

SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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Utilizing The Internet

by Sharon Sobie-Seymour

The Seattle Chapter board has voted on a new standing committee called "Electronic Venue". There are two divisions, one is the website, the other is records management. The website is a public relations tool, attracting potential members, contributors and enhancing our exposure on a global scale. It will also expand our communication with our membership, other chapters and organizations. The purpose of our records management is to computerize our history, allowing easier accessibility to past events, projects and accomplishments. This is a large task that will require ongoing time and effort but we feel that recording this information is also imperative in preserving our heritage.

In order for us to ensure a complete representation of our memberships needs, we are asking for your input. Let us know what information you deem important and would like access to. You can e-mail your ideas to Committee Chair Linda Tanouye <Addrehab@aol.com>; Jill Beppu <jbeppu@jps.net>; or Ayako Hurd <AyakoOHurd@compuserve.com>.

Please check our website and see what we have done so far, <<http://www.scn.org/civic/jacl>>.

Our e-mail address is <jacl@scn.org>.

Happy surfing!

Seattle Chapter honors scholarship recipients

by Sharon Sobie-Seymour

Please join us for a reception at The Brian Ohno Art Gallery on May 26th, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm to honor this year's scholarship winners. We would like to invite our membership and we encourage past recipients to attend in order to support our scholarship program. We are excited to have as our guest speaker, Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos, a past recipient.

The Brian Ohno Art gallery is located at 155 S. Main in the Pioneer Square area. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. For information, call Sharon Sobie-Seymour at (253) 639-1682.

President's message

Between Japan and the USA

by David Yamaguchi

TARO-MACHI, IWATE-KEN—The 6 o'clock morning town bell just tolled, the gulls outside are crying, and car tires are hitting the pavement in this rural fishing village in northern Japan. By late today, I will have been traversing the Pacific coast of Honshu for two weeks. I'm traveling as a translator/scientist, part of a combined US-Japan effort to mitigate hazards from tsunami, the great ocean waves that originate from sea-floor earthquakes. Over the past century, thousands along this coast have perished from such waves.



As one of two Americans on the trip, my charge is to learn how the Japanese have taught their populace of the hazard, and to write materials that will convey the same message to the American public. After seeing countless photographs of the devastation that tsunami have wreaked here, both of us fear the day when similar waves will hit our own coastal towns of Astoria, Aberdeen, and the like, after a large offshore quake that many lines of evidence say is coming. Accordingly, on this trip we have met with emergency planners in most towns we have stopped at. When possible, we have also interviewed Nisei-aged citizens who survived huge waves from the 1960 earthquake off Chile.

Along our *monogatari* [journey], I am becoming a better version of myself. Because most conversations are held in Japanese, the terminology and historical context frequently wash over my head in floods of their own. Still, it is clear that our trip simply would not have been as successful as it has been were I not tagging along as a Japanese American whose life experiences include Japanese school, a minor in Japanese studies in college, and prior work in Japan.

What does all of this have to do with JAACL and with JAs in general? Questions that I have heard a lot over the past few months include, "Where are Japanese Americans headed?" and "What lies ahead for JAs?" I strongly believe that one way that we can continue to contribute uniquely to American society is for some of us to work on the interface between the US and Japan. In another time, the language skills of Kibei and Nisei translators and occupation forces proved essential to the U.S., and to promoting communication and understanding between the countries of our heritage and birth. The need for such individuals persists today.

It is not necessary to have grown up speaking Japanese to be able to participate. Other Seattle-area sansei I've met who similarly learned most of their Japanese in college include Lynn Miyauchi,

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Eastside Japanese American exhibit opens tour in Bellevue

The Eastside Japanese American History Project will open its new traveling exhibition, "Eastside History: A Japanese American Story," in the lobby of the Bellevue City Hall, April 19-23. A history forum will be held in the City Council Chambers of the Bellevue City Hall, at 7 p.m. Wednesday April 21, featuring Dr. Tetsuden Kashima (University of Washington Asian American Studies) and Japanese American community members who will speak about their experience living in Bellevue before and after the war.

The exhibition will then move to the Bellevue Regional Library from Saturday, April 24, to Sunday, May 23, coinciding with national Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. A program, "Eastside Japanese American History: Pioneer Women's Stories," will be held at the library at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 15. The program will honor Japanese American women, with speaker Tracy Lai (Seattle Central Community College Humanities faculty), a koto music program by the Seattle Miyagikai Ensemble and ikebana display.

For information and schedule, contact Alice Ito (206-320-0095) or Mayumi Tsutakawa (206-623-5124, ext. 107).

The project is made possible with support from King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission, Washington Commission for the Humanities, JACL Legacy Fund, Hugh and Jane Ferguson

President's message

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who works at the Japanese consulate, Susan Mochizuki, of the JA Chamber of Commerce, and Aaron Owada, mentioned in this column a few months back. If sansei can do this, yonsei should be able to do the same. I believe the best strategy is for interested students to develop a stable "tripod" of skills—technical expertise in something, Japanese language training, and native English writing.

For me, occasionally working on the US-Japan interface in this way has proved an incredibly fulfilling way to make part of my living. Why not encourage the college-aged youth in your family to consider doing the same?



Children on the Suguro family farm in the 1930s in the Midlakes area of Bellevue, Washington. Front, from left: Sumie and Toshi Suguro. Back, Mae Suguro, Eva Aramaki, and Mitsue Suguro.—photo courtesy of the Suguro family, the Densho Project and the Eastside Japanese American History Project.

Foundation, U.S. Bank, Seafirst Bank, Lake Washington Chapter, JACL, Bellevue Historical Society, The Densho Project, and generous individual donors.

Images of Japan exhibit especially for children

Children can explore "Images of Japan—Through the Eyes of Children" at the Children's Museum in Seattle, April 10 through June 13. Featuring pastels and watercolors on loan from the IACA World Awareness Children's Museum, the exhibit gives a glimpse of the world through the eyes of children in Saga, Japan.

Museum offerings include performances and hands-on activities, including traditional tea ceremony, Kabuki, shamisen music, taiko drumming, martial arts and swordsmanship, kite-making and kabuto helmet workshops.

The Children's Museum is located in the lower level of Center House at Seattle Center, and is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Children (1-12) \$5.50, Adults \$4. Information: 206-441-1768.



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Thank you to the following generous donors to the Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship Fund. Contributions may be made out to: JACL Seattle Chapter, Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, WA 98118-0558.

Ken & Aki Higashi
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Seattle Chapter JAACL 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 JAACL Newsletter

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Web page coordinator: Jill Beppu

Contributors: Jill Beppu, May Namba, Sharon Sobie-Seymour, David Yamaguchi

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Board members should submit materials to the editor (shimaito@foxiinternet.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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Chapter address: P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, Washington, 98118-0558

Web address: <www.scn.org/civic/jacl>

E-mail address: <jacl@scn.org>

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