

State Civil Liberties Bill passes Education Committee unanimously but sent back to Committee later

by *Bob Shimabukuro*

A proposed bill to provide seed money (\$40,000) to develop educational materials about the WWII eviction and incarceration of Japanese Americans and other similar mass violations of civil liberties, passed unanimously out of the State House Education Committee January 13, only to be referred back to the Education Committee a week later.

The Civil Liberties Education Bill (HB 1572) was referred back to the Education Committee in order to avoid the House Appropriations Committee, where in all likelihood it would have died. In the past, bills with fiscal impact under \$50,000 did not have to go through the Appropriations Committee. This term, all bills with fiscal impact are being routed through the Appropriations Committee, regardless of the amount.

According to Anndi Kawamura of Rep. Kip Tokuda's office, the strategy now is to get the bill passed without the money, establishing the policy, then working to get the funding later. In addition, a provision setting up a fund into which people can make donations is being considered as an amendment.

Rep. Tokuda (Dem.), who co-sponsored the bi-partisan measure with Rep. Mike Wensman (Rep.), said that the bill would provide for programs which would "ensure that the painful lessons of our past will be remembered."

Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos reiterated Tokuda's sentiment saying, "Remembering the past is a remedy for the future. We need to educate everyone to be true to our vow: Never again."

Rep. Santos said that the bill needs support from all legislators, but especially from those outside the Seattle area, and urges constituents of legislators outside Seattle to contact their Representative. Besides Representatives Tokuda, Wensman and Santos, those signing on to the bill so far are Representatives Velma Veloria, Dave Quall, Mark Schofler, Steve Conway, Ed Murray, Dow Constantine, Val Ogden, Phil Rockefeller, Phyllis Kenney, Al O'Brien, Dave Schmidt and Kathy Haigh.

For information, call the offices of Rep. Tokuda (360-786-7838) or Rep. Santos (360-786-7944).

SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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Janice Yee, Gil Hirabayashi and Michael Latimer work out chapter goals at the chapter board retreat January 8 at the Kawabe House.

Chapter supports change in King County logo

by *Sharon Sobie Seymour*

Seattle Chapter Board voted to support King County Councilmember Larry Gossett's proposed Ordinance 99-0472 which would establish a logo for King County in the likeness of the Rev. Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Over a decade ago, the county was renamed after Dr. King, but the current logo still features a silhouette of a crown.

King County was originally named after William Rufus DeVane King, the 13th U.S. vice-president (under President Franklin Pierce) who died one week after taking office.

By adopting this ordinance, King County will finally have a symbol that embodies an individual who was a humanitarian and inspiration for all peoples across this nation. Seattle Chapter JACL supports this proposal and invites King County residents to contact the King County Councilmembers and let them know how you feel about this change. Please call (206) 296-0100 or e-mail www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/members.htm.

Hit the Floor Running

by Sharon Sobie Seymour

Wow! We have hit the floor running already this year. In January alone we have supported the logo change for King County, organized a committee to help inform people of the importance of the Washington State Civil Liberties Public Education Program, (WSCLPEP), put the final touches on our Day of Remembrance project and dazzled you with our Installation Banquet. We also held our year 2000 Retreat where we welcomed three new board members. Bill Tashima, Ryan Minato and Matthew Nakata bring a wealth of talent, experience and new ideas to our chapter. At the retreat we developed our goals for the New Year. They are:

1. Educating our membership on political issues at the local and state levels. Creating a committee that aggressively campaigns for the passing of the WSCLPEP Bill (HB 1572) and other pertinent legislation.
2. Strengthen ties between the generations with activities and events that promote intergenerational interaction, such as Family Day and a luncheon that will honor our Nisei and Past Presidents.
3. Utilize our computer resources and website to make our chapter more accessible to our membership and those interested in joining.
4. Find ways to attract a younger generation to join our chapter and board through research and surveys of our current members.



Sharon Sobie Seymour

Paying Tributes for Puyallup

by Bob Shimabukuro

In 1942, Marguerite Eyrikson and her family rented an apartment in Puyallup from the Tomita family. A few months later the Tomita family, along with other Japanese Americans, were evicted and confined to makeshift barracks at the Puyallup fairgrounds. Eyrikson found it unbelievable and shocking that she couldn't visit with them except through the fence which separated the Japanese American family from the world outside.

Later, she marveled at the Nisei soldiers who were fighting in the war while their families were still incarcerated. She decided that in her lifetime she would like to honor these veterans.

At age 84, Marguerite Eyrikson decided that this was the time and told her daughter that they should honor them somehow.

In September last year, at the Puyallup Fairgrounds, Marguerite's daughter Lydia Pressey and her company, LP Productions produced



Board members Akemi Matsumoto and Mari Hirabayashi discuss their goals for the chapter at the board retreat. —Bob Shimabukuro photo

As you know, 2000 is an election year which will be packed with new issues and legislation that will affect us directly and indirectly. This is also a very important national convention year for JACL. It is imperative that our community be educated on the upcoming political issues in order for all of us to make well informed decisions. As mentioned in our goals, our chapter plans to insure that our members are kept abreast of all pertinent information.

We've had a busy month and yet it is only the beginning. We need the involvement of our membership in order to reach our goals and be prepared for all that the new century will bring us.

"A Salute to Nisei Veterans," a tribute to the Nisei veterans. Between 200-300 veterans attended the gathering.

Now the Puyallup Chapter and the Nisei Veterans Committee are honoring LP Productions for their tribute. The Puyallup chapter is inviting all to a "Special Tribute to LP Productions," Sunday, February 13 at the Kabuki Restaurant (2919 South 38th St., Tacoma) at 2 PM. The program honoring Lynda and Rod Pressey, Marguerite Eyrikson, Ed Aliverti (also of LP Productions) and Puyallup Fairgrounds Manager Robert Carlson, will be followed by lunch and Karaoke.

The Obento (boxed lunch) is \$30 per person. A check made payable to the "Puyallup Valley JACL" should be mailed to Elsie Taniguchi (225 SW 197th Place—Normandy Park, Seattle, WA 98148). See "Tributes" on next page

Gordon Hirabayashi speaks!

In 1942, Gordon Hirabayashi deliberately disobeyed the curfew orders issued to Japanese Americans in Seattle. He prepared a three-quarter page statement of principle and conscience, "Why I'm Taking This Stand," to deliver to the authorities.

On the Day of Remembrance, February 19, Hirabayashi will reflect on his 1942 statement.

Hirabayashi's talk will be followed by brief formal responses by the community, University of Washington faculty members and an hour-long discussion with the audience.

Hirabayashi will be speaking at the Theatre Off Jackson (409 Seventh Ave. South, Seattle) 1-3 PM. A reception will follow upstairs at the Wing Luke Asian Museum (407 Seventh Ave. South). The event is free and open to the public.

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Mits Abe	Phyllis & Sadaomi
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Mitsuji & Betty Abe	Mits & Kazzie Katayama	Mark & Jean Murakami
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Paul Horiuchi	Jerry Murakami	Masako Tomita
John & Lillian Ishii	John Murakami	

Tributes, continued from previous page

98166-4031) by February 7. Reservations by phone (Elsie Taniguchi, 206-824-2402) would be accepted until February 11.

Also co-sponsoring the event are the JACL chapters in the Pacific Northwest District.

For information, call Elsie Taniguchi or Joseph Kamikawa (425-255-3063).

New newsletter schedule

The Newsletter will be coming out at the end of the month this year. Articles for inclusion must be turned in to the editor by the Friday after the monthly board meeting (generally, the third Friday of the month, but the fourth Friday in June, September and December)

New Members & Renewals

Rachel Hidaka	Alice Richardson	Linda Tanoue
Gil Hirabayashi	Yukiko Sato	William Tashima
Sumiko Hoey	Ruth Shimano	Yukio Tazuma
Tsugo Ikeda	Sharon Sobie Seymour	Jane Tsuboi
George Kakiuchi	Fumiko Tamaru*	* new members
Kazzie & Mits Katayama		
Wayne & Yuka Kimura		
Frank Kitamoto		
Sue Kitasako		
John Matsudaira		
Lisa Matsukawa		
Akemi Matsumoto		
Drew Matsumoto*		
Yoshie Mayeda		
Howard & Sumiko Minato		
Paul & Yoshiko Minato		
Ryan Minato*		
Junzo & Masaye Nakagawa		
Dennis & Sue Okamoto		

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 Jill Beppu <webber@jaclseattle.com>

Thank You!!!

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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 President Sharon Sobie Seymour)

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 Friday after the monthly board meeting. (See board meeting schedule in box above.)

Calendar items emphasize chapter or community events not likely to be covered by community newspapers or by other newsletters.

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Please let us know your concerns.

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