

Washington civil liberties public education program passes; governor's signature needed

by Arlene Oki

After two years of trying, Washington State Representative Kip Tokuda can finally claim a victory with passage of HR 1572, a bill that creates the WA Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF). After a rather difficult start in the House where Repub-



Rep. Kip Tokuda

licans and Democrats are evenly divided, the bill finally passed on February 11. Strong support from the bill's co-sponsors, including state representatives Mike Wensman, Velma Veloria, and Sharon Tomiko Santos, helped ensure a 96-0 vote to pass the measure. The Senate followed with its approval on March 2. Only Governor Locke's signature is needed before the process for enactment is completed.

Funding for CLPEF grants is included in both House and Senate versions of the budget. The Senate budget, which includes \$49,000 for the grants, falls far short of \$251,000 earmarked for the program in the House budget.

As this is written, the Legislature is still in special session so calls to your legislative representatives would help ensure that CLPEF can be implemented this year. The toll-free legislative hot line number is 1-800-562-6000.

'Aki Kurose Middle School' withstands review

Last November, the Seattle School Board voted to rename Sharples/South Shore Middle School to Aki Kurose Middle School after a grassroots effort that generated overwhelming community support. However, due to challenges addressing the name change and process, the Seattle School Board created a special "ad-hoc" committee to review the decision.

We are pleased to announce that on Wednesday, March 15, 2000, the special "ad-hoc" committee that included Jan Kumasaka, Barbara Peterson, and Nancy Waldman presented the Board with a recommendation to maintain the name "Aki Kurose Middle School."

The Committee for the Aki Kurose Middle School extends their appreciation to the Seattle School Board for reaffirming their decision and a very special thank you to the hundreds of individuals who not only demonstrated tremendous support for the initial renaming effort, but during the recent review process.

A "Thank You Celebration" is scheduled for 7:00PM, Thursday, March 23, at the school. A dedication is currently being planned for mid-May.

SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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University of Washington to honor Gordon Hirabayashi

By Sharon Sobie Seymour

On Tuesday, May 9, 2000, the University of Washington's College of Arts & Sciences invites you to join them in honoring the extraordinary accomplishments of civil rights activist, Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi. The 10th Annual Celebration of Distinction Dinner will take place at the Student Union Building, UW Seattle Campus. Cocktails will be available at 6:00p.m., and dinner will be served at 7:30p.m. Attendees will be treated with a special performance by Kokoro Dance prior to the dinner. Hirabayashi's son, Jay, choreographed the dance performance.

Proceeds from the evening will be used to establish the Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi Professorship for the Advancement of Citizenship. The purpose of the Professorship is to enhance the University's ability to attract and retain distinguished faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences. Moreover, this endowment will honor and recognize Dr. Hirabayashi's lifelong work for human rights and his distinguished career in higher education.

For more information, please contact Patricia Di Palma, Associate Director of Individual Gifts, (206) 616-6226 or dipalma@u.washington.edu. Hope to see you there!

Notices

JACL Scholarship

Apply for JACL Scholarships! Scholarship recipients must be JACL members. Applications are due April 15th, 2000. Interested students should visit the JACL Web site to download the scholarship application. For more information, please contact Mari Hirabayashi <myh21@hotmail.com>.

Ayame Kai Rummage Sale

The Annual Ayame Kai Rummage Sale to benefit Seattle Keiro Nursing Home WILL BE ONE MONTH EARLY THIS YEAR.

Saturday, April 15th, 9:30AM-3:00PM.

Donation items may be dropped off at the church on April 12, 13 & 14, 9:00AM-9:00PM (No Tuesday drop off). Questions should be directed to Nina Chinn, 206-722-2451.

Silence Is Not Always Golden

by Sharon Sobie Seymour

Recently we have asked our membership to write, e-mail and call local and legislative decision makers on various issues. Well, they heard our voice and we made an impact. The Washington State CLPEF Bill was passed and the name of the Aki Kurose Academy will remain intact. It remains our responsibility to communicate our positions and needs to the powers that be. We also need to remind them that we are watching, listening and paying attention to what they are doing. Now is not the time for our community to be soft spoken or complacent. 2000, being an election year, is a great opportunity for all of us to stretch our rights as voters and ask questions that are hard-hitting and pertinent. In the past, many of our concerns and issues have been overlooked or not addressed. It is crucial for us to be persistent in order to be heard. Remember, the squeaky wheel gets the grease!



Sharon Sobie Seymour

St. Peter's holds sukiyaki benefit

By Jay Shoji

St. Peter's Episcopal Parish will be holding its annual Suki-yaki Dinner (now known as "The Big Take Out") on Saturday, May 6, 2000, from noon until 5:00 PM at St. Peter's Parish Hall, 1610 South King Street, in Seattle.

BBQ Country Style Spare Ribs and Suki-yaki Bento plates will be available. Meals will be packaged to go, although seating will be available in the Parish Hall for those who would like to eat on premises. Japanese confections, baked goods, hand-crafted items and complimentary beverages will also be available.

Rib or Suki-yaki bento plates cost \$8. Tickets will be available at the door or can be purchased ahead of time by calling St. Peter's Parish office. All of the proceeds will be used to support St. Peter's outreach ministries.

Questions should be directed to the Church Parish office, 206-323-5250.

Need help filling out your Census form?

Don't let the Seattle Japanese community be undercounted in Census 2000! Free Census 2000 help in English or Japanese is available on Sunday April 16, 10:30AM to 3:30PM at Kawabe House (Hobby Room), 221 18th Ave. South, Seattle, WA 98144 (one block north of Jackson Street on 18th Avenue in the Central Area).

Anyone planning to attend should call, leaving their name, phone number and the time they can attend, with Sari Yoshioka (in Japanese) at 206-695-7611, or Melody Yoshinaga (in English) at 206-695-7551.

Attendees should bring their Census 2000 form and identification with them.

Where's the outrage?

by Robert Shimabukuro

I had heard the moans and groans from other parents checking out schools for their kids, but I didn't know what they were going through until I was faced with the same situation this past January and February.

My son Zenwa will be entering kindergarten next year, and since Seattle Public Schools allows parents to register their choices, Alice and I spent the two months "checking out the merchandise."

It should be obvious to the most casual observer that some schools and communities in Seattle are getting shortchanged but the rocket scientists and brain surgeons (currently, the two occupations accorded brain power) can't figure out what to do. That's because it has nothing to do with rocket science and brain surgery, other than the fact that few rocket scientists and brain surgeons will be coming out of southend schools unless drastic changes in policy are made and carried out. It has to do with public attitudes and wills. It has to do with recognizing the inequities and doing something about it. It has to do with not blaming the students or the teachers for the predicament they're in. Nobody is mentioning the words racism or classism anymore, but they obviously should be.

It has been a depressing two months.

It has been particularly distressing to hear the latest bunch of garbage emanating from the group of local landed gentry led by Jose, Baillargeon about the name change of a school that's been dead for 20 years.

The move of South Shore into the Sharples building created little anguish or interest. Neither did the earlier use of the Sharples building as temporary home for homeless schools (Franklin High School and African American Academy). It has also housed the Seattle Alternative High School, Bilingual Orientation Center, Teenage Parent Program and the Parent Information Center with little attention. Only after the name of South Shore Middle School was changed to Aki Kurose Middle School did the group of Seattle's finest object or even care about the school building.

The argument that the name change "erases history on a whim" is a smokescreen and incorrect. While not denigrating the reported embarrassment/anger of both the Sharples family descendants and the Kurose family over the controversy orchestrated by Joseph Baillargeon, et al, where is the outrage over the state of the school itself, regardless of the name?

Where is the outrage over the fact that South Shore @ Sharples.edu students registered lowest among Seattle's public middle schools in meeting Washington State standards in math, reading and writing, or that the school lacks the resources necessary for making major improvements? Or that it leads middle schools in suspensions and expulsions?

Could the lack of outrage possibly be because the student body is

See "Outrage" on page 4

Rokka Ski Club celebrates 50th anniversary

by Nancy Kitano

Rokka Ski Club is celebrating 50 years of skiing camaraderie at a Gala dinner on April 29, 2000, at the Rainier Golf and Country Club, starting at 5:00pm.

Rokka would like to invite all current and past members to come and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the club.

The Rokka Ski Club was formed after World War II by Japanese Americans who loved to ski and needed a way to get up to the mountains. The original group of skiers wanted to spread their love of skiing to their family and friends, thus Rokka Ski School, one of the oldest ski schools in the Northwest, was formed. Today, Rokka is still teaching skiing and snowboarding not only to Asian Americans, but is also teaching in Japanese to Japanese nationals living in the area.

Rokka Ski Club would like to invite anyone who has ever been associated with the Ski Club and Ski School to come and share their memories and to renew old friendships. For information or ticket orders, please call Bill Kawahara (206-725-5353) or Nancy Kitano (425 503-4329).

Membership

New individuals

Mitzi Nakamura
Matthew W. Nakata
Mark S. Okazaki
Wang Yung

Renewals- individuals

Sumie Akizuki
Ida Matsudaira Alkire
George J. Arakawa
Vicki Asakura
Jill Beppu
Flo Fujita
Shirley Hamasaki
Amy Yoshi Hara
Sharon Harada
Kiku Hayashi
Elaine Hayes
William T. Hirata
Karen Hopkins
Saji Kanazawa
Lois Kaneko
Sam Kawakami
Sally Kazama
Joanne Kimura
Misayo Kumakura
Janice Kumasaka
Sumi Kuriyama
George Kuwahara
Dan T. Matsumoto
Mitsuo Matsushita
Aiko Mizuki
George C. Miyake
Mako Nakagawa
Craig Nakata
Ruth S. Okada
Peggy H. Saito
Polly Shigaki
Samuel W. Shinozaki
Elmer Tazuma
Yoshio Tomita
Herbert M. Tsuchiya
Kenneth Uswi
Marion Watanabe
Hyako Iky Yamada
Dave Yamaguchi
George Yamano
George Yano
Janice Yee

New couples

Joy Renee Shigaki & Vincent Booy

Renewals-couples

Helen and Hiram Akita
Mr. & Mrs. Yukio Imada
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie K. Ito
Mr. & Mrs. Toshio Ito
Mr. & Mrs. Tsutomu Ito
Mr. & Mrs. William D. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Art Kaku
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Kato
Mr. & Mrs. G. Bob Matsumoto
Mr. & Mrs. Clement Miyaya
Mr. & Mrs. George Nishi
Mr. & Mrs. Yoshiaki G. Takemura
Rose and John Tenna
Mr. & Mrs. Jiro Todo
Mr. & Mrs. Min Tsubota
Mr. & Mrs. Tosh Uyeji

Boosters

Dorothy Akagi
Pauline N. Asaba
Kimiko Calhoun
Marie M. Coon
Roy & Sei Fujiwara
Mitsuko Hashiguchi
Shigeto Ishikawa
Kimio Kamimae
Tsu Kanzaki
Teruo Koba
Thomas Kobayashi
Haruko Kobuki
Terry & Marie Kurimura
Toshi Kurosaki
Tomoko Kuwanoe
Aiko Kyono
Fumiye Masunaga
Barbara K. Matsudaira
Tebbo Matsudaira
Tak Miyabe
Mitsuko Morishita
Martha Nishitani
Frances Ogino
Bessie Okada
Mitsuko Osaki
Connie Saito
Kazuko Shimizu
Fudge Shiogi
Ruby Inouye Shu, M.D.
Tad Shibuya
Hiro Suzuki
Kaz & Kiku Tatsumi
Kiyo Taki
M. Tsukada
Mary Uchida
Pearl Yanagimachi
Fumiko Yoshikawa

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: <membership@jacleattle.com>

Donations

Aki Kurose Scholarship

Jim & Amy Doi
James Itami
Fumiye Masunaga
Sachiko & Harry Okazaki
Margaret Pageler
Polly Shigaki

Directory

Terie Akada

General Fund

Sumie Akizuki
Misayo Kumakura
Terie Akada

Thank You!!!

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Outrage

continued from page 2

88% non-white? Could it possibly be because 71% of the school's students are on free or reduced lunch? Where is the outrage?

Somebody, convince me that this isn't about race and money.

I've got a challenge to those wishing to rescind the name change.

Show that you care, that you really are concerned about the students. Show some support, along with dig deep-down heartfelt dollars, to help turn the school around, to help the community around the school in improving Aki Kurose Middle School. And when the school starts producing not only rocket scientists and brain surgeons, but well-informed, thinking students, prepared for high school, we can all rejoice together.

Seattle Chapter JAACL 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.

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

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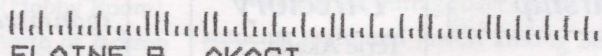
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