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## Chapter board, officers elected and selected; Janice Yee to lead in 1998

by Vicki Toyohara

Congratulations to Ms. Janice Yee who was elected President of the Seattle JACL Board for 1998. Ms. Yee joined the Seattle Board in 1989 and has served as Vice President, Recording Secretary and chairperson of several committees including Scholarship and Anti-discrimination.

In-coming President Yee indicates that some of her goals during 1998 will be to combat attacks on affirmative action, find ways to involve more JACL members in board activities and increase the visibility and presence of the Seattle JACL in the greater community. Ms. Yee is a lifetime resident of Seattle, a mother and wife.

She currently serves as Executive Director of the Denise Louie Education Center which operates Head Start, Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) and private fee-based child care for children ages 3 to 5. Ms. Yee has a Master in Education from Seattle University and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Washington. She lives on Beacon Hill with her husband Michael and daughter Michiko.

The following persons also were elected to officer positions for 1998: President-elect – Ms. Sharon Sobie; First Vice President – Cal Takagi; 2nd Vice President – Ms. Arlene Oki;

### President's message

## Thanks for the good times and the hard work!

by Jeffrey Hattori

It is hard to believe that this will be my last article as President of the Seattle Chapter and that my term is about to end. More importantly, what a wonderful year it has been for the Seattle Chapter JACL as we celebrated and acknowledged a very symbolic and meaningful milestone—our 75th Anniversary year. I truly believe that our Chapter has been able to build off of the values, hard work and support all of you have contributed over time and have developed a vision that will continue to add value to our community. I would like to reflect and reminisce with you highlights from this past year.

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# SEATTLE JACL CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

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3rd Vice President – Dr. Christine Shigaki; 4th Vice President – Ms. Kazzie Katayama; Board Delegate – Jeffrey Hattori; Historian – Ms. Shea Aoki. President Yee appointed and the board confirmed Ms. Victoria Yuki who will serve as Corresponding Secretary and Ms. Elaine Akagi who will serve as Recording Secretary.

The 1998 Board members are: Randy Aoyama; Ms. Jill Beppu; Mark Fukeda; Ms. Ayako Hurd; Ray Ishii; Chuck Kato; Judge Eileen Kato; Frank Kiuchi; Michael Latimer; Ms. Akemi Matsumoto; Ken Nakano; Ms. May Namba; Kyle Okada; Joseph Rogel; Ms. Linda Tanouye; State Representative Kip Tokuda; Judge Vicki Toyohara; Louis Watanabe; and Dr. David Yamaguchi, Ph.D. Sam Shoji was appointed to the Board by the president.

Congratulations to the 1998 officers and board members of the Seattle JACL. We look forward to a year of successes in our efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic bias against Japanese Americans and other persons of color as well as bias against other groups.

### A Board with a Mission

Beyond being the 75th Anniversary, JACL had come to a crossroads that would shape our future direction. This is certainly not a bad thing! All organizations, over time, reach points in its evolution where it must re-evaluate and retool its goals and structure without losing its original intent and integrity.

With this in mind, the Board and I did quite a bit of thinking and work as to what this all means and how we should proceed.

See "President's message" page 4

## Alaska cruise planned for PNW/IDC members

by *Elsie Taniguchi*

A Carnival cruise on the Jubilee to Alaska is being offered to PNW/IDC JACLeRs, August 5-12, 1988. The cruise leaves August 5 at 10 a.m. from Sea-Tac Airport on a bus to Vancouver, Canada, boarding the Jubilee at 3 p.m. and departing at 5:30. The Jubilee arrives in Ketchikan early August 7, then cruises to Juneau (Aug. 8), Skagway (Aug. 9), and Sitka (Aug. 10).

The cruise continues through Prince William Sound to the Columbia Glacier on the 11th, returning to Sea-Tac on August 12. The cost is \$1,467.50 per person, double occupancy, with a \$389 deposit plus insurance payable (to Landmark Travel, 8721 S. 218th St., Kent, WA 98031) by December 31, 1997. For information, call (206) 878-0701.

Nikkei Concerns is pleased to announce the  
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## Newsletter notes

### Another round of thanks!

by *Jill Beppu*

Another round of thanks to all who chatted, inserted, chatted, folded, chatted and stapled for the November mailout: Janice Yee, Arlene Oki, Kazzie and Mits Katayama, Sam Shoji, Jill Beppu, Jean Joichi, Mike Latimer, and Iris Miyahira. The next mailout will be January 8, 1998 for the first newsletter of the new year. Come down to 316 Maynard South, from 6-7:30 pm and chat!

### Coordinator needed!

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.

### 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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Bylined articles represent the views of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of Seattle Chapter JACL or the National JACL.

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## For Our Safety or Harassment?

by *Jim Bohn, Anne Katahira, Chris Katahira*

Recently we have had to fly between Spokane and Seattle due to a family emergency, and due to the urgency of the situation we had to purchase one-way tickets at the last minute. On October 27, three of us flew from Sea-tac to Spokane.

After successfully passing through the security gate we reached our ticket gate. We gave the ticket agents our flight information and our identification. As we stood waiting for our seat assignments a conversation ensued between two agents regarding information displayed on the computer screen. When we inquired what the computer said, one of the agents apologized and stated she could not tell us, it was FAA criteria and not the specific airline we were flying. Both agents then came around the counter, flagged our carry-ons and instructed us to return to the security gate to have our carry-ons searched again.

No one escorted or supervised us back to the security gate, and in fact one of us stopped off in the restroom. If we had any illegal items we could have disposed of them easily. When we reached the security gate, there were no other persons or baggage being searched. The contents of our carry-ons were emptied into bins, the empty bags were again run through the x-ray machine and our belongings quickly thrown back in. The security guards then initialed and dated the flags on our carry-ons. We returned to our departure gate, noticing no other flagged carry-ons in the boarding line. As we boarded the plane the flag was removed from our carry-ons.

When we arrived in Spokane we told our story to our family. We discovered two of our relatives, with different last names, had similar experiences within the last 90 days.

On November 2nd, Michelle's husband, who does not have

a Japanese last name, flew from Spokane to Seattle under the same conditions (purchasing last minute and a one-way) and was not searched.

On November 5, Anne flew from Spokane to Seattle under the same conditions and was searched for the second time in less than two weeks. Frustrated we began to investigate the reason for this. The Spokane Security handed us a flyer titled "Why was I Chosen?" It stated, "Passengers are selected both randomly and through an objective systematic approach based on direction from the FAA."

Still unsatisfied with that answer we found an inside source. Our source confirmed that the FAA sent a memo to all airline employees providing criteria for search selections. The criteria are cash payment for tickets, purchasing within two days of travel, and one-way ticket purchase. Anyone who meets two of the three above criteria must be searched. The memo also allegedly stated employees who fail to follow this policy are threatened with a \$10,000 fine and the possibility of termination.

While all of us fit two of the three criteria, only Michelle's husband was not searched. When we inquired of our sources how this could be, they said, "it must have been an oversight."

However, Michelle's husband flew one more time after the discovery of this criteria on November 16. He purchased a one-way ticket and traveled within two days of purchase, and for a second time was not searched. We question whether this was truly for our safety or if it was harassment. If you have information that could help answer this question, please call and leave a message at the Seattle JACL office (622-4098).

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## President's message,

continued from page 1

During Elaine Akagi's term, we had agreed that we would focus our efforts on three areas: 1) Civil Rights/Coalition Building; 2) Youth Leadership Development; and, 3) Engaging Membership and the Community. Thus, the Executive Committee and I revised the organizational structure and the roles of the Vice-Presidents to oversee and support these areas: Cal Takagi, 1st Vice President - Operations; Arlene Oki, 2nd Vice-President - Civil Rights/Coalition Building; Jon Matsui, 3rd Vice-President - Youth Leadership Development/Education; and Kazzie Katayama, 4th Vice-President - Public Relations/Fund Development.

At the January Board Retreat, the Board members laid out and agreed to the following guiding principles as we planned for this year's work and the future:

### • Vision

We are about civil rights/coalition building, youth leadership development and engaging our membership and community.

### • Planning

We are proactive, strategic and set goals.

### • Leaderful

We are a group of leaders and team players who are "entrepreneurial".

### • "Singular" Voice

We speak as one...at the Chapter level, regional level and national level.

### • FUN!

We have fun and we always appreciate one another.

It was in this context that the Board operated throughout the year and I must admit, I am very proud to share with you highlights from this past year that exemplifies the commitment and energy of your Board members and volunteers.

The year was kicked off with a very successful and inspirational Installation Banquet. Over 400 individuals were in attendance at the Seattle Sheraton to honor 75 years of Seattle JACL and to renew our collective commitment to a just and fair society. The reverberations from this event has had long-lasting implications. The energy generated has been a con-

stant source of motivation and the relationships developed has moved us forward on addressing common issues with the broader community.

• Civil Rights/Coalition Building—the Seattle Chapter has played an active role in developing a task force and strategy to protect affirmative action here in Washington State. As has been reported, we have assisted in the development of a broad-based API task force, the "Asian Pacific American Coalition for Equality." The PNW District and National Board/Office is fully supportive of our efforts. Through the Anti-Discrimination Committee we have also addressed a number of issues including legislation affecting immigrants and co-sponsoring a "briefing" with the Seattle Chapter Organization of Chinese Americans on the fund raising scandal. In regards to coalition building, our work has included both international and local efforts, from the co-sponsorship "Tale of Otokichi" to participating in the African American/Asian Pacific Islander Summit Meetings initiated by State representatives Kip Tokuda and Dawn Mason.

• Youth Leadership Development—the Seattle Chapter organized and sponsored a Youth Leadership Conference at the Bi-District meeting this past summer and have been able to sponsor youth representatives to attend National Leadership conferences in Washington, D.C., and San Jose.

• Engaging Membership/Community—the Seattle Chapter hosted this biennium's PNW/IDC Bi-District Conference, co-sponsored and organized a Seattle Mayoral Candidates Forum and have re-established the publishing of a monthly newsletter.

On top of this, the Chapter was successful in being awarded three Civil Liberties Public Education Fund grants: "Public Art in Pike Place Market" – to commemorate Japanese-American Farmers, "Shorai Project" – to provide statewide teacher trainings to facilitate the integration of the internment experience into curriculum, and the "Seattle Redress Movement: 20 years of the redress movement in Washington State" – to document the work of the many individuals and the overall monumental process involved in securing redress.

• What I have just described certainly doesn't reflect all

See "Personal acknowledgements" → → →

## Roth IRA Revisited

Michael Shinichi Latimer

Many questions have been surfacing about the new Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA), particularly in regards to whether or not an existing 401(k) or traditional IRA can be converted into the Roth IRA. The answer is "yes," a conversion can be done if you and your spouse do not have modified adjusted gross income exceeding \$100,000. Now remember, that money in your ordinary IRA or 401(k) may have taxes due upon conversion that can be included in your adjusted gross income ratable over a four-year period.

So, should you convert or not? Without knowing each individual situation a specific recommendation cannot be made; however, chances are if you have a 401(k) from a previous employer or a regular IRA sitting idle in some account some-

where then, depending on years to retirement and your tax bracket, you may actually save a significant amount of money by converting.

**Simple Analogy:** If I gave you \$1000 today and I asked you to pay me 10% in taxes, would you rather pay me \$100 today or would you rather wait 10, 15 or 20 years when that \$1000 has been tax sheltered and it has grown to a beautiful retirement nest egg and then pay me 10%?

Even better, how about taking that entire mature nest egg out tax free?

For more information on converting your IRA or 401(k) into a Roth IRA please contact your financial advisor.

## Personal acknowledgements,

continued from previous page

The work of the Board and volunteers and doesn't mean we have accomplished all of our objectives. However, I believe we have established a framework and direction that will only get better (especially with Janice Yee at the helm next year)!

### My Personal Experience

It was back in October 1995 that I was asked to consider being the President of the Seattle Chapter for 1997. I'll be honest, when I took into account the proud history and tradition of JACL and the honor and privilege of being its President, I was a bit intimidated! (My dad also told me that though he was very proud of me being asked, that he also enjoyed going to public places like Uwajimaya without having to worry about being embarrassed!). However, I can't tell you how wonderful an experience this has been and how appreciative I am that all of you entrusted in me the leadership position of the Seattle Chapter. I have grown in so many areas and hope that my growth has contributed to the betterment of the Chapter and membership.

What I have tried to accomplish through my articles is to provide all of you, our members, supporters, investors and friends, with as much information of the goals and activities

that your Seattle Chapter is involved with, but most importantly, to create an atmosphere in which you felt as though we were having a personal conversation. I hope this came across!

I want to acknowledge the work of the Officers and Board Members. They are truly inspirational and are the real drivers and engine of JACL. It has been a wonderful experience being around individuals who genuinely care about the community and act on it. Thank you!!!

There are also a number of people and organizations who often are instrumental in making things happen (and life a lot easier!) but go unrecognized. I would like to acknowledge a few: Karen Yoshitomi, Mits Katayama, Bob Shimabukuro, Akemi Matsumoto, Darlene Hirota, Cherry Kinoshita, Nikkei Concerns, my colleagues at the Private Industry Council, Min & Cherry Tsubota, and, most importantly, my wife Theresa and my children Derrik and Serii.

Finally, I want to wish each and everyone of you the most enjoyable Holiday Season with your family and friends!

## OFFICERS

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## Japanese American Citizens League

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