
Installation Banquet information

What: The 76th Annual Seattle Chapter Installation Banquet
"Common Bonds: Uniting our Communities"

When: Saturday, January 31, 1997; reception at 6 pm; dinner at 7 pm

Where: Seattle Sheraton Hotel and Towers

Keynote speaker: Phyllis Campbell, CEO of US Bank.

Honorees: Aki Kurose and Dr. Terrence Toda.

Ticket informaton: Takako Yoda @ 772-6547 or May Namba @784-3824.

"Akiko Kurose Day, Year, Month, Century"

On January 30, 1997, she was honored as a First Citizen of Seattle and Seattle Mayor Norm Rice declared January 30, 1997 as "Aki Kurose Day." Eleven months later, at a ceremony honoring her life and accomplishments, dignitaries including the Seattle Mayor, King County Executive Ron Sims and Washington State Governor Gary Locke dedicated December 29, the month, the year and the century to Aki Kurose, teacher, peace and justice activist, and humanitarian.

It was a time for tears and joy for the over 200 family and friends

President's message

by *Janice Yee*

Happy New Year! As your new president, I am looking forward to an eventful and exciting 1998. This year, there are several important events going on including our National JACL convention in Philadelphia, Presidential and Senatorial elections, and ratification or defeat of Initiative 200. Some of the things I want to focus on at the Chapter level this year include providing more opportunities for you, our membership, to get involved in the activities of JACL; continuing and furthering our efforts in educating the public about the internment; and working together with other organizations to inform our elected officials on issues of concern to our community.

As I write this article, proponents of Initiative 200, which proposes an end for affirmative action programs in Washington, are celebrating a victory, having collected 285,000 signatures, 105,000 more signatures than needed to send I-200 to the state legislature. Their victory is a significant blow to communities of color, who still face discrimination and glass ceilings even with affirmative action programs in place. Although people of color have made significant progress over the years, affirmative action helps us all in providing access to education, economic opportunities, and creating diversity where it would not exist otherwise. If the state legislature approves I-200 into law, Governor Locke will not be able to veto the law. Lawmakers can also send the initiative to the voters in which case, it will be up to all of us to decide.

This year, JACL is embarking on some exciting new projects.

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who gathered at the Seattle Center Alki Room, to pay respects, give tributes, watch a video and join hands in song and celebration of Kurose's life.

Aki has been battling cancer for the past 16 years, deflecting its pain and "inconvenience" with her teaching and community involvement. "Learning is fun, science is fun, peace is fun," she says. She still receives letters from former students who value her lessons in peaceful resolutions of conflicts.

Last January, Aki was awarded a Living Asian American Pioneer Award by the Northwest Asian Weekly for her many years of activism. This January, a year and a day since having a day in her honor,

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'Providing more opportunities for you'

Our education committee is busy planning the day of remembrance and training public school teachers from across the state on curriculum that will teach students about the internment experience. Another group is working on commissioning an artwork in the Pike Place Market to commemorate the historic role of the Japanese American Farmers and their subsequent internment. We are publishing a new Japanese American Community Directory this spring. We are planning a Japanese American film festival as a fundraiser and social event. And we will undoubtedly co-sponsor yet another candidates forum this fall, having had two successful forums in 1996 for the gubernatorial race and the mayoral race in 1997.

On Saturday, January 31, 1998, I hope you will join us as we celebrate our 76th Annual Installation Banquet to be held at the Seattle Sheraton. Our keynote speaker will be Phyllis Campbell, CEO of US Bank. We will also be honoring two long standing community activists: Aki Kurose and Dr. Terrence Toda. We will be presenting Aki Kurose with the Don Kazama Civil Rights award for her years of dedicated activism for peace. Dr. Toda will receive a special and long overdue thanks from the Chapter for his years of service to the Seattle JACL and the International District.

I am looking forward to a great year and want to thank Jeffrey Hattori, our outgoing president for all his hard work and dedication! I also want to thank our 1997 board of directors and officers for commitment. See you on January 31st!

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she will receive the Don Kazama Civil Rights Award at the Seattle Chapter's 76th Annual Installation Banquet.

Dr. Terrance Toda, sharpening the chapter's focus

We want to thank Dr. Terrance Toda, who in addition to being our benevolent landlord for the past several years, was also past president of Seattle JACL twice. Dr. Toda was one of the first to lead the way in the mid-sixties toward a revitalization of the International District. In 1966, at considerable personal risk, and without government aid, Dr. Toda purchased the old Ajax building at 7th and Jackson and remodeled it extensively a year later. He established his optometry practice in the midst of surrounding buildings that reflected the decay of years of neglect and disrepair.

Along with Dr. Toda's invaluable contributions to the International District, he is a long time JACLER, and is credited with sharpening the chapter's focus on civil and human rights. He is credited with forming the committee that successfully advocated to repeal the Alien Land Law of Washington State. As chapter president, however, he did not forget those who looked to JACL for social outlets and continued to promote bowling, golf tournaments, picnics and other socials. The first Japanese American directory was published by the chapter during his term. He is a life member of JACL, a JACL 1000 club member and contributor to many JACL causes.

Civil Liberties Public Education Fund grantees receive additional funding

In anticipation of the release of \$320,000 from the Office of Redress Administration (ORA), the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF) decided to fund current grant recipients that were not awarded 100 percent of their request an additional 10 percent in funding for their projects. The additional funding comes as a result of an estimated 16 cases in which a person applied for redress and was deemed eligible, but has died and has no heirs. "Because over 90 percent of our grants were partially funded, many recipients are still seeking outside funding," notes board member Leo Goto of Denver. "We hope that this modest increase will help recipients meet their priority needs to complete their projects on a timely basis."

January 29 chosen for API Legislative Day

At the last state legislative session, over 2,000 Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community members went to Olympia for the largest API Legislative Day ever to impress upon legislators the importance of maintaining food and cash assistance in light of welfare reform legislation passed by Congress. While they were successful securing state food and cash assistance programs for immigrants and refugees, there are still serious concerns about how WorkFirst (the state's new welfare program) will affect API communities.

Another API Legislative Day is being planned for Thursday, January 29, by API Coalition of King County, a coalition of interested community individuals and representatives from agencies and organizations serving API populations. Hot topics this year: WorkFirst and Initiative 200, which would eliminate affirmative action in Washington State.

There will be a legislative briefing, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 7 at Asian Counseling and Referral Service at 1032 S. Jackson. Plans for Legislative Day will be formulated at the briefing.

For information about the briefing and the Legislative Day, call Soya Jung at Alliance for Immigrant and Refugee Justice (206-340-9187) or Erica Chung at the WA State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (360-753-7053).

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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Shorai Project plans Day of Remembrance ceremony

The Shorai Project, a project of Seattle Chapter's education committee and funded in part by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, is planning a Day of Remembrance honoring the World War II internees February 19 at the Puyallup Fairgrounds. Pierce County Executive Doug Sutherland and Puyallup School District Superintendent Dick Sovde are among those participating in the one-hour program scheduled for 10-11 a.m. Bob Mizukami, former mayor of Fife, and a Nisei Vet, will be speaking on behalf of the internees.

Following the program, Living Voices will present to sixth grade students from the Puyallup School District, "Within the Silence: Share the Courage," a multimedia performance which combines a live performer with archival film footage in telling the story of America's imprisonment of Japanese American citizens during World War II. Students will participate in a discussion about the experience following the performance.

All internees are invited to attend.

Three artists chosen as finalists for JA farmers commemorative project

A review committee, composed of George Suyama (an architect), Brewster Denny (a Pike Place Market resident), Carol Valenta (an art administrator), former Pike Place Market farmers Jim and Emi Doi and Mary Frueta, and representatives from JACL, Wing Luke Asian Museum and Pike Place Market Preservation Development Authority, met in December to review applications submitted by 25 artists from across the state and nation.

The three finalists chosen are: Aki Sogabe, Vicki Scuri, and Akio Takamori. Each of the finalists will have until January 31 to submit drawings that further develop their art proposal which will commemorate the historical role played by Japanese American farmers in the development of the Pike Place Market. The review committee will meet in February to select the finalist and work with the Pike Place Market Preservation Development Authority and Market Historical Commission to obtain approvals.

For more information, please call Jill Beppu at 528-7488. To make a contribution to this project, please send your check to Seattle JACL, Public Art in the Pike Place Market, c/o 2538 S Eddy, Seattle, WA 98108.

The Shorai Project is developing a school curriculum concerning the Japanese American experience, and is sponsoring a teacher's workshop February 21-22. Also included in the plans are traveling workshops across the state so that teachers unable to attend the workshop in February will still be able to access the materials.

"Within the Silence" is a joint production of Living Voices and Wing Luke Asian Museum, and is written by Ken Mochizuki.

For information about Shorai Project and the Day of Remembrance, call Sharon Sobie (253) 639-1682.

I-200 goes to the State Legislature

Petition garners 285,000 signatures; 179,284 needed for certification

I-200, the controversial initiative calling for elimination of all affirmative action programs, is now in the hands of the State Legislature. On January 2, supporters turned in petitions totalling 284,862 signatures to Secretary of State Ralph Munro, well over the 179,284 needed. Munro's office has until February 11 to certify the signatures. The legislature can either pass the initiative, send it to the voters in November by doing nothing, or modify the initiative and send an alternative measure to the voters. The Governor cannot veto an initiative.

Numerous organizations have opposed the initiative including the Seattle Chapter JACL. In addition to the purposes of the measure, I-200 opponents criticized the title, "Washington State Civil Rights Initiative," as misleading.

Akemi Matsumoto, chair of Asian Pacific American Coalition for Equality advises, "If you already signed because you thought it was for civil rights rather than an erosion of your rights, you can get your name removed by calling the NO!200 office at (206) 292-5716."

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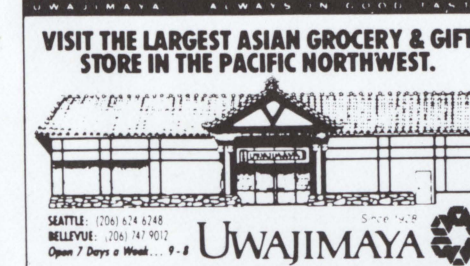
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Japanese American Citizens League

Seattle Chapter

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**76th ANNUAL J.A.C.L.
INSTALLATION BANQUET**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1998
SEATTLE SHERATON TOWERS**

6 pm - RECEPTION 7pm - DINNER

RSVP: May Namba - 206-784-3824

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