

# SEATTLE CHAPTER

## NEWSLETTER

July 2000

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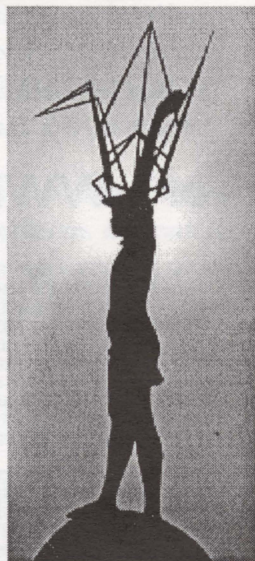
## Greater Seattle Japanese Community Queen crowned at Seattle Art Museum

by *Mari Hirabayashi*

Suspense gathered on Saturday, May 27th at the Seattle Art Museum as family and friends gathered to view the coronation of the Greater Seattle Japanese Community and Cherry Blossom Queen. Belinda Grover, Diane Matsubara, Kumi Kato, Monica Fujii, and Tara Yamamoto prepared for months for the program that was emceed by Terry Nakano and Susan Ishimitsu. All participants competed in several areas including an academic evaluation, community involvement evaluation, kimono competition, impromptu question and answer session, and talent portion.

This year's program was especially unique because it celebrated the program's 40th anniversary. Several past queens and participants attended and were recognized for their participation in the program. Courts from San Francisco, Honolulu and Los Angeles also attended and contributed to the program.

At the end of the evening, the participants received their awards and titles. The Greater Seattle Japanese Queen Committee proudly crowned Monica Fujii as the 40th Greater Seattle Japanese Community and Cherry Blossom Queen. Monica was also awarded the Community Involvement award that evening. Tara Yamamoto was crowned First Princess. Diane Matsubara received the talent award and Kumi Kato was crowned Miss Tomodachi. Chapter president Sharon Sobie-Seymour presented the Miss Tomodachi award and scholarship money to Kumi Kato who received the title from a collective vote from the other candidates. Throughout the next year, Monica and her court will participate in various JACL events within the community and will also contribute to the monthly newsletter. JACL continues to support this program and its participants because it promotes community involvement in the API community locally and in other cities.



*"Child of atomic bombing," a statue on the grounds of the Hiroshima Peace Park*  
—David Yamaguchi  
photo  
(See story on page 3)



Candle-lit lanterns illuminated Green Lake at last year's Hiroshima-Nagasaki lantern floating commemoration.—Harry Conrad photo

## From Hiroshima to Hope

*Sunday, August 6, 6:30 PM - dusk*

*Green Lake, northwest shore*

*FREE Admission (donations requested)*

The 14th annual lantern floating ceremony to remember the victims of the atomic bomb will feature Seattle Kokon Taiko and members of the United Voices of Antioch, as well as other community voices. The program will conclude with the Toro Nagashi ceremony conducted by Nichiren Buddhist Church Reverend Taiga Ichikawa and the floating of lanterns by program participants at dusk.

From Hiroshima to Hope is the largest commemoration outside Japan, of the victims of the atomic bomb. It is co-sponsored by local community, church and peace organizations, including Seattle Chapter JACL, Wing Luke Asian Museum and Peace Action.

From Hiroshima to Hope will commence on the northwest shore of Green Lake, just south of the Bathhouse Theatre, near bus lines 6 and 48. To volunteer at the event, call Casey at (206) 234-5611 or Peace Action at (206) 527-8050.

## Chapter joins coalition to work on police accountability

by *Joy Shigaki*

Stories of police brutality and harassment are often seen on the news. They may seem distant from our homes and our communities, but in reality they are not. Our youth and our fellow Seattle residents know this is not something that only happens on television.

On June 15, members of our JACL chapter board joined the People's Coalition for Justice, American Friends Service Committee, New Hope Baptist Church, the Church Council of Greater Seattle, LELO, Home Alive, and community members in a march and rally against injustices within our criminal justice system. Individuals shared their harsh stories of mis-

See "Police accountability" on page 2

## President's Message

by Sharon Sobie Seymour

In the last few months, I've had the pleasure of attending two functions that showcased the youth in our community. On May 27<sup>th</sup>, I had the opportunity to witness the selection of the Seattle Japanese community queen and her court. At this event, I also had the honor of presenting the Miss Tomadachi scholarship to Miss Kumi Kato. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, our chapter held its annual scholarship reception at the Wing Luke Asian Museum where we awarded scholarships to six recipients. At both of these events, I had a chance to see first hand, a group of young adults who have contributed and accomplished a lot in a short period of time and hold so much promise.

Society and the media do not always paint our youth in a positive light, which sometimes makes me feel uneasy about our future. After I left both of these events, my confidence and belief in

## I.D. Summer Festival

### Chapter seeks volunteers to work at festival booth

by Mari Hirabayashi

The Seattle Chapter will have a community booth at the 25th Anniversary Chinatown/International District Summer Festival, July 8th and 9th. Volunteers will hand out literature about JAACL, talk with community members and sell soda pop, bottled water and other baked goods to raise funds for scholarships.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to donate any baked goods or other snack foods (such as cookies, chips, etc.) please contact Mari Hirabayashi (myh21@hotmail.com/

## Local writer seeks life experiences of a WWII Nisei veteran

Submitted by Elaine Akagi and Bill Tashima

A local woman is writing a novel based on the life experiences of her German and American family, as well as close friends. She was a close friend of Lefty Ishihara and would like to honor and pay tribute to him by including the life experiences of a 442 member. The planned novel will be written from three perspectives: German, Greek-American and Japanese-American, all with very different backgrounds and life experiences, yet with a common thread of human relationships, joys and tragedies.

## Police accountability, continued from front page

treatment and harassment by the police department. Organization representatives endorsing the march also spoke passionately, making a plea for this behavior to stop and for police accountability.

This coalition is focused on working towards the development of an independent civilian review board for the Seattle Police De-

## The Road Ahead

our youth were reconfirmed. It was wonderful meeting these young adults, listening to their goals and aspirations, and hearing the anticipation and enthusiasm in their voices. I couldn't help but feel excited for all of them as they venture off into "the big world." For a moment, I envied their youthful outlook and energy.

As I was wishing everyone good luck with their future endeavors, I was overcome with a great feeling of responsibility to make this world a more just and compassionate place. (I had this same feeling when I became a mother.) I know in my heart that my generation has a lot of work to do before we hand this country over to our children. We need to continue to address the challenges that face ethnic Americans, teach leadership skills to the next generation and stress the necessity of community service by setting the example. The actions we take right now will affect our children's lives and their opportunity for prosperity in this century. So much of what happens in the future is actually still in our hands.

206.938.0452). Thank you to the volunteers who have already offered to help at the booth or donate items: Suzanne Hamada, Yuki Shiogi, Nancy Kloster, Shig Nishiwaki, Kevin Yaguchi, Larel Yamaguchi and Melissa Slaker.

The following board members are also volunteering their time and/or donating items: Gilbert Hirabayashi, Kazzie Katayama, Sharon Sobie-Seymour, Elaine Akagi, Ryan Minata, Matthew Nakata, Jeff Hattori, Akemi Matsumoto, Arlene Oki, Mike Latimer, Shea Aoki, Bill Tashima and Linda Tanouye.

The author's motive is not for profit; it is to tell the stories of three brave and honorable communities who were all, through a terrible combination of circumstances, destined to experience the hell of WWII. She would especially like to preserve these experiences for future generations of the families of those involved. Anyone interested in participating in this project and willing to share their experiences should contact Chris Koser (206-615-2733) for further information.

partment to prevent further abuses. If you are interested in joining the JAACL Anti-Discrimination Committee, which is also addressing this issue, contact the Seattle JAACL office or contact the People Coalition for Justice at 587-2916.

## The art of Hiroshima topic of lecture August 3rd

by David Yamaguchi

Two events have demarcated the lives of Japanese Americans over the past 60 years. They are the bombings of Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima—events that respectively mark the start and near-end of World War II with Japan.

Last spring I traveled to Hiroshima for the first time to spend a few days checking out the Peace Park museum there. The occasion was simply the end of a work-trip in Japan. I needed some time off, and wanted to use up the remaining days on my rail pass.

While touring the exhibit and grounds, which turned out to be as worthwhile as everyone says, I was especially moved by a set of drawings made by ordinary citizens who had survived the bombing. After the war, the Hiroshima government asked survivors to submit sketches of the vivid scenes they had witnessed. Given Japan's rich cultural background in art, it is not surprising that many outstanding drawings flooded in. I wanted especially for people in Seattle to be able to see these drawings, so I took slides of the best, capturing their images in a way that would allow me to bring them home.

As the 55th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing approaches, please feel free to join me for a slide show entitled "The Art of Hiroshima" on Thursday, August 3rd, at the Seattle Asian Art Museum, at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

## Scholarship Reception

### A Reminder of our Past and Future

by Joy Shigaki

The Wing Luke Asian Museum was a perfect backdrop for honoring six young people for their academic excellence, dedication, community service, and leadership. It was an opportunity to remind ourselves of our history as Asian Americans: the struggles our forefathers and mothers endured, the achievements and sacrifices they made. It also reminded us of the need to nurture our youth and young adults into effective, sensitive, knowledgeable and responsible leaders.

Thank you to those who attended this event. Thanks also to the Tazuma family, for which one of our scholarships is named, and the work of the scholarship committee. If you are interested in supporting our youth outreach efforts, please contact our local JAACL office and get involved!

Thank you!

Directory Donation: Peter Okada



"Mother and children in hell," a statue on the grounds of the Hiroshima Peace Park—David Yamaguchi photo

## Membership

### Individuals

Lorraine Bannai  
Brian Hideo Bird (new)  
Gloria F. Fujii (new)  
Joyce Hands  
Joy Nakanishi Huckle  
Chiyo Kamihara  
Tetsuden Kashima  
Eileen A Kato  
Yoshimori Kawahara  
William Kawahara  
Kazuo Kobayashi,  
Dean Koga  
Kathy Kozu  
Toru Matsuoka  
Ai C. Handa-Moore  
Nyla M. Nakano  
Kurt Nogaki  
Dave Okimoto  
Marilyn Suzuki  
Eugene M. Tagawa  
Victor Takemoto  
Ben Tsuboi  
Ted Yamamura  
Frank S. Yanagimachi  
Fusako Yonemura

### Couples

Margaret and Michael Mizumoto  
Wendy Nakatsukasa-Ono and Curtis Ono,

### 1000 Club Spouse

Janet Kometani

### Students

Tamiko M Brownlee  
Melinda Tanaka (new)

### 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 JAACL only)	
Regular	\$20
Seniors	\$15

Membership payments and questions should be directed to Jill Beppu: <membership@jaclseattle.com>

## Thank You!!!

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## Hate crimes workshop

A one-hour informational workshop on hate mail and hate crimes by the Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity will be presented at our July 21st board meeting, 6 PM. All chapter members are encouraged to attend.

## 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.jaclseattle.com](http://www.jaclseattle.com)

## Seattle Chapter JAACL Newsletter

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Board members should submit materials to the editor ([shimaito@foxinternet.net](mailto: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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Please let us know your concerns.

## Japanese American Citizens League

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