

Chapter honors civil rights heroes at installation banquet

by *Arlene Oki*

Almost 380 people from the greater Seattle area, Tacoma and Olympia came together as the Seattle Chapter JACL installed its 1999 officers and board members and honored their heroes on January 30. The Chapter was honored by the presence of King County Executive Ron Sims; Seattle Mayor Paul Schell; King County Council member Larry Gossett; Seattle City Council members Margaret Pageler, Jan Drago and Richard McIver; Bellevue City Council member Conrad Lee and State Representatives Kip Tokuda, Ed Murray and Sharon Tomiko Santos.

It was an event filled with notable awards to very deserving recipients. Nate Miles, manager of government affairs for Eli Lilly and Company, presented a \$10,000 check on behalf of his company to the Seattle Chapter to commemorate Nikkei physicians from an earlier era who conquered numerous barriers to provide medical care to the community.

There were awards to three women, all in their 80's, who continue to make significant contributions to the Seattle Chapter and whose dedication and wisdom inspire many to follow in their footsteps: Shigeko Uno, Ayako Hurd and Shea Aoki.

The Don Kazama Award was presented to our keynote speaker Washington State Supreme Court Justice Charles Z. Smith for his unwavering commitment to civil rights, including redress for Japanese Americans. A special award was presented to Frank Blethen, publisher and CEO of *The Seattle Times*, for his courageous opposition to Initiative 200 (1998 anti-affirmative action ballot measure) and his commitment to diversity.

As always, emcee Lori Matsukawa was smooth, poised and supremely articulate. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank her and many others who supported the JACL by attending the dinner and contributing time and money to ensure its success.

Scholarship applications available until March 20

by *Christine Shigaki*

Applications for JACL Scholarships are available by sending a legal size, self-addressed stamped envelope to 3904 24th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98108, by March 20. Applications can also be obtained on our web site <www.scn.org/civic/jacl>.

Eligibility for scholarships: Applicants must be planning to attend a college, university, trade school, business school or any other institution of higher learning at the undergraduate, graduate or professional level in the fall of 1999. Also, National JACL membership is a requirement to be considered for a JACL scholarship. Membership must be held by either the applicant or applicant's parents. Extended family ties do not qualify.

The Seattle JACL will be awarding \$4000 worth of scholarships this year! Application deadline for local scholarships is April 15, 1999. National JACL scholarships for entering freshmen (high school seniors) must be mailed to the Chapter by March 1.

Other National Scholarships including undergraduate, graduate, law and creative arts must be mailed to the National JACL by April 1.

All qualified persons are encouraged to apply!

SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

February 1999

VOLUME 36, NO. 2

Tokuda to introduce bill creating state version of CLPEF

by *Anndi Kawamura*

The 1999 Legislative Session is here! Representative Kip Tokuda is introducing the Washington Civil Liberties Public Education Act (WCLPEA). The WCLPEA creates a grant program encouraging the creation of more tools to educate students and the general public about the internment and military service of Japanese Americans during World War II. It is a state version of the federal Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF), which supported such projects as the Pike Place Market art exhibit, Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project, the Seattle Redress Project's history of the redress movement in Washington and the 1999 Day of Remembrance ceremony at the Puyallup Fairgrounds.

On January 16th, Representatives Tokuda and Santos hosted a reception for California Assembly Member Mike Honda, sponsor of the California version of the bill signed into law in September 1998. The event served as a kickoff for the WCLPEA campaign.

To get the bill passed, we need your help. We are looking for volunteers to testify before committees in Olympia, write letters and make phone calls to state representatives and senators, and encourage others to do the same. If you can help, please call Rep. Tokuda's legislative assistant, Anndi Kawamura, at (360) 786-7838 (Olympia); (206) 720-3510 (Voice mail in Seattle); or e-mail her at kawamura_an@leg.wa.gov.

'Help us reach our goal'

Many thanks to all supporters of the Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship Fund. It is gratifying that there are so many who wish to honor her tremendous accomplishments and humanitarianism.

Because so many people generously responded to the appeal letter in December, we have reached our half-way mark toward our goal of \$25,000. Please help us reach our goal by sending a check made out to "Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship Fund" to P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, WA 98118-0558.

Shea Aoki
James Arima
George Kuwahara
Carman Tsuboi Chan & Paul Chan

[List of donors on page 3]

Iku zo! (Forward!)

by David Yamaguchi

In late December, I rented the Japanese drama series "Nyuusu no onna," about the fictional life of a TV news anchor. In that series, I noted how various male newsroom chiefs sparked their crews into motion with the commanding phrase, "Iku zo!" It worked so well in the series that I thought I'd try it above. (Is it working yet?)

So what's happening with Seattle JACL? I just arrived home from a meeting with district JACL representatives, respectively from the Anchorage, Lake Washington, Olympia, Portland, Puyallup, and Seattle chapters. The meeting's purpose was to set the district agenda in our three shared areas of interest—civil rights, leadership development, and cultural preservation.

The morning brainstorming session was ably facilitated by Northwest-born Tom Kometani, a long-time East Coast JACLer who recently moved back to our land of gray with his wife, Janet. Tom emphasized how our national network of 112 chapters had been key to the success of redress, and will continue to be one of our strengths for any future major actions. He stressed that we need to keep the network healthy so that it will be there when we need it, as we did in the recent Washington State I-200 battle. (Then, national JACL contributed \$25,000 to the fight. Our district and chapter each chipped in another \$5,000).

The afternoon "business-end" of the meeting was kept on track by Aaron Owada, our JACL co-district governor, an assistant state attorney general. Aaron pointed out that we need to recognize that the needs of different JA generations are different, and that how we adapt to those differences will be central to staying relevant to members. He emphasized that we need to keep our activities both *meaningful* and *manageable* for our organization to grow.

Later, Aaron spent considerable time describing how we must create our own leaders if we are to maintain voices that speak for us. In a break-out session, he noted that the PNW Asian community now has the talent to *guide* aspiring political office-holders through the maze of organizing campaigns: setting vision statements, making speeches in "sound bites," raising funds, cultivating the media, arranging focus groups, and meeting regulations.

While I hope to revisit the topic of training leaders in a later issue, for now I will only say that it was inspiring to be in the same room with JAs of this caliber, to watch them think, and to see how

committed they are to moving our communities forward.

In the afternoon, Cherry Kinoshita gave her "last report" as a member of the disbanding Washington Coalition on Redress, which set in motion and monitored the U.S. redress movement over the past 18(!) years.

All JAs owe much to this group of far-thinking, selfless people who made redress happen. I first heard of Cherry's good work half way across the country. They were part of a team that moved the nation, and made a difference to all of our lives. Please join me in thanking Cherry and her colleagues for a job well done.

In other news, Jan Steadman, Director of Marketing for Meany Hall at the University of Washington, called me to ask for our help selling tickets for an April 24 concert, "Jazz Behind Barbed Wire." The performing groups are the Asian American Jazz Orchestra, from the Bay Area, and San Jose Taiko. The concert's concept is to promote public education about the JA experience "through the vehicle of jazz." The concert was developed from a Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF) grant, a component of the redress settlement. Featured musicians use both western and eastern instruments.

I told Ms. Steadman we would help, of course, starting with publicity in this issue. As of this writing there were only 250 tickets left (206-543-4880, \$24/ticket plus \$1 for handling; no refunds or exchanges; no kids under five). We're probably going to be able to set up internment displays of our own in the lobby. See you there. Iku zo!

Community Calendar

[Contact person in brackets, see board list on page 4 for contact information]

Fri, Feb 26, API Legislative Day, Legislative Bldg. rotunda, Olympia. Hear from Gov. Gary Locke, State Reps. Tokuda, Voloria, and Santos, and Sen. Shin [Mary Tran-Thien, APACE, apace1@msn.com or 206-652-4963].

Fri, Feb 26, Panel discussion on Lordsburg (NM) Dept. of Justice internment camp, where the US Army held many Japanese Issei leaders from 1943-44. Kane Hall, UW, 7-8:30 p.m. Presenters include Prof. Tets Kashima, Ken Nakano, Mollie Pressler (teacher, Lordsburg), Min Tsubota (former US Army interpreter), and Dr. Bill Yasutake. [Ken Nakano].

Sat, Feb 27, Seattle Kokon Taiko concert, Admiral Theatre, Bremerton. [SKTaiko@aol.com; Carol, 425-836-4116].

Sun, Feb 28, Pancake breakfast (pancakes, sausages, and rice!); First Hill Lions benefit for Seattle Keiro, Kawabe House, and Kin On Nursing Home; held at Kawabe House. [Bea Kiyohara, 206-322-5995].

Sun, Mar 6, Sukiyaki dinner and bake sale, Blaine Methodist Church; take-out 2-4:30 (raw and cooked), 4:30-7 (cooked only); sit-down, 4-7 [206-723-1536].

Sun, Mar 14, Seattle Kokon Taiko workshops, Nisei Vets H [SKTaiko@aol.com; Carol, 425-836-4116].

Mar 26-30. JACL/OCA leadership conference, WA D.C.

Chapter information request

We need the names of and contact information for Seattle JACL scholarship recipients from 1976 to 1996. The purpose is to invite them to a spring reception. Persons with information should contact Sharon Sobie-Seymour or Dave Yamaguchi (see board list, page 4 for contact information).

New Members & Renewals

George Arakawa	Minato	Marion Watanabe	Fumiye Masunaga
Bessie Asanuma	George Miyake	A. Iky Yamada	Barbara
Ill Beppu	Mako Nakagawa	David Yamaguchi	Matsudaira
Bruce	James H.	Yukio Bob	Tebo Matsudaira
Echigoshima	Nakamoto	Yoshihara	George Matsuno
Flo Fujita	Craig Nakata	Victoria Yuki	Tak Miyabe
Elaine Hayes	George & Jean	Students	Mits Morishita
Walter & May	Nishi	Stacey Asato	Martha Nishitani
Higa	Megumi Okada	Jennifer Asato	Bessie Okada
W. Noel Higa	Ruth S. Okada	Justin Yoshimoto	Frances Oginio
William Hirata	Terry Okazaki	Boosters	Mitsuko Osaki
Karen Hopkins	Robert Seko	Dorothy Akagi	Mary Fumi
George & Marie	Polly Shigaki	Pauline Asaba	Numoto
Ishii	Samuel H.	Kimiko Calhoun	Kane Saito
Eddie Ito	Shinozaki	Gail Eng	Tom Sakai
Toshio & Aki Ito	Steven & Joyce	Mitsuko	Tad Shibuya
Sam Kawakami	Suzuki	Hashiguchi	Fudge Shiogi
Sally Kazama	Yoshiaki &	Ruby Inouye Shu	Hiro Suzuki
Ayako Kitamura	Naomi	Shigeto Ishikawa	Kaz & Kuku
Yuri Kumasaka	Takemura	Kimio Kamimae	Tatsumi
Sumi Kuriyama	Elmer Tazuma	Tsu Kanzaki	M. Tsukada
George Kuwahara	Jiro & Takeko	Teruo Koba	Mary Uchida
Miyo McCoy	Todo	Thomas	Alan Yamagiwa
Karen	Yoshio Tomita	Kobayashi	Floyd Yamamoto
Matsumoto-	Min Tsubota	Haruko Kobuki	Deni Yamauchi
Grah	Herbert Tsuchiya	Marie Kurimura	Pearl Yanagimachi
Michael	Ken Usui	Aiko Kyono	Fumiko
Matsunami	Toshi & Jackie		Yoshikawa
aul & Yoshiko	Uyeji		

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Thank You!!!

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Membership Categories

Individual	\$50
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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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Seattle Chapter JACL Membership application

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

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

Thank you for your support!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Seattle Chapter JACL is a non-profit, tax-exempt 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) except August. All are welcome. (Those wishing to make presentations or be added to the meeting agenda should contact David Yamaguchi.)

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

Issue no: Volume 36, no. 2.

Editor: Bob Shimabukuro.

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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 at a rate of \$10/issue or \$120/yr (circulation is about 1000).

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Please let us know your concerns.

Japanese American Citizens League

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