

# SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

May 1999

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## Scholarship winners announced

By Sharon Sobie - Seymour

This year's scholarship recipients dazzled the selection committee with their scholastic achievements and grade point average (gpa), their personal statements, and their impressive amount of community and volunteer involvement.

**Stacy St. John** is a graduate of Monroe High School where she ran track & cross country, and was Senior Class President and valedictorian with a 4.0 gpa, a competitive figure skater, and a ski instructor. She also studied Japanese for four years. Her varied community involvement includes tutoring English for Spanish first graders; volunteering at a nursing home, a medical clinic and a Japanese day care; and helping out at the Special Olympics and Cinco de Mayo Community celebration. She will attend Whitman College and plans to study medicine and specialize in pediatrics.

**Erin Kimura** graduated from Garfield High School and earned a BA in English and Japanese from Santa Clara University. Her objective is to receive a Master's Degree in Counseling and pursue a career in counseling in higher education. She hopes to instill in students a sense of social justice. Erin is currently the Operations Manager for the Densho Project. She has independently designed and coordinated a Diversity Chats program and served as a facilitator for workshops on multicultural issues. Erin volunteers to tutor elementary school children and help a community outreach program for homeless women and children.

**Junko Nishimura** is a LPN (licensed practical nurse) on the surgical unit at Children's Hospital. After graduating from The Bush School, she attended Vassar College, receiving a BA in Economics. Junko decided to change directions and headed toward medicine. She has been accepted to the Nursing program at the UW and plans to learn advanced clinical skills that attends to patients' physical and emotional needs. She speaks Japanese, English and German and has taught Vietnamese children basic Japanese, volunteered at a food bank and transported the elderly at Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church.

**Christine Beppu** plans on becoming a physician and working with Americorps or Peace Corps before or after medical school. This Olympia High School graduate has volunteered for the Salvation Army, food banks, St. Peter's Hospital, Westwood Baptist Church, The 30-Hour Famine Project and helped build houses for a Mexican Mission. Christine also performed in the Capital Area Youth Symphony and her school's concert band, sang in the

## JACL/OCA conference a 'wonderful opportunity'

By Mari Hirabayashi

This past March, I had the wonderful opportunity of participating in the annual JACL/OCA (Organization of Chinese Americans) Leadership Conference. As I joined members of JACL and OCA in Washington, D.C., I was anxious and eager to meet the other participants of the program. I was interested in forging bonds with JACL members from across the country and other communities of color. Surrounded by individuals from Las Vegas, Portland, Pennsylvania, Salt Lake City and other areas, the conference perpetuated a sense of community and togetherness. From beginning to end, the experience demonstrated the importance of building coalitions within our local communities and striving for the common goal of equality among all races.



Mari Hirabayashi and Ryan Chin at the OCA/JACL conference in Washington, D.C.

Given the opportunity to meet individuals such as Bill Lann Lee, Congressman Robert Matsui, the honorable Robert Underwood, former lobbyist John Tateishi and others that have contributed greatly to the betterment of Asian Pacific American and other minority groups, I felt a sense of pride and strength grow from within. Some of the issues discussed were the census in the year 2000, hate crime laws, affirmative action, immigration laws and methods of effective coalition building.

We also met with representatives from NAACP, National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, American Jewish Committee, National Federation of Filipino American Associations and South East Asian Resource Action Center.

After a few days of seminars and discussion, I was excited to return home and learn more about the relationships that were built through APACE and the campaigning against I-200. The knowledge and information I received from the conference encouraged me to embrace a better understanding of the Japanese community locally, as well as other groups within the greater Seattle area.

I spent more time with my fellow board member Ryan Chin and other motivated individuals from all over the country, and learned a great deal about myself as an Asian American in the U.S. Together, we were able to briefly tour Washington, D.C. and the exhibit "A More Perfect Union" at the Smithsonian Museum.

We had the honor of meeting two fascinating Japanese Americans that have greatly contributed to JACL over the years. Over 10 years ago, Lily and Pat Okura funded the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation using the redress payments they received. Their foundation promotes education, research and services within the mental health and human services professions. Sharing dinner with the couple in their home was an unforgettable experience. It is difficult to sum up the entire experience in one passage, but I learned a great deal about myself, about Asian Pacific Americans



## Outward, upward, onward

by David Yamaguchi

As we approach this Memorial Day and pause to remember those that came before us, including veterans, let us also keep in mind that on balance this country has smiled on us. Accordingly, we must continue to reach outward beyond our own community as we reach upward, and to keep our experiences in perspective with those of others around us.



A JA who passed away late last month, Michi Nishiura Weglyn, is especially worthy of our thoughts. Weglyn was the author of *Years of Infamy*, the chronicle documenting the lack of military necessity for WWII relocation. Her years scouring papers in the national archives and at other institutions thus helped paved the way to Redress. Donations may be made to the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, which is administering the Walter & Michi Weglyn Endowed Chair in Multicultural Studies, at 3801 W. Temple Ave., Pomona, CA 91768.

### Thanks!

• We acknowledge the many volunteers who helped make sushi for the Cherry Blossom festival. Here, we are indebted to Kusaragikai for co-sponsoring the event, to St. Peter's church for donating work space, and to chapter organizer *Shea Aoki*.

• *Vicky Yuki* also deserves kudos for pushing the community phone directory project through to completion.

• It has similarly been gratifying to see the long lists of donors to chapter and community causes each month, and the lists of new and renewing members. Few other community organizations enjoy such a broad base of support. It is this support that makes all chapter activities possible.

### An award!

Seattle JACL has been chosen as the community group recipient of a Samuel McKinney Racial Justice and Reconciliation Award from the Church Council of Greater Seattle. Our selection was based on our leading role in the recent "NO on I-200!" campaign, and on how we have crossed racial lines to carry a broad banner of civil rights and associated public education. The efforts of chapter board members *Akemi Matsumoto*, *Jeffrey Hattori*, *Janice Yee*, and *Elaine Akagi* were undoubtedly instrumental in our receiving this award. Readers may recognize McKinney as the legendary pastor emeritus of the Mount Zion Baptist Church. We are the first Asian American group to be selected for this award, which we will receive on May 17th. The McKinney Awards are given annually to an individual, a church, and a community group.

### More scholarships

We're following through on our goal of emphasizing youth development by doubling our distribution of chapter scholarships this year to \$4,000. Former recipients *Christine Shigaki* and *Ryan Chin* are working with *Sharon Sobie-Seymour*, who administered this year's program. Please join us to meet the winners (see calendar).

### Congratulations!

A recent *Northwest Asian Weekly* features a smiling *Jeffrey Hattori* as the new Director of Keiro Nursing Home. We wish Jeff well in this position. (A hint, Jeff: The food's the thing!)

The National JA Memorial Foundation deserves recognition for bringing their fund-raising drive to a successful close. PNW committee members include *Bob Sato*, *Tosh Okamoto*, *June Hirose*, and many others. (See calendar).

### A pleasing rest stop

If summer finds you passing through downtown Portland, why not stop at the JA Historical Plaza Bill of Rights Memorial? It's in the Waterfront Park at NW Naito Parkway (Front Ave.) and NW Couch St. The Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center is nearby at Couch and NW 2nd Ave. (as are numerous Chinese restaurants:).

**More membership activities:** We have noted the constructive criticism that we offer too few activities for the general membership, and are striving to make amends. See the calendar below.

### Community calendar [contact person in brackets]

Wed, May 19, 7 p.m., monthly chapter (board) meeting, Seattle-JACL office; all welcome. Chapter potluck precedes board meeting at 6 p.m. [Dave Yamaguchi]

Wed, May 26, 6-7:30 p.m., Seattle-JACL scholarship reception, featuring keynote speaker *Sharon Tomiko Santos*, with music by *Gary Fukushima*; all welcome. *Bryan Ohno Gallery*, 155 S. Main, 206-667-9572 [Sharon Sobie-Seymour].

Sun, May 30, 2 p.m., "Duty, Honor, Country—Loyalty Recognized" victory celebration, Natl. JA Memorial Foundation, Nisei Vets. Hall, 1212 S. King St., Seattle [June Hirose, 206-622-7722].

Mon, May 31, 10 a.m., Community memorial service, Lake View Cemetery, 1554-15th Ave E. (N Capitol Hill) [Sam Mitsui, Nisei Vets, matsarelli@aol.com].

May thru June 20: Layered threads of history; over 80 kimonos from Edo, Meiji, and Taisho Japan. Ming's Asian Art Gallery, 10217 Main St., Old Bellevue, M-Sat 10-6, Sun, 12 to 5 [info: 425-462-4008].

## President Clinton nominates General Eric Shinseki for U.S. Army chief of staff

President Clinton recently nominated Four-star General Eric Shinseki to serve as the U.S. Army's chief of staff. Shinseki will assume the Army's number one post—the highest military ranking attained by an Asian American—on June 21 upon confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

Shinseki was born in Lihue on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, on Nov. 28, 1942. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, with a bachelor of science degree in engineering in 1965. He also holds a master of arts degree in English literature from Duke University.

### Scholarship winners, continued from front page

choir, participated in school government, ran track and played soccer. She also has a 3.97 gpa.

**Michael Walsh**, an O'Dea High School grad, was born in Japan, lived in a half-a-dozen cities across the country, visited Puerto Rico, Venezuela and Mexico, and drove cross-country twice. He wants to study business and combine his Japanese and travel experiences to have a career in international business. In school he was a member of the Junior Statesman of America, the Math Club and Secretary of the National Honor Society. He played varsity football and baseball. Michael currently works at Duke's Restaurant. He tutors and mentors 4th & 5th graders at Madrona Elementary. He has been accepted to Pomona College and UC Berkeley.

**Mariko Sata** aspires to be an educator. Her experiences at Nathan Hale High School helped encourage this decision. Her community activities include four years caring for pre-school children, tutoring elementary school children, and volunteering at Chicken Soup Brigade. Mariko was secretary/treasurer of National Honor Society, belonged to her school's Students of Color group and played Varsity Soccer.

Please join us on May 26th, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Bryan Ohno Gallery in Pioneer Square to meet our winners and support our scholarship program. — 206 267-9572

### Pike Place Market Mural Donors

Helen Gamble. Jeanne Semura Aki Sogabe  
Ted and Kim Nakanishi Robert Shinbo

### Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship Fund

Akira & Lillian Horita S. Kuriyama Chiz Norton  
Chris & Jean Kato Hiro & Dorothy Mary Terusaki  
Kai & Diana Kato Nishimura Gail Tanaka  
Anna Kurata

### Seattle Chapter JACL 1999 Cherry Blossom Japanese Cultural Festival Volunteers

|                     |                   |                       |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Linda Akiyama       | Emi Hirai         | Shinako Noritaki      |
| Shea Aoki           | Fumiko Ige        | Harue Okano           |
| James Arima*        | Kyoko Kano        | Nobie Otsuji          |
| Ann Asato           | Tami Kikuchi      | Kesa Pearce           |
| Jennifer Asato      | Cherry Kinoshita  | Toshie Pigeon         |
| Melvin Asato        | Mas Kinoshita     | Lucy Sato             |
| Stacey Asato        | Minako Kitahara   | Masako Stark          |
| Tomoko Burkhalter   | Masako Kubo       | Sumie Seaman          |
| Mihoko Casada       | Mike Kubo         | Narachiyo Sekine      |
| Kuniko Chesterfield | Ann Kumata        | Miyo Shintaku         |
| Eva Chikusa         | Teruko Livingston | Hiroko Spees          |
| Kiyoe Chin          | Yuki Maekawa      | Kyoko Stahl           |
| Yuriko Cottom       | Taiko Magno       | Chieko Sumimoto       |
| Makiko Doi          | Sadako Matsumoto* | Pat Terao             |
| Tokiko Dodson       | Hiro Matsuoka     | Jane Tsuboi           |
| Bill Endo           | Yuri Matsuzawa    | Yoshiko Tokita Tsuji* |
| Harue Farrington    | Metty Maekawa     | Susan White           |
| Mike Forrester      | Yasue Nakajima    | Keiko Wirth           |
| Taichino Forrester  | Kimi Nakanishi    | Sumi Yagi             |
| Hisako Furuichi     | Marie Nakata      | Hana Yamaguchi        |
| Dee Goto            | Madoka Nishida    | Akiko Yamanouchi      |
| Miki Heider         | Rose Nohara       | Hideo Young           |

\* Lake Washington Chapter JACL members

### Conference

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from around the country and the lobbying and campaigning that is constantly taking place in Washington, D.C. I am grateful to both the JACL and OCA for providing this opportunity of growth and learning. Thank you.

(Next month: *Ryan Chin's impressions of the conference*)

### Eastside exhibit opens in Bellevue Library

The Takeshita family of Bellevue graces the first panel of the Eastside Japanese American History Project's traveling exhibit, on view at the Bellevue Library through May 23. The exhibit was designed by Glen Yonezawa, Y Design.

The project was partially supported by grants from the JACL Legacy Fund.



### New Members & Renewals

|                 |                     |                |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Chiyoko Baba    | Mariko Sata         | Rosie Sugahara |
| Tamiko Brownlee | Shizuka Sata        | Koko Sutow     |
| Lori Fujinaka   | Joanne L. Schreiner | Peggy Tanemura |
| Sara Funamura   | Narumi St. John     | Mary Yokoyama  |

Paid membership (as of December 1999): 623

### Membership Categories

|                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Individual                            | \$50            |
| Couple                                | \$85            |
| 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            |

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

Thank You!!!

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter



Eli Lilly and Company





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 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

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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 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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