

SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

June 2000

VOLUME 37, NO. 5

Chapter's Electronic Venue Committee sets up office

by Linda Tanouye

Our chapter's electronic equipment is now set up in the back room of our chapter office. This was once the storage area for old files, books and the Pride and Shame exhibit. Thanks to the combined efforts of Ayako Hurd and her husband Lee, Bill Tashima, Gil Hirabayashi, Ryan Minato and myself, we have transformed the area into a 21st century office. The chapter's investment in a new computer, scanner and printer will enable us to begin the process of scanning and storing our chapter's history and activities onto discs. We can use some of these records to produce some of our own business documents and publications. Our current project is to complete a booklet chronicling our past presidents' accomplishments and the chapter's activities through the years.

Our Electronic Venue Committee has set up the office up so that it is a functional and attractive work space in which volunteers can comfortably and efficiently work. We owe special thanks to Ayako who provided the momentum to set up this office properly so that we can proceed with our work. Also we wish to thank OfficEmporium at the Seattle Design Center and Larry Imamura for his generous contribution of two height adjustable work tables for our office. The height adjustable table will enable us smaller office workers to work in comfort. OfficEmporium also provided us with a fully adjustable chair. I am especially grateful for these "ergonomic" office items. As a professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, I routinely deal with many workplace injuries that are the result of desks that are too high and chairs that are built for large people only. Thank you, Judy Koyano of OfficEmporium, for your coordinating efforts, and to Larry for supporting our project.

In addition, thanks go to HUD who donated a used file cabinet to us. We can now take the many boxes of history that our Historian, Shea Aoki has gathered through the years and get them into files ready to scan and electronically store.

Ryan Minato has scanned all of our past presidents' pictures and some other old photos. He has used our new technology to color correct these old picture so that future generations can enjoy them. Stacy Asano is using her Seattle Art Institute training to help us with some professional design layouts for our pictures and historical text for the President's booklet. Stacy is one of this year's

See "EVC" on page 3

A powerful, moving evening honoring Gordon Hirabayashi

by Matthew Nakata

On May 9th, members of the Seattle Chapter JACL took the wonderful opportunity to attend and support the recognition of Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi as the College of Arts and Science Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient at the University of Washington's 10th Annual Celebration of Distinction.

The evening began with a powerful and moving performance by Kokoro Dance, a group of three dancers dressed in white, who moved and posed powerfully to the sounds of live drumming, and gracefully through a backdrop illuminated with colors, sound and pictures. Most attention-grabbing were the slides that captured strong images and headlines of the internment



Back row: James Arima, Ryan Minato, Matthew Nakata, Kazzie Katayama, Esther Hirabayashi-Furigori. Front row: Shig Nishiwaki, Elaine Akagi, Sharon Sobie Seymour, Shea Aoki

experience of Americans and Canadians of Japanese descent. Many of the pictures and headlines came from the personal memoirs of the Hirabayashi family. The thought-provoking choreography was done by Hirabayashi's son, Jay.

The performance was followed by a dinner program which was hosted by King-5 TV's Lori Matsukawa. Following the opening remarks of Matsukawa, University of Washington President Richard McCormick presented Hirabayashi with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. In addition to this award, there is now an endowed professorship in Hirabayashi's name.

Hirabayashi discussed his experiences, and thanked his supportive family members, many of whom were able to attend.

See "Dr. Hirabayashi" on page 2

Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship is now a reality

by Jeffrey Hattori

Shortly after the passing of Aki Kurose, the Seattle Chapter committed itself to honor her by establishing a memorial scholarship in her name. The Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that we have not only reached our goal of raising \$25,000 but have exceeded it. Through May 15, 2000, over \$28,000 has been raised. This would not have been possible without the extreme generosity of all of you! In addition, at the most recent Installation Banquet in January, the committee was presented with a check by Nate Miles (who was also honored as a

See "Aki Scholarship" on page 2

What You Don't Know May Hurt You

by Sharon Sobie Seymour

As President I attend various functions and events, and promoting JACL is always a part of my agenda. Along the way I have encountered some shocking comments. For instance, "Asians seem to be doing pretty well now a days; why do we put ourselves in the same category as other minorities?" and, "I think people are sometimes too thin skinned. I've never been discriminated against. I just work hard and do my job."



Sharon Sobie Seymour

This is how I responded:

I realize my generation has been afforded a better way of life because of the sacrifices our parents and grandparents have made, but make no mistake; racism still thrives in today's society and government. In the last few years this state has passed legislation that eliminated affirmative action and drastically cut back funding for city and county programs. For the last three years Bill Lan Lee has only been allowed to serve as "acting" U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. If he doesn't receive a recess appointment he won't be recognized for having held that position. In the Wen Ho Lee case due process was not followed, his civil liberties were denied and human dignity stripped. Both of these situations are due to racial stereotyping.

In the past months, reports of racially motivated violence and crime have indicated that Asian Pacific Americans are being tar-

geted on college campuses. For instance, on September 19, 1999, an Asian American student of Yale University was harassed for his racial ethnicity and brutally beaten up by a group of people near the campus. Also, on February 27, 2000, four Korean American students of Binghamton University were assaulted by three Caucasian wrestling team members. One student was hospitalized with a fractured skull and internal bleeding. I end this discussion by pointing out that these types of injustices affect us all because it delivers a message of intolerance not just to an individual, but to the whole community.

Our community and chapter have not been immune to racially motivated crime. A month ago a chapter member voiced their opinion in a local newspaper and a few days later received a package of hate mail at home. The Seattle Chapter plans to address this issue by organizing a presentation or workshop with the outreach coordinator of the Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity. We will invite other ethnic groups to attend and discuss their concerns, experiences and plans of action. Also, there is a Hate Crime Prevention Bill under discussion in the Senate, so please contact your Senator to support this bill.

It is disconcerting to hear those types of naive statements from educated, professional individuals. Just because you are fortunate not to be discriminated against doesn't mean it is nonexistent. I'm not trying to paint a negative picture of society just a more realistic one. As I've said before, the time to act is now!

multiculturalism, science.

4. Other key considerations for awarding the scholarship will include the student's financial need, how the scholarship can truly support the student's aspirations for higher education, and the student's commitment to "giving back" to the community.

More information about the scholarship will be forthcoming. However, the Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship Committee and the Seattle Chapter JACL would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all of the donors for helping us exceed our fundraising goal and to the Kurose family for allowing us to honor their mother. The Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship Committee consists of May Namba (chair), Al Sugiyama, Kazzie Katayama, Elaine Akagi, Chiz Norton, Cherry Kinoshita, Ryan Chin, Nate Miles and Jeffrey Hattori.

Dr. Hirabayashi, continued from front page

Having the opportunity to witness the recognition of his work and the institution of a legacy at the University of Washington in his honor made this dinner quite a memorable event. Proceeds from the dinner were contributed to the Gordon Hirabayashi Professorship for the Advancement of Citizenship.

Volunteers needed for chapter booth at ID Festival

by Mari Hirabayashi

This summer, the Seattle Chapter will have a community booth at the Chinatown International District Festival July 8-9. From 11AM-8PM on Saturday, and 11AM-6PM on Sunday, the JACL will share information with the community and sell soft drinks and baked goods to raise money for scholarship funds and youth

Convention Notes

The 36th Biennial JACL Convention gets underway June 27 in Monterey, California, and runs through July 2. Seattle Chapter nominee Gordon Hirabayashi was selected Nikkei of the Biennial and will be speaking at the convention. Seattle also has two candidates for national office: Ryan Chin for Vice-President, Public Affairs; and Matthew Nakata for National Youth Representative. Good luck to both!

The Seattle Chapter passed, then supported efforts to receive the endorsement of the Pacific NW District Council to co-sponsor a resolution submitted by Northern California chapters to recognize and apologize to Nikkei World War II resisters. The resolution strengthens Resolution 13 which was endorsed by delegates at the 1990 National Convention. Language in the current resolution recognizes the suffering of the wartime resisters and their families and commits the JACL to a public apology at a future date.

EVC, continued from front page

current scholarship winners. New member Shigeru Nishiwaki, an industrial designer, will be helping us as well.

In addition to helping our local chapter with his computer graphics skills, Ryan Minato has also designed the web pages for our Pacific Northwest JACL office.

Go to <www.geocities.com/pnwjacl> to view PNW news. Always eager to share his talent, Ryan has also volunteered his time to post the web page for the Asian Pacific American Coalition for Equality. Please view their web page at <www.geocities.com/apace2>. Ryan is available to design web pages for individual, small businesses and community organizations for very reasonable rates. You can reach him through e-mail at <ryanminato@hotmail.com> or call him at 206 722-2358.

We have begun recording electronically our chapter's history. We will need help to scan and edit texts and pictures. Training will be provided. Scanning and editing are tedious, so we need committed people to help us with this task. On the positive side, it is an opportunity to provide a needed service while learning about our chapter's history. We can look into arranging work study credits for any college student who would like to help. For more information, contact either Ayako Hurd at 206 527-1464 or Linda Tanouye at 425 869-8161.

Join us at the Wing Luke Asian Museum for the Seattle JACL Scholarship reception on Thursday June 8, 6-7:30 PM. Keynote by Joy Shigaki.

development. If you are interested in volunteering or donating baked goods or soft drinks please contact Mari Hirabayashi at 206-938-0452 or at myh21@hotmail.com. Hope to see you all there!

Membership

INDIVIDUALS

Grace Akazawa (new)
Marion Critney
Ryan Chin
Mae Deguchi
Marcia k.l Fujimoto
Mary M. Gruenewald
Kiyoshi George Fukano
Jeffery Hattori
Norio Harui
Ute Hirano
Masa Hirano
Mrs. Paul Horiuchi
George Kaminishi
Ann Kawasaki
Frank S. Kubo
Ruthann Kurose
Wakao Matsushita,
Janice Nakamura
Fusae M. Nakashima
Joe Nishikawa
William Nishimura
Mitsu R. Nomura
Kenji Onishi
Jerry Shigaki
Carol Suguro
Keiko Ann Taki
Kimi Tanaka
Peggy Tanemura
Suma Yagi
Dr. Nancy Yamaguchi
Yoshi Yatsu
Mary Yokoyama
Molly Yoneyama,
Etsuo Yoshitome,
Sr. BOOSTER
Rosie Y. Sugahara

STUDENT

Joanne L. Schreiner

COUPLES

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kato
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Kikuchi
Miyoko & Giro Nakagawa
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Okazaki
Dr. William & Shizuka Sata
Kathryn & Clyde
Yamamoto
Lillian & Joe Yamamoto

1000 CLUB

Koko Sutow
Coleen N. Hayami,

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@jaclseattle.com>

Thank You!!!

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Takaki to discuss book at Barnes & Noble

Ronald Takaki, author of 'Double Victory: A Multicultural History of America In World II,' will be signing and discussing his book on Thursday, June 8th from 7:30 - 8:30PM at Barnes & Noble in the University Village.

Notice

Check out our website, featuring the earliest distribution of our monthly newsletter, plus other items that Jill Beppu has included on site. Add the site to your favorites file: www.scn.org/civic/jacl

Seattle Chapter JAACL Newsletter

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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 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.

Japanese American Citizens League

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