

SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

March 1999

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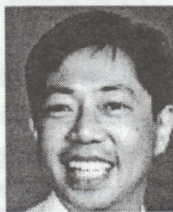
President's message

Waves: past, present, future

by David Yamaguchi

Events of the past month, including many deaths, reflect the transitional period the JA community faces in Seattle and across the nation today. Because of the short period (pre-1924) during which Issei women immigrated, married, and started families, their children, the Nisei, are all about the same age, as are members of each of the two succeeding generations that have been born in turn.

Accordingly, we continue to walk through life in sharply defined age "waves" with few people in the troughs. Many present chapter and community activities reflect a broad focus on documenting the impact that the Nisei wave made on these American shores. But like digging razor clams, we must also look out for those incoming waves as well.



David Yamaguchi

Events that touched my heart

Two JACL events moved me deeply this past month. One was the unveiling of Aki Sogabe's mural over the main entrance to the Pike Place market commemorating pre-war JA farmers. The second was the UW panel discussion on the Lordsburg internment camp featuring Mollie Pressler of Lordsburg, New Mexico. Throughout JA history, the community has been aided by excep-

Continued on page 2



Panel Five: Song of the Sorrow

"In April 1942, people of Japanese ancestry were removed and sent to remote concentration camps. ... The fields were left fallow."

—from Aki Sogabe's mural commemorating the Japanese American farmers' contributions to Pike Place Market. The mural, a project of Seattle Chapter and Wing Luke Asian Museum, was unveiled February 19.

'Rising to the occasion' Seattle Chapter JACL and APACE

by Jeffrey Hattori

It was indeed very gratifying to see JACL "rise to the occasion," publicly demonstrating our position against Initiative 200. The reverberations from the commitment put forth by JACL has extended much further than the funds and many volunteer hours generously forwarded. The relationships that have developed within JACL and externally, including the Asian Pacific American Coalition for Equality (APACE), Seattle Chapter Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), the NAACP and many other organizations, has fostered powerful coalitions based on a common agenda.

Because of JACL's aggressive stand, we have gained much credibility among our youth, our membership and social justice warriors of today and yesteryear as an organization who has currency and relevance on issues of civil rights. Just as importantly, I truly believe we are honoring the great sacrifices and hard work of our parents and grandparents.

I would like to share with you a summary of how JACL's investment and participation supported a broad based and effective Asian Pacific American campaign against I-200 and how it continues to pay dividends.

The Campaign:

- mobilized over 20 API organizations and hundreds of individuals as volunteers and donors;
- created a website (www.apace.org) that provides up-to-date information on all activities and information on affirmative action, racism and related issues;
- developed a database that holds over 25,000 API voters and individuals in King County and beyond;
- hired staff and mobilized volunteers of deeply committed and enthusiastic young people;
- organized a Voter Registration and "Get-Out-the-Vote" drive by conducting multiple doorbelling and phone banking sessions;
- sent out multiple mass-mailings to all King County API voters including two major "drops";
- flooded community and local newspapers with letters, advertisements, and articles;
- secured, through the efforts of the Pacific Northwest District JACL, over \$36,000.00 in support from JACL including chapters from other districts and the National Board;
- conducted numerous fundraising activities including selling t-shirts and posters, sponsoring dinners and receptions that raised an additional \$30,000.00;
- worked closely with local and state API elected officials to formulate legislation and coordinate strategies;
- participated in numerous rallies, press conferences and marches

See "APACE and JACL" on page 3

Waves, continued from front page

tional non-JAs of conscience such as Pressler. After completing her master's thesis on the camp that held my grandpa during the first part of the war, Pressler has spent many years guiding JAs that wander through her town on family "Roots" trips to the remnants of the camp where *Issei* leaders were held with German and Italian POWs. Pressler closed by passing out acorns from an oak tree growing at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery near the resting places of three *Issei*.

Donations needed.

Contributions are still being sought for the National JA Memorial in Washington DC honoring the patriotism of JAs during WWII. Time is running out. All donations must be made by June 1; if insufficient funds are collected, the monument won't be built. As of Feb. 25, only 777 individuals from the PNW had contributed. Donations can be directed to: Natl. JA Memorial Foundation, PO Box 4815, Seattle, 98104 (info: June Hirose, 206-622-7722).

Donations are similarly wanted for the Nisei soldier "Go For Broke" monument in Los Angeles. Here, a portion of the funds will go to associated educational efforts. These can be sent to: "100/442/MIS Memorial Foundation," PO Box 2590, Gardena, CA 90247 (info: Art Gorai, 206-524-0087).

Okane ga nai? [Empty pockets?] Perhaps instead you have copies of pre-war Japanese school textbooks that were published here in the 1920s. The *Issei* chose to write their own rather than to use Japanese government ones. A scholar of JA history, Prof. Teruko Kumei of Tokyo, would be grateful for volumes absent from her incomplete set. Potential donors can contact me.

No funds nor books? We'll gladly take your kidneys instead. Joking aside, race matters in the case of kidney transplants, and there have been precious few Asian American donors. The plight of Shoreline dentist Ken Hamada, who is on a two-year waiting list for a kidney (*Seattle Times*, Feb 11), was sufficient to get me to sign the donor leaf on the back of my driver's license. We third- and fourth-wavers still have much to do in life. To do so, we must first help keep each other alive.

Still using those kidneys? Then why not lend your hands, heart and brains to our emerging waves. Together, we should be able to hurl succeeding waves higher on the beach.

Community calendar [contact person in brackets]

Apr 3, Talent show featuring *Hato no kai*, a performing group from Nagoya, and local performers, Seattle Betsuin Hall, 1 pm, \$15. Event is a benefit for the Northwest Nikkei Museum [Japanese Community Service, 206-323-0250].

Apr 16-18, Cherry Blossom Festival, Seattle Ctr [Shea Aoki, 206-723-6061]

Apr 21, Seattle chapter (board) meeting, chapter office, 7 pm [David Yamaguchi]

Apr 24, "Jazz behind barbed wire" concert, Asian American Jazz Ensemble (San Francisco) and San Jose Taiko, Meany Hall, 8 pm, \$24 [UW Arts ticket office, 206-543-4880]



A few of the housing units in Aki Kurose Village. —Bob Shimabukuro photo

Housing development named after Aki Kurose; scholarship fund passes halfway mark

On a cold, blustery, rainy February 27, about 70 persons crowded into a 20' x 20' tent to listen to Bob Santos, Mori Kurose Rothman, and a host of politicians and high-ranking public officials extol the virtues of Aki Kurose. The Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) was celebrating the newly constructed Aki Kurose Village, a 26-unit housing development for low income families.

Sharon Lee, executive director of LIHI, said that the development was named for Aki because "we wanted to honor someone who was devoted to peace and to children."

Seattle Chapter JACL is also honoring this woman who was "devoted to peace and to children" with a scholarship in her name. Help us reach our goal of \$25,000 for the Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship Fund. Please send checks to: Aki Kurose Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, WA 98118-0558.

As of 2/28/99, contributions have totaled \$13,462.32.

(Contributors not previously acknowledged are listed on page 3.)

JACL scholarship applications due April 15

by Christine Shigaki

All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply for the local JACL Scholarships. Eligibility for scholarships: 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. Deadline for local scholarships is April 15, 1999.

Application forms may be obtained by sending a legal size, self-addressed stamped enveloped to: 3904 24th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98108.

APACE & JACL, continued from page 1

with our "brothers and sisters" from various communities;

- participated in an unprecedented demonstration of unity with the National Board Chair and Executive Director of the NAACP, National Executive Directors of JACL and OCA, and many other prominent national and local leaders; and,

- held or co-sponsored a variety of educational workshops and forums that included bringing in nationally prominent experts and speakers.

The Outcomes:

Through the leadership of APACE and many API organizations, the campaign primarily targeted API voters and residents in King County and, in particular, the 37th State Legislative District. Initial outcomes include:

- King County was the only county to vote NO (52%) on I-200;

- The 37th District experienced a much higher voter turn-out of which close to 80% voted NO on I-200. We are currently compiling statistics specifically on API voters; and,

- APACE has incorporated as a 501c4, allowing it to serve as a true lobbying entity.

APACE has created infrastructure, networks, tools, strategies, and relationships that have positioned us to act in a much more effective manner. In addition, we have seen a resurgence of activism and leadership from our young people that portends a brighter future. We have seen a huge investment of funds and human capital from our community on values that are fundamental to us all.

The Future

APACE, JACL and many other API organizations continue to meet to redefine our goals and strategies to address issues that are important to our community:

- We have met with the Governor's office to help create a coordinated strategy and task force to create monitoring tools to evaluate the application of I-200 and to identify other means to ensure that the issue of discrimination and creating a truly "equal playing field" remains at the forefront of our elected officials and the general public. We have developed three committees to monitor: 1) entry into public institutions of higher learning; 2) public contracts awarded to minority and/or women owned businesses; and, 3) hiring of minorities and women in the public sector.

- In a broader context, APACE is planning a more sophisticated approach to creating a strategy that supports a more influential and pro-active API community in the political process. APACE recently sponsored a community "summit" of which over 30 individuals representing various communities and groups and elected officials gathered to identify a common API platform and workplan to address these issues.

It is clear that we must become more proactive in framing and forwarding discussion and decisions on issues of social justice and public policy. The fight continues, and JACL and APACE must remain at the forefront. On behalf of the JACL and APACE, we would like to thank all of you for your tremendous support and commitment!

New Members & Renewals

Sumie Akizuki	Tsutsumoto	Ruth Sumida
David, Koki & Penny Atcheson	Yeichi Kozu	Ed & Maxine Yakushijin
Mae Deguchi	Ruthann Kurose	
Nancy Kloster	Yuki Laurenti	Student Members
Sharon Harada	Bob & Betty Matsumoto	Christine Beppu
Yukio & Yukino	Mitsuo	Jan Hamada
Imada	Matsushita	Ailey Kato
Tsutomu & Yaeko	Stephanie Minato	Keau Katsunuma
Ito	Clement & Rosalia Miyaya	Raymond Lam
Saji Kanazawa	Aiko Mizuki	Albert Ngan
Terry & Shirley Kameda	Harry & Sachiko	Jane Otaki
Chris & Jean Kato	Okazaki	Junji Otaki
Kathryn Kozu	Masami Sado	

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Dale Kaku
Roger Mizumori
Bradly Nakagawa
K. Catherine Sakura
Kiyo Taki
Hiroshi Yahagi

Chapter Donors

Kathryn Kozu
Tsutsumoto

Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship Fund Donors

Hiram & Helen Akita	Mae Deguchi	Miyu McCoy	Insurance Co.
Shea Aoki	Dee Goto	Munio Makuuchi	(Donor Match)
James Arima	Joe & Merry	Henry & Edna Matsubu	Bob & Sharon Santos
Carl & Bessie Asanuma	Ishino	Yoshito & Yuki Mizuta	Catherine Sakura
Frank Ashida	Joanne & Victor Kimura	Tama Murotani	Calvin and Naoko Takagi
Kimiko Calhoun	George Kodama	Mako Nakagawa	Mariko Tanagi
Toyo Cary	George Koshi	Robert & Carol Okano	Tama Tokuda
Carmen Chan	Nob & Mary Koura	SAFECO	M. Tsukada
Eva Chikusa	George Kuwahara		Ayame Tsutakawa

Thank You!!!

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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 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

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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.

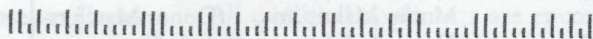
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