

Vote!

by Janice Yee

Next month, you will have an opportunity to make a difference in our state. You will have the opportunity to cast your vote for or against a number of critical issues in our state. It is your votes that will most likely send two Japanese Americans to the Washington state legislature this January, representing the 37th legislative district. It is your votes that will decide whether the state will have to make deep budget cuts in social programs to finance a \$30 reduction in your vehicle registration and pay for road repairs. It is your votes that will determine whether we have a higher minimum wage with adjustments for increases in the cost of living. These are all extremely important reasons to get out and vote on November 3.

However, the most important reason for you to go to the polls on November 3rd is to help us maintain the gains that we have made in employment, education and public contracting in Washington through affirmative action.

Affirmative action is about equal opportunity. It gives people a chance to compete based on their merit, instead of on their connections. Affirmative action is a deliberate effort made by schools, state agencies and companies to reach out to a broader population for hiring and educational opportunities. Thanks to affirmative action, Asian Pacific Americans have been successful in breaking down barriers in public institutions. However, women and people of color earn a fraction of what white men earn for the same work. We have not broken through the glass ceiling and we are still under-represented in management, public safety and judicial services.

Now is not the time to eliminate affirmative action.

What is JACL doing to defend affirmative action?

This year, JACL has been working closely with the Asian Pacific

SEATTLE CHAPTER

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American Coalition for Equality (APACE) to educate our community about the affirmative action issues. APACE is a coalition of organizations and individuals working together to advocate for the unique perspectives of Asian Pacific Americans by taking aggressive action to meet our needs in the struggle for civil rights. APACE is organizing a voter registration, public information, and fundraising campaign to defend affirmative action.

The Japanese American Citizens League recognizes that affirmative action is a critical issue in the fight for our civil rights. The JACL also recognizes that the fight to save affirmative action in Washington is one of national significance. If affirmative action is eliminated in Washington, proponents of anti-affirmative action initiatives will have momentum to move to other states. Because of this, the national, district and chapters have collectively raised over \$36,000 to educate the public about affirmative action.

Our efforts appear to be paying off. In February, a poll showed support for the anti-affirmative action initiative at 69 percent. In September, a different poll showed support for the initiative at 53 percent. We have momentum, but we still need your help!

What can I do?

1. VOTE!
2. Tell your friends to vote
3. Donate your money, and your time
4. For more information, please visit the APACE web site at <http://www.apace.org>.

Day of Remembrance: A joyous and powerful awakening

Twenty years ago, in October, playwright and director Frank Chin, and performing artists Frank Abe and Kathy Wong, joined forces with the Seattle Evacuation Redress Committee in organizing what turned out to be a monumental "reawakening," a Day of Remembrance, commemorating the 1942 forced expulsion of Japanese Americans from the Seattle area to the animal stalls of the Puyallup Fairgrounds, which was to be their "home" until they were shipped off to concentration camps outside the military zone.

The following is an excerpt from an unpublished manuscript, "Born in Seattle: Japanese American Redress," about the Day of Remembrance at Puyallup, held on November 25, 1978. "Born in Seattle" is made possible with grants from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, the National JACL Legacy Fund, the Seattle Chapter JACL, and the Washington Coalition on Redress.

by Robert Shimabukuro

As the community gathered in the parking lot, each person who would participate in the caravan to Puyallup was provided with yellow tags, replicas of the ones the internees had to put on in 1942 as they gathered for their trip to the "assembly centers." The Day of Remembrance participants were told to write their names and "family number." At the bottom was written: TO BE ATTACHED TO HAND BAGGAGES CARRIED BY PERSON, but people attached the tags to their lapels, in the same manner many did decades before.

The turnout surprised participants and organizers alike. More than two thousand people came to Sick's Stadium. Sam Shoji, behind the wheel of the first civilian vehicle in the caravan to Puyallup, said the sight of everyone driving down the freeway was nothing

Office of Redress Administration still processing 11,000 claims

While the statutory sunset date of the Civil Liberties Act was August 10, 1998, the Office of Redress Administration is currently processing a total of 427 open and active cases under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which do not yet have eligibility determinations. Additionally, ORA is processing approximately 730 claims from Japanese Latin Americans under the settlement agreement for *Mochizuki et al. v. United States*. Since most of the cases under review do not yet have an eligibility determination, it is not yet known if there will be sufficient funding to pay all cases, both under the Act and under the settlement agreement. The funding

availability will be determined by how many of these cases are ultimately found eligible, and how many claimants submit the necessary documentation for final processing and payment. There is approximately \$5 million remaining in the fund.

The Department of Justice is taking preliminary steps to determine if additional funding would be available if it is necessary. The ORA will have a clearer picture of the funding situation after the Mochizuki hearing on November 17, 1998.

As of September 1988, the ORA has paid redress to 81,971 persons.

1978 Day of Remembrance, continued from front page

short of "awesome." Cherry Kinoshita agreed:

I never dreamed of the extent to which the community would turn out for the event. The endless caravan of cars, two miles long wending down the freeway with lights on and police escorts was one of the most impressive sights I can recall. (Interview, Densho Project, 9/26/1997)

Organizer Frank Chin described the atmosphere and emotions of November 25:

In family cars, tucked into the caravan rolling slowly from an abandoned baseball stadium in Seattle, down I-5, off at Exit 142-B, following the signs to Puyallup, Nisei who had promised never to go back and had never talked of camp to their Sansei children when they were children, when they were in high school, when they were in college, when they lived at home, started talking now. Families had gone into the camps. Families had not come out. Today, families went in, and took over, and families would come out, joined by the realization that the fear, the doubts, humiliation and anxiety that isolated family members from each other, and families from families, were shared in common by all who lived through the evacuation and camps. The suffering each carried was no longer suspected of being a personal mental illness, and the burden of suffering and bitterness was lifted at the return to Camp Harmony. The atmosphere was more picnic than political and the feeling all around was downright affectionate. (Unpublished manuscript)

The day was an unforgettable moment in Japanese American history, let alone in the redress campaign. Memories of 1942 were shared by Monica Sone, who read selections from her book *Nisei Daughter*, which chronicles her 1940s childhood in Seattle and in camp. Actor Pat Morita recalled how camp food consisted of U.S. Army quartermaster rejections, and Sasaki read an excerpt from his diary describing the day he and his sister's family left for "Camp Harmony":

The Memory of 120,313
Issei, Nisei, Sansei and others of Japanese Ancestry
request the pleasure of your company
for
a Day of Remembrance
Remember the concentration camps
stand for redress with your family
on
Saturday, November 25, 1978
JOIN THE CARAVAN at 12 Noon—
—from the flyer advertising the DOR

My sister was there, standing with her family's baggage with her two children. One was a baby of four months, the other a child, not quite three. In the confusion of the departure from her home, my sister had failed to bring an umbrella and was badly struggling to shield her children from the drizzle.

Suddenly, the door of the house adjacent to where my sister was standing opened and to my sister's surprise, she and her children were invited by the madame (of a brothel) into the parlor for protection from the rain.

By that display of pity and compassion toward a stranger and her children on their way to exile, that white madame demonstrated a kindness of heart and absence of racism that the rest of Seattle did not appear to possess on that dismal morning. (Sasaki quotation from David Horsey, *Daily Journal American*, 11/26/1978:1)

Other speakers included the actor Mako; Charles Z. Smith, then a professor at the University of Washington; Gordon Hirabayashi, whose challenge to the expulsion order became a Supreme Court case; and Amy Uno Ishii, sister to the late Edison Uno, one of the first redress thinkers. According to an article published the following day in *The Daily Journal-American*, there was also a talent show featuring "tap dancers, a young woman performing an aria from *Madame Butterfly*, [and] a young man who turned the old cowboy tune, 'Don't Fence Me In,' into a political statement." (Horsey)

People at this first Day of Remembrance could also view arts and crafts that were made in camp as well as the original "Pride and Shame" exhibit. Tours of the former camp site, odori performances, a slide show on Minidoka, and a Japanese American play, "Lady Is Dying," also added to the celebration of the day that allowed more than two thousand Japanese Americans to remember a history many had said they would prefer to forget. (Horsey)

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DOR, continued from page 2

"It was the largest gathering of Japanese Americans since the mps," poet Lawson Inada observed. (reported by Frank Abe in 10/12/97 interview with the authro) The constitutionally guaranteed right to assemble, for Japanese Americans, had been suspended since December 1941. While the United States government had imposed the original ban on gathering in large numbers, the Day of Remembrance made the community realize that they had internalized that ban for 37 years. In a place where many of participants had once been imprisoned, the 1978 Puyallup Day of Remembrance became a joyous and powerful reawakening.

—© Robert Shimabukuro, 1998

Thank You to chapter donors!

James Shikashio

Mikie Takeuchi

Membership

Welcome new and renewing JACL members!

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Nellie Fujii Anderson
Teresa Eguchi
Tom Y. Hayashi
Miye Ishikawa
Joe Ishino
Anndrea S. Kawamura *
Christopher Kodama
George Koza
Fusako Mita
Yoshito Mizuta
Thomas Mukasa

Frank Muramatsu
Alice Oishi
Lily Ota
Zenji Shibayama
James Shikashio*
Mikie Takeuchi
Tom and Nobuko Tsukiji
George Yamane
William & Yae Yorozu
* new student member
Boosters
Tsugo Ikeda

Thank You!!!

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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)

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NAME: _____

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2324 NW 94th St., Seattle, WA 98117

Thank you for your support!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

442nd RCT dog tags offered to donors of Go For Broke Monument

by Art Gorai

The Pacific Northwest Committee for the Go For Broke Monument has obtained a supply of a very special dog tag bearing the logo of the 100/442/MIS Memorial Foundation, the 442nd Regiment torch. They have been a great hit in California as a memento for children.

We would like to offer dog tags to those who have given \$100 or more to the Foundation since our Pacific Northwest Committee began its "Take the Last Hill" campaign on June 1, 1998.

Contact us at (206) 524-0087 (evenings) and leave your name, address, phone number, date of donation, and number of dog tags needed, or mail the same information to PNWC/GFBM at 4030 NE 104 St., Seattle, WA 98125.

Quantities may be limited. Help our young Nikkei children remember the Nisei Soldier and the meaning of Sacrifice, Patriotism and Respect!

Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter

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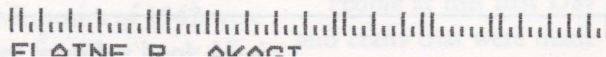
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