

SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

July/August 1998

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Chapter honors Aki Kurose with scholarship fund

by Jeff Hattori

Most of us, at some point in our lives, are fortunate enough to come in contact with an individual who transcends all standards of compassion, goodness and dedication. Aki Kurose is one of those individuals. Though she has recently passed on, her legacy will last

for many generations.

As many of you may already know, Aki Kurose was the posthumous recipient of the National JACLER of the Biennium Award for her life's work as a peace activist, planetary researcher, elementary school teacher and for her tireless and devoted volunteer work for the community. Aki's grandchildren, Mika and Mori Rothman, accepted the award at the National JACL Convention in Philadelphia, PA.

As a dedicated member of the Seattle Chapter JACL and of humanity, the Seattle Chapter JACL Board



Aki Kurose's granddaughter, Mika Rothman, accepts JACLER of the Biennium awarded posthumously to Aki at the National Convention.

—Photo by Janice Yee

recently unanimously passed a motion to establish a scholarship fund in honor of Aki Kurose. Each year, a student who's life and goals best embody Aki's spirit and practices will be selected to receive this meaningful scholarship award. The Seattle Chapter JACL has established an account and designated funds to start the Aki Kurose Scholarship Fund. Our goal is to be able to begin awarding this scholarship in 1999. We would greatly appreciate your help. Any amount would be gratefully accepted! A check for the Aki Kurose Scholarship Fund may be made to the Seattle Chapter JACL. Checks may be sent to:

Aki Kurose Scholarship Fund
Seattle Chapter JACL
P.O. Box 18558
Seattle, WA 98118-0558

What better way to remember and honor teacher and humanitarian Aki than by ensuring that those youth who reflect her commitment to humanity are supported in their continuing education. For more information, please call May Namba at 784-3824. Thank you very much!

President's message

JACL National Convention in Philadelphia 'a great success'

by Janice Yee

The Philadelphia National Convention earlier this month was a great success! The delegation from the Pacific Northwest District went to Philadelphia with one goal in mind, passing our resolution to support our fight to preserve affirmative action in Washington state by obtaining an additional \$20,000 in funds from the national council. I am happy to report that not only did we come back with \$20,000, we also came away with a boycott of ObaChine, and a commitment by JACL to develop a national strategy to preserve affirmative action along with \$100,000 in funds for this purpose over two years!

As you know, we in Washington state are being watched by numerous other states and the other Washington on how we decide on Initiative 200. Initiative 200, ironically named the "Washington State Civil Rights Initiative," would do away with all affirmative action programs in state hiring, contracting and university admissions. Ten other states are being targeted by affirmative action foes. Indeed, a defeat of Initiative 200 in Washington will slow or stop their momentum.

For me, this was my very first JACL national convention. It was an experience I will never forget. We stayed up until 3:00 a.m. drafting resolutions, caucusing with our district, lobbying other

See "Convention report" on next page

Office of Redress Administration Update

Japanese Latin Americans settle for \$5,000

The Department of Justice recently settled with the plaintiffs in the class action the Japanese Latin American lawsuit, Mochizuki, et al. v. United States. Main terms of settlement:

Eligible Japanese Latin Americans who apply to the Office of Redress Administration by August 10, 1998, are entitled to a letter of apology from the President of the United States and to payments of \$5,000, to the extent that funds are available in the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.

Spouses, children or parents of these internees who were alive on August 10, 1988, but who are now deceased, may be entitled to a payment or to share in a payment of \$5,000, to the extent that funds are available in the CLPEF.

Class members who do not file a request to be excluded from the class are bound by the settlement.

See "ORA Update" on page 4

Convention Report, continued from front page

districts, discussing business to be conducted the next day, and supporting other chapters with ideas and issues consistent with our own. Then each day, we reported to the national council meeting which began at 7:30 a.m. The greatest thing about it was working with the delegates from our very own PNW. Jeffrey Hattori was a terrific spokesperson, James Arima from Lake Washington was the idea man, Denny Yasuhara from Spokane could lobby the old timers, Aaron Owada (Olympia and PNW Co-Governor) and Elaine Akagi (Seattle and PNW Co-Governor) worked the national board—you get the picture. We all worked together and we all had a great time!

The \$20,000 from the national council for the NO 200 campaign is in addition to the \$5,000 already allocated from national, \$5,000 from Seattle Chapter, \$5,000 from the Pacific Northwest District Council and over \$1,500 from the Spokane, Lake Washington, Olympia, Portland, Puyallup Valley, and New York Chapters! The money is being used to pay interns to maintain the affirmative action web page, update our database, research the impact of affirmative action on the Asian American community, conduct

community forums on the issue, and conduct voter registration activities. All of this activity is headquartered out of the Pacific Northwest District Council offices in Seattle, staffed by Karen Yoshitomi, Regional Director. Extra special thanks to Karen for all her support during the convention and throughout the year.

On another note, JACL adopted a resolution to boycott all ObaChine and Wolfgang Puck restaurants and products until the infamous poster comes down. There is an ObaChine in Santa Monica, however, not the same public outcry that happened in Seattle. Letters to Barbara Lazaroff (ObaChine owner), a meeting with her, and even protests outside her restaurant have failed to convince her to remove the poster. JACL decided that it would not let ignorant and insensitive inaction go unchallenged. **JACL members, please DO NOT patronize ObaChine or Wolfgang Puck restaurants or products until the poster from ObaChine is removed!**

The next national convention will be held in Monterey, CA in July 2000. I encourage anyone who is interested in civil rights, and having a good time to go.

Other Convention Highlights

JACL redress history project gets go ahead

In an effort to fully tell the story of JACL's role in the fight to win redress, JACL approved \$10,000 out of the 1998 budget for

the development and publication of a study in partnership with UCLA's Mitch Maki. Funding for 1999-2000 will be in the form of designated donations and grants. Look to future newsletters of your Pacific Citizen for more information.

Resolutions passed by the national council

- # 1: to honor Chiune Sugihara for his heroic efforts to save Jewish refugees. (Sponsored by the Salt Lake City Chapter)
- # 2: to encourage the US government to pay back dues to the United Nations. (New York City)
- # 3: to urge President Clinton to press the Senate to allow the confirmation of Bill Lann Lee as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. (Philadelphia)
- # 4: to support the grass roots efforts of JACL in the preservation of affirmative action in Washington state. (Pacific Northwest District)
- # 5: to support the California Equality Initiative scheduled for the November 2000 ballot (which would restore affirmative action). (San Francisco)

6: to oppose the Religious Freedom Amendment (which would allow organized prayer in the public school). (Chicago)

Emergency Resolution # 1: to provide a \$10 rebate to each chapter for each new national membership the chapter signs up between 1/1/99 through 12/31/99. (Stockton)

ER # 4: to study the elimination of the mailing assessment fee for the Pacific Citizen to members of the Japan Chapter (Japan Chapter)

ER # 5: to affirm the right of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth to a learning environment free from discrimination and verbal or physical abuse. (Honolulu)

ER # 7: to support the continuation of Ethnic Studies in the public education system. (Honolulu)

ER # 8: to promote the broad exercise of civil rights activism at the chapter, district and national levels, and to allocate resources in the budget accordingly. (Honolulu)

ER # 9: to commend the the efforts of all individuals involved in redress efforts. (Honolulu)

ER # 11: to eliminate the proposed revenues from capital gains contained in the 1999-2000 biennial budget. (Berkeley and Golden Gate)

ER # 12: to boycott all ObaChine and Wolfgang Puck Restaurant and Products until the stereotypical poster is removed from ObaChine. (Seattle)



PNW Delegation at Sayonara Banquet (from left): Front—Takako Yoda, Shigeko Uno, Sharon Takahashi; Back—Jeff Hattori, Janice Yee, Elaine Akagi, Aaron Owada, James Arima, Elsie Taniguchi. Not pictured: Denny Yasuhara

Karen Narasaki comes to town

Karen Narasaki, former JACL Washington DC representative and current executive director of the National Asian Pacific Legal Consortium came to the Puget Sound to hold three informative forums on affirmative action. The meetings, held in Bellevue, Tacoma and Seattle addressed the reasons affirmative action is still needed and the possible impact if I-200 passes in Washington. Students and the general public attended these three sessions.

Kawakami wins State 4A championship

by Jill Beppu

Mariko Kawakami, Franklin High student and daughter of former Seattle Chapter JACL member Rod Kawakami, won the Girl's State 4A Championship in tennis. In addition to maintaining a 3.9 GPA, Mariko volunteers her time coaching a 7-8 year old girls basketball team and spends time at the free tennis clinic founded by Amy Yee. Congrats! Mariko, you are a tremendous role model for Asian American kids!

Membership

Welcome new and renewing JACL members!

Russel Aoki	Michael Latimer	Nori Suguro
Anne Arakaki-Locke	Henry Matsubu	Toshio Tsubahara
Frank & Evelyn Asida	Fusako Mito	Patricia Terao
Mark Fukeda	Daren Nakagawa	Alan and Chiye Yabuki
Shirley Hamasaki	Kenneth Nakatsu	Etsuo Yoshitome
Amy Hirasawa	David & Marion Natsuhara	Fusako Yonemura
Kimo Hirayama	Kenbo Nomura	Dr. Laurie Tazuma
Fujiko Hori	Masami Sado	
Chiyo Inouye	Joe & May Sasaki	Boosters
Yoshinori Kawahara	Yonetaro and Toshiko Sato	Gerry Tanagi

Thank You!!!

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter is sponsored, in part, by generous donations from:

the SAFECO Corporation
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Membership Categories

Individual	\$50
Couple	\$85
1000 Club/Century	\$70-\$140
Spouse	\$40
Lifetime	\$1,000-\$2,000
Student/Youth (up to 25 years of age)	\$20
Boosters (Seattle JACL only)	
Regular	\$20
Seniors	\$15

Questions should be directed to May Namba, 2324 NW 94th St., Seattle, WA 98117 (206-784-3824)

Seattle Chapter JACL Membership application

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE (indicate whether day or eves/weekend): _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Please return to:
May Namba, Membership chair
2324 NW 94th St., Seattle, WA 98117

Thank you for your support!

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ORA update, continued from page 1

For a copy of the settlement or more information, contact:
Mochizuki Lawyers, c/o Susan Simpson
ACLU 1616 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
Fax: 213-250-3919
Telephone: 213-974-7640 (Spanish and English); or Ayako
Hagihara at 310-344-1893 (Japanese).

DEGUCHI & SUGAMURA, P.L.L.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Paul Deguchi
Certified Public Accountant

2707 Northeast 125th Street • Seattle, Washington 98125
206.363.7665 • FAX: 206.363.7323

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter

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