

SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

November 1997

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U.S. Bank of Washington's Phyllis Campbell

Bank president to keynote installation banquet

by *Arlene Oki*

The Seattle Chapter JAACL is very pleased to announce that Phyllis Campbell, President of U.S. Bank of Washington, will be the keynote speaker at its upcoming annual installation dinner.

A Sansei, born and raised in Spokane, Campbell has rapidly ascended the corporate ladder. Starting as a management trainee at the Old National Bank in Spokane, she moved from managing one branch to become a senior vice president in charge of all branches. After U.S. Bank acquired Old National Bank, Campbell was promoted to senior vice president and area manager for Eastern Washington. In 1989 she was promoted to executive vice president and manager of the retail branch system for the entire state. She was elected to her current position in 1993, providing leadership during a period of tremendous growth.

A graduate of Washington State University, she also earned her Masters in Business Administration from the University of Washington Executive MBA program and graduated from the Pacific Coast Banking School at the UW, as well as Stanford University's 1997 Executive Management Program.

A champion of family-friendly workplaces, children's issues and education, Campbell will lead the 1998 United Way Campaign in King County. Among board memberships are SAFECO, Puget Sound Energy, the Seattle Foundation, and the Pacific Science Center. In 1996, she was honored by the American Jewish Committee when the organization presented its Human Relations Award to her.

The Installation Dinner will be held at the Seattle Sheraton Towers on Saturday, January 31, 1998. The no-host cocktail hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner will commence at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be sold for \$50 and will be available after December 6, 1997. Corporate donations and commitments to attend the dinner are being actively sought.

The Committee is especially interested in raising enough funds so that Nikkei youth can attend the dinner at no cost.

The Campbell speech promises to be an interesting and lively highlight of our annual event. Please mark this important date on your calendars and share this information with your family and friends.

For reservations and information, call Elaine Akagi @ 772-6749.

President's message

NO! 200 Coalition gears up; chapter members honored; term nears end

by *Jeffrey Hattori*

Where has all the time gone? I know many of us are busy preparing for the Holiday Season, mowing the grass for the last time and getting our winter clothes out. However, it seems just a few weeks ago that I was preparing for the Presidency and the Board was readying itself for another productive and fun year and here we are in November. How time flies! Before I become too nostalgic, (I'll save that for next month's article!) I'd like to share with you a few items of importance.

Affirmative Action

Over the past few months, we have been reporting to you of the threat of the repeal of affirmative action in the public sector in Washington State via Initiative 200. As has occurred in California, through Proposition 209 and the recent Supreme Court "non-ruling" on its constitutionality, we have been placed in a position to defend affirmative action. On the positive side, a similar initiative in Houston was recently defeated. However, this does not underscore the broader attitudes that have spread throughout our country—attitudes which have negative implications on communities of color. We have been fighting against legislation that would severely cut public resources to immigrants; we have seen through the Democratic National Committee fundraising scandal how a variety of misperceptions and out and out racist attitudes towards Asians have re-emerged. Now we have Initiative 200.

The goal of Initiative 200 is, for all intents and purposes, to repeal affirmative action. The Initiative is currently gathering signatures (it needs 180,000 by the first of January 1998) so it can be forwarded to the state legislature shortly thereafter. At this point, the state Republican Party has endorsed this initiative and the I-200 committee has secured paid signature gatherers. Some would say that we have reached a point in our society that no longer requires affirmative action. A question to ponder: Can we honestly say that the values and business practices we embrace have evolved to the point that all individuals have equal opportunities and are not judged by their color or race?

Our Chapter has said NO! I am pleased to say that your Seattle Chapter JAACL is not standing idle on this issue. The following represents our efforts in this area:

- The Seattle Chapter is supporting and participating in the NO! 200 Coalition, co chaired by our colleague and friend, Wang Yung, President of the Seattle Chapter Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA). Akemi Matsumoto and Karen Yoshitomi are serving on the Coalition's Steering Committee.

- At the last Pacific Northwest District meeting, a Resolution was passed against Initiative 200 (see page 6). The District Governor and staff will seek a similar resolution from the National Board in mid-November.

Community education briefing on affirmative action

The Seattle Chapter JACL, Asian Bar Association, Asian Pacific Women's Caucus, Organization of Chinese Americans and Washington South Asian Council are hosting an "Asian Pacific Islander Community Briefing on Affirmative Action," Thursday, November 20, 6-9 p.m., at Center for Career Alternatives (901 Rainier Ave. South).

The purpose of the briefing is to inform and educate ourselves on the arguments for and against affirmative action programs in employment, education and contracting as it affects us as Asian Pacific Islanders. A comprehensive resource packet including detailed information about Asian Pacific Islanders and affirmative action will be available.

Following a general session, discussion groups focusing on edu-

cation, employment and contracting will be held. For more information, contact Karen Yoshitomi at 623-5088.

Newsletter items

President-elect Janice Yee is looking for a coordinator for the newsletter mailout starting in January 1998. The newsletter is picked up from the printer between 2-5 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month, brought to the JACL office to be sorted for mailing, then taken to the post office for delivery.

The coordinator would be responsible for the pickup, the sorting (from 6 p.m.) and the delivery to the post office. Anyone interested should contact Janice Yee during the day at 621-7880.

Editor's Note

Please do not send articles for the JACL Newsletter to the Asian Pacific AIDS Council office. I do not receive mail or messages there. Send items for inclusion by the 1st Thursday of the month to: JACL Newsletter, c/o Bob Shimabukuro, 6621 S. Bangor St., Seattle, WA 98178, or e-mail to: Shimaito@foxinternet.net

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter is published on the second Thursday of the month by the Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League.

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Sugiyama 'retires' from Seattle School Board; reception in his honor set for November 19

by Frank Kiuchi

A reception for retiring Seattle School Board (SSB) member Al Sugiyama will be held November 19 at the Four Seas Restaurant (8th and King St.) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sugiyama will be honored for his work on the School Board for the past two terms.

During his eight years on the SSB, Sugiyama is credited with, among many other accomplishments, restoring millions of dollars to bilingual special education and at-risk programs; creating the "Fund for Excellence" that now raises millions of dollars from the private sector to support District programs; strengthening and renewing the District's affirmative action plan and WMBE (Women and Minority Business Enterprises) goals; and introducing the condom distribution plan.

In 1989, Sugiyama became the first Asian to be elected to the SSB in its 120-year history, garnering about 70% of the total votes cast. Former SSB member T.J. Vasser called him "the voice of reason," while the Seattle Times called him the conscience of the Board on affirmative action.



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Redress update

Searching for the remaining qualifying claimants

The following are notes from DeDe Greene, Administer for Redress, Office of Redress Administration (ORA)

Meeting on Japanese Latin American Claims

On October 8, 1997, I met with Grace Shimizu of the Peruvian Oral History Project, Julie Small of the Campaign for Justice, and Bob Sakaniwa of the JACL to discuss redress for Japanese Latin Americans. Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General Stuart Ishimaru and Chief of Staff Lisalyn Jacobs also attended the meeting. Additionally, Department of Justice lawyers handling the *Mochizuki V. The United States of America* case were present.

The public has shown great support of the Japanese Latin Americans. We have received numerous letters from around the country urging that this group of claims be made eligible for redress. We appreciate the community's dedication to this cause. The meeting was positive and productive. It provided an open forum for Justice representatives and Japanese Latin American advocates to discuss this issue and options available within the law governing the redress program.

Railroad and Mine Workers

ORA has also received several letters from concerned individuals regarding the railroad and mine workers who were fired from their positions during World War II. The Appellate Section of the Civil Rights Division recently reversed the ineligibility decision of a group of railroad workers and their families who were held under house arrest. As a result, claimants with similar experiences may be found eligible for redress.

Ineligibility Review

ORA staff has been reviewing all claims that have been found ineligible over the course of the program. We are in the process of

re-evaluating over 1,800 claims to ensure that current standards have been applied universally. Claims that may be affected by recent changes in administrative policy, appellate reversals, and/or court cases will be carefully reconsidered. ORA will contact claimants if they are determined to be eligible, or if ORA requires additional information to complete its review. Claimants do not need to write or call for reconsideration, as each claim will be reviewed automatically.

ORA on the Internet

The ORA web page has been incorporated into the Department of Justice home page. The new address is <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ora/main.html>. I encourage all individuals interested in redress to visit our web site. Information on the web site will be updated periodically.

Outreach Materials

ORA has pamphlets, posters, and unknown listings available for the community. Please leave a message on the ORA Help Line at 1-888-219-6900 if you would like outreach materials sent to you.

We would greatly appreciate any

assistance you can give us to help ensure that all potential recipients are aware of the redress program.

Unknown lists

ORA periodically updates its *List of Unknown Historical Records*. This booklet is the product of extensive historical research and includes the names of persons who may be potentially eligible for redress. ORA has been unable to locate these persons after extensive outreach attempts. However, as these individuals are accounted for, ORA removes them from the listing.

As of October 1997

Number of cases paid: 80,351

Number scheduled for payment: 927 (Checks and apologies should be received no later than November 15, 1997)

Unknown historical records: 2,253

Total ineligible: 1,882

Lake Washington chapter to hold 18th annual holiday dinner

by S. James Arima

The Lake Washington Chapter JACL cordially invites Seattle Chapter board and members to attend its 18th Annual Holiday Dinner and Installation of Officers on Sunday, December 7, Maplewood Greens at the Maplewood Golf Course, 4050 Maple Valley Highway, in Renton.

The non-host cocktail hour (5 p.m.) and dinner (6 p.m.) will be

followed by the installation of officers, a featured speaker, and entertainment and dancing. The cost of the dinner is \$34/person (make check payable to "Lake Washington JACL"). Respond (with your choice of entre, fillet of salmon or filet mignon) to Rose Nohara at (425) 455-8379 by November 17.

President's message,

continued from page 1

• On Wednesday, October 22 at the Seattle JACL office, representatives from organizations including JACL, OCA, Filipino-American Political Action Group of Washington, Asian Bar Association of Washington, Asian Management Business Association, Asian Pacific American Labor Association, and students from local universities gathered to develop concrete strategies to educate and mobilize our community. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for November 12 at our chapter office.

• We have also been in constant contact with our colleagues in California and Colorado sharing information and strategies.

Please Join Us!

On Thursday, November 20, 1997, from 6:00pm - 9:00pm, at the Center for Career Alternatives of fice, the Seattle JACL along with a variety of other Asian Pacific organizations is co-sponsoring an "Asian Pacific Islander Community Briefing on Affirmative Action." This forum is designed to provide the API community with an opportunity to learn and discuss national trends and Washington State's role in the affirmative action debate. The forum will also include discussion groups on how affirmative action impacts education, employment and contracting. A comprehensive resource packet along with substantial data will be available for attendees to get a much better understanding of how affirmative action has progressed and key issues that have been raised. Many thanks to Akemi Matsumoto, Maria Batayola, Karen Yoshitomi and Arlene Oki for putting this forum together.

The time is now for us to define the debate. I highly encourage all of you to join us. We want to hear from you!

Letters in support of Redress for Railroad and Mining Families!

I received several calls in response to the "call for action" in support of Japanese American railroad and mining families to be made eligible for redress. I want to thank all of you who wrote letters on behalf of this effort. If you have any questions in regards to the current status of this action, please call Karen Yoshitomi, PNW Coordinator at (206) 623-5088 or Patty Wada, Northern California/Western Nevada/Pacific District Coordinator at (415) 921-5225. Again, thank you.

A Tribute to Sam Shoji

Within many communities, there are a few who stand above the rest through their on-going leadership, commitment, and energy to ensure that we all may live a better life. Often these individuals are easily recognized by their first name. One need only mention "Sam" and everyone immediately knows who "Sam" is. Whether in his family life, professional life or as a volunteer, Sam Shoji has consistently demonstrated his unconditional passion and deep spirituality to assist others.

On Saturday, November 15, at the Tacoma Convention Center, Sam will receive the esteemed Bishop's Cross award from the Diocese of Olympia. This award recognizes individuals "who extend themselves beyond the church to the larger community... (who) have had an impact on bringing diverse people together in ways that allow the spirit to work toward positive change".

Though Sam is not one for personal recognition, he has certainly touched many lives and organizations in the most positive of manners. I have been fortunate to know Sam through our work with JACL, Nikkei Concerns and, in my younger years, when he was the "gatekeeper" of the St. Peter's basketball court. On behalf of the JACL, I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Sam for this well deserved award!

Thank You to Terry Yamada

On October 25, in Portland, Terry Yamada convened his last Pacific Northwest District JACL meeting as Governor. Terry has been the Governor for the past four years which, for the most part, corresponds with my involvement with the JACL. During that time, I have grown to greatly admire Terry for his work on behalf of JACL as a very thoughtful, diligent and prepared (like most attorneys!) individual. And so, it is with a bit of sadness and much appreciation that the Seattle Chapter JACL salutes Terry for his tireless efforts in support of JACL and our community. Thank you Terry for four great years!

Some of you may be asking, who is our next Governor? We have two! Our own Elaine Akagi and Olympia Chapter's Aaron Owada have agreed to be Co-Governors. We wish both of you all the best and look forward to working with both of you in the future.

Recognition Reception for Al Sugiyama

On Wednesday, November 19, from 5:30-7:30pm, at the Four Seas Restaurant in Seattle's International District, a recognition reception is being held for Al Sugiyama. Al, a long time JACL and one of my mentors, is stepping down after eight years of representing our community on the Seattle School Board. I am pleased to say that the Seattle JACL is a co-sponsor of this event and encourage all of you to join us in acknowledging a true community leader, Al Sugiyama.

Mi-Yo-I Kai's "Winter Ball" and much more...

As some of you may know, I am privileged to serve on the board of Nikkei Concerns. Like JACL, this organization has provided our community with much needed resources and services for our parents, grandparents and relatives for many years (my family and I have certainly benefited!). Like JACL, this organization depends on the involvement and support of the community to ensure that it continues to maintain and expand the quality services that we have all grown to depend on. And it is this last point, in which a group was recently formed to assist in developing a new generation of leaders, volunteers and donors...Mi-Yo-I Kai. The name Mi-Yo-I Kai ("Mi" = mitsu, "Yo" = Yotsu, "I" = Itsutsu) was coined to represent the generations of whom we are trying to reach...Sansei, Yonsei, and Gosei.

Mi-Yo-I Kai is composed primarily of Sansei who over the past year or so, has sponsored the "Fall Ball" Food/Wine Tasting, Auction and Dance at the Convention Center and a "Getting to Know You" Carnival this past spring at Seattle Keiro Nursing Home. During this time, Mi-Yo-I Kai has also spent significant time developing ideas on how we can be more helpful in encouraging and nurturing ours and future generations to become our leaders, vol-

See "Mi-Yo-I Kai" →→→

Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997

Education Planning

by Michael Shinichi Latimer

The Taxpayer Relief Act provides several provisions to assist families in saving toward, and meeting, their children's higher education expenses. These provisions include the Education IRA, education tax credits and interest deductions for student loans.

The Education IRA

The new legislation creates an Education IRA, which will be available beginning in 1998. Following are its key features:

Contributions of up to \$500 may be made annually for any child, up to (but not including) his or her 18th birthday.

Contributions to an Education IRA are not tax-deductible.

Account income and appreciation grow tax-deferred.

Distributions are tax-free if used for qualifying higher-education purposes.

Anyone—parents, grandparents, other relatives or friends—can contribute to a child's Education IRA. However, total Education IRA contributions for any individual child may not exceed \$500 per year.

Eligibility to contribute to an Education IRA is phased out for

Mi-Yo-I Kai winter ball,

continued from previous page

unteers and donors.

Our next event, the "Winter Ball", is scheduled for December 31, 1997 at the Seattle Design Center, where Mi-Yo-I Kai is hosting a New Year's Eve celebration and fun-filled evening to benefit the Nikkei Manor Assisted Living Capital Campaign. Your evening will include a dinner choice of either Mahi-Mahi or Prime Rib (both with rice!), dancing to music that may bring back memories of yesteryear, and a drawing that includes two round trip tickets to Japan! Mark Fukeda (current JACL Board Member) is the Co-Chair of the event and one of the initial Mi-Yo-I Kai members. The cost to attend the event is \$60.00 per person.

Though the primary goal is to raise funds on behalf of Nikkei Manor, your attendance will also help support the efforts of a new group of volunteers and donors. Please call Nikkei Concerns at 323-7100 for more information and/or to purchase tickets to this wonderful event. Hope to see you on the 31st!




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single tax filers with modified adjusted gross incomes ranging from \$95,000 to \$110,000; and for joint tax filers with modified adjusted gross incomes ranging from \$150,000 to \$160,000.

Contributions to an Education IRA are not allowed in any year that a contribution is made to a qualified state tuition-assistance program for the benefiting child.

Education Tax Credits

Starting in 1998, you may claim one of two new tax credits that will be available each year to offset college costs for students (including yourself, your spouse or your dependent child). The first credit equals \$1,500 a year for the first two years of college, and the second credit equals up to \$1,000 a year for later years.

To be eligible for these credits, the student must be enrolled on at least a half-time basis. These credits will be phased out gradually for couples filing jointly who have modified adjusted gross incomes ranging from \$80,000 to \$100,000; and for single taxpayers with modified adjusted gross incomes ranging from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Tax Deduction for Student Loans

Interest on student loans will be tax-deductible, subject to maximum annual amounts. The maximum amount is \$1,000 in 1998; it will gradually increase to \$2,500 in 2001 and thereafter.

These deductions are phased out, based on modified adjusted gross income. The phaseout ranges are: \$60,000 to \$75,000 for joint filers; and \$40,000 to \$55,000 for single taxpayers. The phaseout ranges will be adjusted for inflation after 2002.

Only the individual taking and repaying the loan is allowed to deduct the interest expense from his or her taxable income. The interest paid is deductible only over the first 60 months of the loan-repayment period.

For further information contact your financial planner.

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PNWDC opposes Washington State's Initiative 200

The Pacific Northwest District Council, at its district council meeting October 25, adopted a resolution opposing the Washington State Civil Rights Initiative 200.

Calling the initiative "deceptively named," the resolution also asserted that the initiative is a radical and overbroad attempt to abolish all affirmative action programs in public employment, government contracting and education and that affirmative action continues to be an important tool in fighting for equal opportunity and racial and gender inclusiveness for all racial/ethnic minorities attempting to break the "glass ceiling" by entering higher levels of public and private sector management.

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