

SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

December 1999

VOLUME 36, NO. 12

Congratulations to the year 2000 Seattle JACL Officers and Board Members

by Vicki Toyohara

Congratulations to the Year 2000 Seattle JACL Officers and Board Members who were recently elected by the Seattle JACL membership or subsequently appointed by the chapter president with Board approval. The Year 2000 officers and board members represent the diversity and strength of our Nikkei community which is reflected in their occupations and in their involvement in the JACL organization, our Nikkei community and in our community at large. The officers and board will carry the Seattle JACL into the next century, stronger than ever before in civil rights activities and in its leadership on issues important to our organization.

The Seattle Chapter president for the Year 2000 is Sharon Sobie Seymour, a special events consultant. Write-in candidate Akemi Matsumoto is our president-elect. Administrative Law Judge Vicki Toyohara, Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings, is 1st Vice President. Arlene Oki, Planning and Development Specialist with the City of Seattle, is 2nd Vice President; Mari Hirabayashi, Marketing, Luminant Worldwide, is 3rd Vice President; and Board Delegate is David Yamaguchi, an environmental scientist. Shea Aoki, a retired business woman, is our Historian. Michael Latimer, Associate Financial Consultant, Merrill Lynch, is our Treasurer; and Ann Fujii Lindwall, Administrative Assistant, Seattle Public Schools, is our Corresponding Secretary.

Members of the Seattle Chapter Board for the Year 2000 are: Elaine Akagi (Department Head, Visually Impaired Department, Seattle Public Schools); Jill Beppu (Administrative Assistant, Denise Louie Education Center); Ryan Chin (Analyst, Andersen Consulting); Mark Fukeda (Director of Development, Nikkei Concerns); Jeffrey Hattori (Administrator, Nikkei Concerns); Gil Hirabayashi (retired Mediator, United States Department of Justice); Ayako Hurd (retired); Kazzie Katayama (Community Outreach Coordinator, King County); Ryan Minato (recent graduate, B. A. in Economics, Mathematics, Western Washington University); Ken Nakano (Hanford Health Information Archives Board), May Namba (Librarian, Seattle Public Schools (retired)), Matthew Nakata (student,

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Past chapter president Janice Yee, relaxes with daughter Michiko and friend Eliana Mozer, at the chapter's Family Day gathering at the Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle's International District.

Chapter digitizing our past; need your help!

By Linda Tanouye

Chair of the Electronic Venue Committee

The board this year approved a project to set up an office capable of electronically scanning, storing and publishing the documents that make up the legacy of the local JACL chapter. Going back over documents and pictures that originated with the founding of the chapter in the 1930s will certainly be exciting and challenging.

The committee, consisting of Jill Beppu, Ayako Hurd, Shea Aoki and myself will be looking for help in scanning the vast amount of documents which may require some editing skills. If you would like to help with this very important project, please contact one of us. We will train you to use the equipment, so no prior experience is necessary.

Our honored member Ayako Hurd, at age 90, just purchased her own computer so that she could learn the skills to help us with this. Isn't she something? How about you?

Our historian, Shea Aoki, is contacting the past presidents that we have addresses for, to find out where they are these days and to get information on what they felt were the important accomplishments of their year in office. We need help locating these people so that we can get their input for our planned Installation Banquet brochure. Past presidents, can you call us with your current phone number and address, and send us a current photograph of yourself as well?

As a new member to the local chapter. I am very excited to learn

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Wrapping up the year

by David Yamaguchi

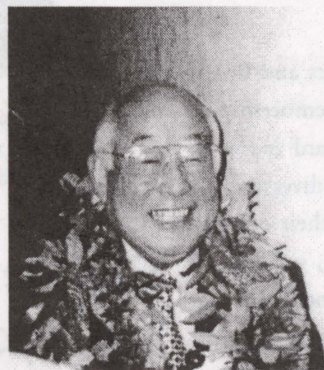
As 1999 draws to a close, various loose ends need to be tied up to leave a "clean page" here for the New Year. For brevity, I'm omitting details reported in previous newsletters.

Recent award recipients: Since last month, two chapter members received awards for outstanding community service. **Tomio Moriguchi**, a past chapter president and a long-time community volunteer, received a YMCA "A.K. Guy Award" before a luncheon of 900 at the Westin. On accepting the award, Moriguchi stressed the importance of reaching out beyond our own ethnic communities with volunteer work. **Alice Ito** also received a plaque from the Lake Washington JACL for her leadership on the "Eastside Japanese American History Project."



Scholarships: Application materials for national JACL scholarships are again available at <www.jacl.org>. Busy students should note that this competition is extremely competitive (1999 recipients were featured in the October 22 Pacific Citizen). We expect to have details on a complementary, more reasonable, chapter scholarship program shortly. Students interested in either program should contact scholarship committee members (Ryan, Mari, or myself on the back page).

Departing board members: Please join me in thanking board members who will be stepping down at year-end to pursue other activities. These include **Randy Aoyama**, a thoughtful attorney; **Ray Ishii**, who made October's Chapter Family Day at the Wing Luke Asian Museum happen; **Anndi Kawamura**, everyone's favorite legislative assistant to Kip Tokuda; **Frank Kiuchi**; **May Namba**, who will relinquish tracking our membership and donations; **Joe Rogel**; **Sam Shoji**; **Vicki Yuki**, who headed the directory project; and **Louis Watanabe**, who has been co-chairing the committee for next month's banquet.



Tomio Moriguchi, recipient of the YMCA's A.K. Guy Award

Unseen hands: Many people have helped keep this chapter moving forward over the year, including some that are seldom recognized. **Shimabukuro** has persisted in keeping this newsletter coming out, despite most of us testing his patience with late submissions. **Darlene Hirota-Shimizu**, our bookkeeper, continues to make sure that our bills, such as office rent, are paid each month. There is also an Endowment Committee of sages, past chapter officers all, who have kept watch over us including **Shea Aoki**, **Lloyd Hara**, **Wayne Kimura**, **Cherry Kinoshita**, and **David Okimoto**.

Goals revisited: In this space last January, I described our top three goals for the year as improving (1) financial planning of the chapter's assets; (2) use of this newsletter for conveying chapter activities; and (3) harnessing of technology to facilitate operations. While progress on all fronts has been slowed by reality, the chapter's bottom line, which began the year at \$411,027 (as of 12/24/98) has reached \$454,555 (11/11/99), due to **Mike Latimer's** management, a favorable market, and hustle by the rest of the board. I leave evaluating this newsletter to our readers. Turning to technology, e-mail has become the first line of board communications. Additionally, our new chapter computer is now set up, owing to the efforts of **Linda Tanouye** and her co-workers (see article).

Parting thoughts: As this twelve-month column ends, I can say that serving as president of this chapter has been a very worthwhile experience. I would recommend doing so to anyone interested in learning more about the Seattle JA community. Perhaps more than any other local JA organization, Seattle JACL provides opportunities to interact with a broad cross section of the Seattle JA and Asian American communities. The Seattle JA community is fortunate to have an organization like this. It offers tremendous opportunities for leadership training in community service and activism in a largely supportive and nurturing environment.

Seattle JACL is not a perfect organization. In common with most human enterprises, it has some rough spots that need smoothing. But one thing is beyond question, that the chapter continues to move forward. It is successfully negotiating the generational transition that all JA community organizations are facing.

On the topic of segueing from the weary, the insights and smiling face of **Sharon Sobie-Seymour** should grace this column from next month. Many know Sharon from her organizing Day of Remembrance activities in Puyallup. She will undoubtedly be aided by **Akemi Matsumoto**, a "prime mover" on the I-200 fight, and our new president-elect for 2001. I'm looking forward to reading what both will have to say, from my couch.

Community Calendar

- Sat, Jan. 8, 2000. Retreat for new chapter board, Kawabata House, 11-3 including lunch; contact Sharon.
- Sat., Jan 29, Seattle JACL installation banquet, Doubletree Suites, Tukwila, 5:30 reception, 6:30 dinner; \$50/person.

Thank you, May!

By Robert Shimabukuro

It was a short note from May Namba, attached to her list of new and renewed members (for the November newsletter): "I will no longer be the membership chair effective the end of the year. Seven years is enough! So next month's list will be the last." I was saddened to hear that.

There are lots of things to appreciate about May, but for me personally, her reliability and punctuality were most precious. Putting together any publication depends primarily on people getting their assignments (articles, columns, photos, lists, etc.) in on time, and May's lists came in as regularly as clockwork. Never once did she keep me waiting. Come to think of it, she was never once tardy over the past six years that I've been working on the newsletter. Quite a record, indeed.

Thanks, May. Enjoy your spare time!

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Seattle University); **Joseph Rogel** (Employer Relations, Private Industry Council); **Linda Tanouye** (Disability Management Consultant, ADD Rehab Service); **Bill Tashima** (Team Leader, Social Security Administration); Representative **Kip Tokuda** (Washington State Representative, 37th District); **Grant Yamaguchi** (Apartment Owner); **Janice Yee** (Executive Director, Denise Louie Education Center); and **Victoria Yuki** (Program Coordinator, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging).

Special acknowledgment to the Nominations Committee members, **Michael Latimer**, chairperson, **Vicki Toyohara**, **Sharon Sobie Seymour**, **David Yamaguchi**, **Sam Shoji**, **Kazzie Katayama** and **Ray Ishii**, for their efforts in ensuring another successful nominations process and an outstanding slate of officers and board members for the Year 2000.

We look forward to a productive year as we enter the next millennium under the leadership of **Sharon Sobie Seymour** as Seattle Chapter president.

Digital History, continued from page one

about all of the local JACLers that have done so much to make this chapter nationally and internationally recognized. It is inspiring to see what this group of committed people have accomplished! Our committee will be reviewing the document to develop a historical time line that chronicles the important events from 1930 to present.

Ayako and **Shea**, two of our long-time chapter members, will help with identifying these events from the years before **Jill** and I came along. We would like your input on this as well. Can you tell us who and what you feel are events worth focusing upon. We don't want to overlook anything you think is important. Get us pictures and stories so these events are not forgotten. This is very important so that we don't lose our history and your contributions. **Jill Beppu** will be taking some of this information and posting it on our Web page. Visit the site at <http://www.scn.org/civil/jacl>. It is the #2 most visited web site of its kind with 91% of people searching for information on JACL actually visiting the site. Congratulations **Jill**!!

I would also like to acknowledge the assistance of **Chuck Kato**, **Bill Maekawa**, **Frank Oki**, **Leroy Hisayasu**, **Niel Yuano**, **Roy Tsuboi**, **Roy Hiraki** and **Yosh Nakagawa** for their assistance in moving the "Pride and Shame" exhibit to the Panama Hotel so that we could have the work space that we need in the back office to set up our equipment.

I only wish that I had a picture of these men in action. I hear that they were doing it as exercise to keep in shape for golf and tennis. Thank you all very much!

You can look forward to some publications from our Electronic Venue Committee.

We need help and support. Please call us with your ideas, documents to share and help with this very important project. Our history is for all to enjoy!

This is our way of capturing this last 70 years of accomplishment and welcoming this coming millenium.

New Members & Renewals

- Charles Aramaki
- Kathryn Bannai
- Michael Chen
- Mary S. Fukuyama
- Arthur Gorai
- Ken & Akiko Higashi
- Tom & Sally Hirai
- Albert Hikida
- Mari Hirabayashi
- David Hoekendorf
- Kenji & Chiyo Ikejiri
- Miyeko Ishihara
- Ray Ishii
- Kaz & Masue Ishimitsu
- Brian Ito
- Nob Koura
- Yoshi & Betty Maekawa
- Joselyn Matsuno* (student member)
- Don Mukai & Vicki Toyohara
- Tama Murotani
- Debbie Nagasawa
- Hope Ohashi
- Katsu & Grace Sakai
- Charles Z. Smith
- James C. Sullivan
- Dolly Tokunaga
- Saburo Tsuboi
- Xuan-Trang Tran-Thien
- Lawrence M. Tsunoda
- Masao Watanabe
- Russ & Suzan Watanabe
- Barbara Yasui

* new member

General Fund Donations

APACE (Asian Pacific American Coalition for Equality)

Dolly Tokunaga

Aki Kurose Scholarship Donations

Suma Yagi

Directory Donations

Directory donations
Thomas Mukasa
Roy & Joan Seko
Rick & Louise Tanagi
Yoshio & Daisy Tomita
M. Tsukada
Suma Yagi

Paid membership (as of December 1998): 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 is sponsored, in part, by generous donations from:



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Seattle Chapter JACL is a non-profit, 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

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. 12.

Editor: Bob Shimabukuro.

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Bylined articles represent the views of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of Seattle Chapter JACL or the National JACL. The entire contents are copyrighted by Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter. No part of the publication may be printed without prior consent.

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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