

Justice Charles Z. Smith to keynote Installation Dinner

by *Arlene Oki*

Just a quick reminder that our annual JACL Installation Dinner is on Saturday, January 30 at the Atrium in the Seattle Design Center, 5701 Sixth Avenue. We are very pleased that Washington State Supreme Court Justice Charles Z. Smith will be our keynote speaker. In addition to a distinguished career, Justice Smith has been a longtime member of the JACL and was a strong supporter of our redress efforts.

We urge you to support your local JACL by attending our annual installation dinner. The proceeds from the dinner help support many Seattle Chapter activities including those which address the civil and human rights mission established by the founding members of the organization. The reception will start at 5:30 p.m., with dinner following at 6:30 p.m. Please call May Namba at (206) 784-3824 or Takako Yoda at (206) 722-6547 to make your reservations (\$50 per person).

Farmers Mural to be unveiled at Pike Place Market

by *Janice Yee and Jill Beppu*

On Friday, February 19, 1999, the Japanese American community will be celebrating the contributions of the Japanese American farmers to the Pike Place Market with the unveiling of "Song of the Earth," a mural by artist Aki Sogabe. The event will be held at noon at the entrance of the Main Arcade at the Market.

The 36' x 3' porcelain enamel mural is the first permanent public acknowledgement of the Japanese American farmers' historic contribution to the Market. From the founding of the Pike Place Market at the turn of the century until World War II, Japanese American farmers constituted the majority of people who delivered and sold produce daily at the market. Through their efforts, the market grew, becoming the best place in Seattle to buy fresh, locally grown produce and farm products. The Japanese American farmers cleared the land, grew and harvested their produce, and traveled from all over the Puget Sound area to sell their produce directly to the public in the Market. They did this despite extreme racial prejudice exemplified by the alien land laws which prevented them from owning the land they farmed.

The project is a culmination of three years of planning and work by a consortium of organizations and individuals led by the Seattle Chapter JACL. Funding was provided by the City of Seattle Neighborhood Matching Fund, King County Special Projects, Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, Seattle Foundation, National JACL Legacy Fund, Inouye Fund, Seattle JACL and many individuals.

A warm welcome to this world to Anna Mariko Seymour, daughter of David and chapter president-elect Sharon Sobie-Seymour, born Thursday, January 14, 1999. Congratulations to the proud parents.

— Seattle Chapter

SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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Day of Remembrance memorialized by Puget Sound area events

by *Elaine Akagi*

February 19, 1942. A significant date for many Japanese Americans. It was 57 years ago that Executive Order 9066 was issued by President Franklin Roosevelt. With that order, thousands of people were uprooted from their homes and businesses, and shipped off to concentration camps in remote areas of California, Idaho, Wyoming, Arizona, Utah and Arkansas.

Since 1979, February 19 has been recognized as a Day of Remembrance (DOR) for the Japanese American (JA) forced expulsion and imprisonment during World War II. This year, numerous DOR activities have been planned around the Puget Sound Area. A coordinating group, represented by a number of community organizations, has been meeting regularly for the past few months. You are invited to attend the following events:

Through February 14: "The Sisters Matsumoto," written by Phillip Kan Gotanda, is a postwar, post concentration camp story following three sisters who return to their family farm. Presented by Seattle Repertory Theater. Part of the Wing Luke Museum (WLAM) exhibit, "Executive Order 9066" is displayed in the lobby, and will be there until February 19. Special docents will be on hand on the 19th to help explain the exhibit.

February 18: The Bellevue Historical Society and the Lake Washington JACL present a presentation and discussion of the Eastside JA History Project. Information: Karen Klett at (425) 450-1046.

February 18: State Representative Kip Tokuda hosts a program which includes a Living Voices performance and a Densho project demonstration. Rep. Tokuda is introducing a bill during this legislative session to provide grants similar to the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF) and he hopes to educate the public on the internment with this program. Information: Anndi at Rep. Tokuda's office, (360) 786-7838.

February 19: The Puget Sound area JACL chapters hosts an unveiling of Aki Sogabe's work at the Pike Place Market at noon. (See accompanying story on Pike Place Market)

February 19: Seattle Kokon Taiko and the Living Voices presentation of "Within the Silence" are featured at a DOR family program at Newport High School's auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Information: Charlene Mano at WLAM, 623-5124 ext. 109.

See "DOR" on page 2

'Blessed to be born with a Japanese heritage'

by David Yamaguchi

"Oniichan, megumarete imasu yo!" the lady at the baggage shipping stand cried when I dropped off some luggage at a train station in Japan a few years ago. At the time, I didn't know exactly what *megumareru* meant, but as I said good-bye, I promised to look it up in my pocket dictionary after catching my train. In my seat a few minutes later, I learned that it means "to be blessed." In the context of our earlier conversation, she had meant, "Young man, you were blessed to have been born in America with a Japanese heritage."

On January 9, it became clear to me that the Seattle chapter has been strongly blessed when more than 20 board members joined me for a half day to outline plans for the chapter for the coming year. The generous donation of their time was notable because the group included a state legislator (Kip Tokuda), his assistant (Anndi Kawamura), another lawyer in private practice (Randy Aoyama), a judge (Vicki Toyohara-Mukai), several administrators, and ordinary folks—parents, students, grandmothers—all people who had other things to do besides think about the future of our chapter and community.

As the incoming president of this group, it now seems hard to go wrong, even though running an organization like this is different from anything I have done. I had started the meeting with some trepidation. I left with a sense of pride in being associated with such a group, and in our combined potential to contribute substantively to improving the lives of Japanese Americans (JA) and Seattleites during the coming year.

It thus seems appropriate to use this first column to share what we agreed on as goals for the year. Setting thoughts down here also provides grist for a revisit in a December column (leaving only ten monthly columns unaccounted for:). They include the following:

(1) *Long-term planning.* All present would like to see the chapter running strongly 30 years from now. To achieve this end, we plan to begin putting in place a long-term strategic plan centered on more savvy financial management and use of the chapter's as-

sets. Discussion topics here will include real estate and part-time paid staff. Mike Latimer, who works as a financial planner by day, will continue to be a key player here. Almost half the board will be involved in this effort.

(2) *More effective use of this newsletter as a means for conveying chapter news and events to members.* A newsletter is a window to the soul of an organization. Targets here include closer linkages between discussions at chapter meetings and newsletter articles, and bringing back an events calendar.

(3) *Continuing advancement of the chapter's use of technology to improve our effectiveness.* Objectives include increasing use of e-mail as a chapter communication medium, improving our visibility on the Internet, and further developing chapter databases. One incentive is to reduce costs associated with distributing paper copies of this newsletter through disseminating an electronic version to the (hay-?) "wired" membership.

Besides these larger themes, we decided some smaller issues as well:

(4) As part of our efforts at youth leadership development, we chose Mari Hirabayashi, an event coordinator for a web firm, as our chapter's applicant to the annual JACL/OCA (Organization of Chinese Americans) March leadership conference in Washington, D.C.

(5) UW student Ryan Chin, together with Mari, will begin helping us recruit "younger" members (what are they implying about the rest of us?), starting with gathering a table of ten to attend our upcoming banquet (see Calendar) as chapter guests.

(6) Board members Jill Beppu and Linda Tanouye will be working with chapter historian Shea Aoki to add a history page to our growing web site (address on back page). The page will help ensure that information on the early development of the chapter is not lost to the passage of time.

The lady at that baggage stand would probably be pleased.

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Calendar (contact person in parentheses)

Feb. 6: ASPACE/API * summit mtg. on impacts of I-200 on education, Ctr. for Career Alternatives, 9 a.m. (Jeff Hattori).

[*Asian and Pacific American Coalition for Equality; Asian and Pacific Islanders].

Feb. 6-7: District meeting, JACL office (Elaine Akagi).

Feb. 17: Chapter (board) meeting, JACL office (Dave Yamaguchi).

Feb. 26: API Legislation Day, Legislative Bldg. rotunda, Olympia (Anndi Kawamura).

Feb. 26 or Mar 5 (TBA). Lecture on Lordsburg internment camp, University of Washington (Ken Nakano).

Mar 15. Deadline for receipt of Seattle chapter scholarship applications. See website (back page) or contact Christine Shigaki (206-699-3321)

DOR, continued from page 1

February 28: Seattle Public Library presents a panel discussion, "Relocation from the Camps," at the Lee Auditorium (Central Library) from 2-3:30 p.m. Theodore Waller, who helped evacuees resettle in the midwest and east, will be the guest speaker. Panel members include Sam Shoji and Frank Kitamoto. Information: Chris Higashi at 386-4650.

March 8: A community forum, "Freeing of Dachau" will be presented by the Puyallup Valley JACL at the Tacoma Public Library, Olympic Room from 6:30-8:30 PM. Caroline Gallacci, president of the Historical Society, will moderate a discussion on the incarceration of minorities. Information: Elsie Taniguchi 878-0701.

by May Namba

It has indeed been gratifying to receive so many generous checks on behalf of the Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship Fund. Your contributions reflect what many of us truly feel in honoring the tremendous accomplishments and perpetuating the humanitarian values of Aki. Thank you so much for helping us honor Aki and for investing in our future citizens.

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C. Critney	Janice Kumasaka	Hiroko Spees
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Amy Hara	Yoshiye Mayeda	Keith Toyoda
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Thank You!!!

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

Seattle Chapter JACL Membership application

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Please return to:
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Thank you for your support!

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Seattle Chapter JACL (www.scn.org/civic/jacl) is a grassroots civil rights organization dedicated to empowering our local community through high-quality programs and strategic partnerships focusing on activism, education, and youth leadership development. As a local chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, we strive to be a leading Asian American advocacy group for civil and human rights while promoting and preserving the values and cultural heritage of Japanese Americans.

Our primary means of carrying out our mission is a monthly meeting, held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the chapter office (316 Maynard Ave. S., Seattle) with the possible exception of August. All are welcome. (Those wishing to make presentations should contact Dave in advance to be added to the agenda.)

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, P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, Washington, 98118-0558. Office address: 316 Maynard Ave. South, Seattle, Washington, 98104. Ph.: 622-4098

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Board members should submit materials to the editor (shimaito@foxinternet.net, fax 206-722-2044, 6621 S. Bangor St., Seattle, WA 98178) by the first Thursday of the month.

Non-board members and readers should send items for inclusion to Chapter President David Yamaguchi, preferably in electronic format, by the last Thursday of the preceding month.

Calendar items emphasize chapter or community events not likely to be covered by community newspapers or by other newsletters. Business-card advertising space is available on a space-available basis at a rate of \$10/issue or \$120/yr (circulation is about 1000).

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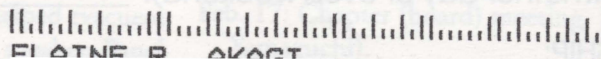
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