with more than 30 other Japanese American employees at the direction of the federal government. She maintained that the federal government's complicity stems from Lt. Gen. John DeWitt's issuance of **Public Proclamation No. 2**, which prohibited Japanese persons from being physically present at railroad facilities such as trestles, tunnels, stations, and switches.

Currently, *Kaneko v. United States* is on appeal in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C. A decision is not expected for several months.

Takahashi v. United States

Sugi Takahashi and her family were living in Cheyenne, Wyoming, when World War II broke out. In February, at the same time Executive Order 9066 was issued, her husband was discharged from Union Pacific, ending 19 years of loyal service. Because of the U.S. government's decision to freeze bank accounts and restrict traveling, the Takahashi family was left without food and shelter. In addition, Mr. Takahashi was compelled to find work weeding sugarbeets on a farm 40 miles away from his family, forcing him to leave his wife and three daughters alone without money for food and rent.

Currently, *Takahashi v. United States* is awaiting a decision at the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C.

Sample Letter to Attorney General Janet Reno

September 1997

The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Constitution Ave. & 10th St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

RE: Redress for Japanese American Railroad & Mining Workers
Dear Attorney General Reno:

I am writing to you today regarding the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, commonly referred to as the Redress Bill. While it is widely acknowledged that the redress program has been quite successful, there still remain groups of people who should be found eligible for governmental apologies and redress payments, yet are currently being denied.

Two such groups of claimants who are being denied redress are the Japanese American railroad and mining workers. These people were terminated from their positions after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and they and their families were deprived of their liberty and property as a consequence of U.S. Government actions.

There were proclamations issued by the government that excluded all persons of Japanese ancestry from being near railroad company facilities and mines in designated military zones. Furthermore, persons of Japanese ancestry were subjected to a curfew and prohibited from travelling beyond a five-mile radius of their homes, while other Americans were not. Schools, churches and stores they had frequented as well as streets they had walked suddenly became off-limits.

In light of the serious deprivations of liberty and property, it is clear that Japanese American railroad and mining workers and their surviving families who were victim to such treatment, should be found eligible for redress. Any uncertainties in their situation should trigger the use of the "Benefit of the Doubt" clause contained in the Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992. The use of this clause should enable the Japanese American railroad and mining workers to be found eligible for redress payments and apologies from the U.S. Government.

Thank you for your time in considering this important matter of fundamental fairness. I hope you will be able to see the merits of the claims being made by Japanese American railroad and mining workers and their families and find them to be eligible.

Sincerely,
(Name)
(Address)

cc: David Flynn, Appellate Division, DOJ
DeDe Greene, Office of Redress Administration, DOJ

'An extremely successful track record'

By Al Sugiyama

On September 16, all of Seattle should be prepared to renew Proposition One, the Families and Education Levy. This Levy funds a wide variety of services for Seattle's families and children, including any number of programs which target families and children in all sectors of the Asian community.

The F & E Levy boasts an extremely successful track record and deserves another seven years to continue building upward from the solid base it established when initially passed in 1990. Renewing the Families and Education Levy **will not raise taxes**, but will simply earmark the same \$69 million over the next seven years, or about \$40 dollars per year on an average home valued at \$150,000.

As a school board member for the Seattle School District as well as a father of two children attending Seattle public schools, I strongly advocate the Levy's goal of keeping kids safe, healthy and ready to learn. The Levy has taken a preventative approach to the social and educational challenges Seattle families and children face. It has funded many services the federal government, state legislators and private organizations are no longer willing or able to provide for.

Levy is divided into five categories: child care / Family Support Centers, school-based student and family services, comprehensive student health services, out-of-school activities and academic achievement. In combination, the types of programs covered by the Levy go a long way toward meeting its goal of keeping kids (and entire families) safe, healthy and ready to learn. While the past seven years have been successful for the Levy, our work is certainly not finished yet.

Today school districts are regularly forced to scrimp on bilingual education, music and sports programs, to say nothing of the tremendous financial demands of providing computer technology in the classroom. The political mood in Olympia is focused on only providing funding for the nuts and bolts of education. Federal cutbacks and private limitations on social service funding have left many families and children without services which provide food, clothing, emotional encouragement and medical support. Because children and families who learn and thrive depend on the stability and availability of these services, it is vital that the city of Seattle step up to provide them.

In Seattle's Asian community, Levy-funding is most visible in the form of Family Support Centers which offer parent education and family support, and organizations which provide out-of-school activities for students. English as a second language programs are also funded by the F&E Levy through organizations like the Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA). However, the services offered by Levy-funded Family Centers extend far beyond ESL classes to include parenting support groups and classes, community activities for youth and families, employment referrals, advocacy for school, court and medical issues, and gang prevention and intervention services.

The Asian Counseling and Referral Service is Levy-subsidized and provides any number of services, including mental health screening and information and assistance for the elderly. The Levy also funds refugee resettlement services for Seattle's Laotian community through the Lao Communities Center. For Asian Pacific Islanders, \$50,000 in Levy money is budgeted for Family Support Center parental education.

The Levy has also completely funded family support workers in elementary and middle schools throughout Seattle to provide students and their families with food, clothing, transportation, referrals for counseling, medical care and other emergency assistance. Since the inception of the Family Support Worker Program, Seattle teachers have reported spending less time dealing with behavioral and social problems and having more time to teach in the classroom.

Each voter plays a large role in the success or failure of the Levy renewal campaign on September 16. We must remember not to assume that funding for these vital social and educational programs will flow from other sources in the absence of the Families and Education Levy.

It is my hope that on September 16, the city of Seattle will guarantee Seattle's children and families another seven years of social and educational support, a choice which would be wise, both in the relatively small short term costs and the tremendous potential for long term payoffs.

Kanojo Fashions to appear at Japan Week in Bellevue

Japan Week in Bellevue

Japan Week in Bellevue will bring the nationally-known Kanojo Asian American Fashion Show to Bellevue Community College. This one-hour fashion show (Saturday, October 4, 1-2 p.m.) is unique in its presentation, complete with Taiko drums roaring as "samurai" charge on stage in original kimonos from ancient times. Gen-

erations of Japanese clothing are modeled by community volunteers, and attendees have the opportunity to purchase modern Asian American fashions immediately following the show and on Sunday, October 5th, noon to 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$10.00 and may be purchased by contacting Dorothy Webb at (425) 635-

See "Kanojo" on page 8

Tax laws affect estate planning

by Michael Latimer

"To be or not to be" is really no longer the appropriate question. In today's world of complex investment strategies and financial planning the pertinent question is: **How much will be left for my heirs?**

If you are like most people that have worked a lifetime to accumulate an estate you certainly intend to pass it along to enrich the lives of your loved ones or perhaps your favorite charity. Surprisingly enough, your intended beneficiaries may receive very little of what was intended for them.

The key is that without proper estate planning, taxes and probate fees may needlessly consume a large part of your wealth. Estate planning can be simple or very complex - here are a few questions to evaluate your need for estate planning:

Do you have a will? Does your spouse? How are your assets owned? Jointly? Individually? Is your spouse comfortable managing money, or should funds be left in trust? Have you arranged for your long-term care needs or those of your spouse or parents? Have you decided who should inherit the property after your death and that of your spouse?

Are there any other beneficiaries? A university? A charity? Have you chosen guard-

ians for any minor children? Have you planned for your children's or grandchildren's educations? Should all your children or grandchildren be treated equally, or do any have special medical or educational requirements? Have you chosen an executor for your estate?

If you own a business, have you planned for the continuation of your business?

If you had difficulty answering these questions then most likely you are in need of some estate planning. And even if you currently have an estate plan, major changes in the estate tax laws recently passed will affect your current situation.

For further information, contact your financial planner.

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Patriotism monument,
continued from page 1

The tax-deductible donation for this event is \$35 per person. Reserved tickets are available at Uwajimaya, Ticketmaster (206) 292-ARTS and by mail. Checks payable to Seattle Sansei can be sent to 6447 Coal Creek Parkway SE, Suite 279, Newcastle, WA 98059-3159. Event information line: (206) 994-3806.

Additional sponsors of this event are The King Cat Theater, Uwajimaya, Mutual Fish, Bush Garden Restaurant, The Maneki Restaurant, and Microsoft.

Rear Admiral Melvin Ciogioji

The Pacific Northwest fund-raising committee for the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation will launch its official capital campaign for construction of the National Monument to Japanese American Patriotism on Friday, October 10, 1997, 7:30 p.m., at the Nisei Veterans Committee Hall, 1212 S. King St.

The featured speaker will be Rear Admiral Melvin H. Ciogioji, USNR (Ret.), chairman for the Memorial Foundation Board. Former members of Congress Mike Lowry and Norman Mineta are also scheduled to speak at the ceremony. The fundraising committee will also show visuals of the memorial. The committee urges everyone in the Nikkei community to attend this notable event.

The Seattle Chapter JAACL Newsletter

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Kanojo,

continued from page 7

9394. Seating is limited to the first 350 guests only.

A preview will be held at the Bellevue Square Center, Friday, October 3, noon to 12:30 p.m.

A percentage of sale proceeds will benefit Japan Week in Bellevue and its mission of celebration of cultures.

Events and displays at Japan Week in Bellevue (October 1-5) will be presented at Bellevue Square, The Meydenbauer Center and Bellevue Community College. Japan Week in Bellevue is composed of individuals and organizations, including Lake Washington Chapter JACL, wishing to promote the celebration of cultures. Call (425) 454-2464 for more information on Japan Week in Bellevue.

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