

# SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

August 2000

VOLUME 37, NO. 7

## Leadership group lays out collaborative plan for International District future

by Matthew Nakata

On July 5th, members of the inaugural class of the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation (ACLF) presented an analysis of the International District (ID) to a packed crowd of community activists, politicians, social service workers and other prominent community leaders assembled at Nikkei Manor.

"Logic of the International District" was created by Geneva Witzleben, Vaishali Kaushan, Julien Loh, Tammy Luu, Kelvin Seztu, Christina Hong and Raymond Lam, all members of the ACLF inaugural class, and Seattle Chapter JACL Board Members Mari Hirabayashi and Matthew W. Nakata.

Paying close attention to the presentation was a panel consisting of: Jane Nishita, manager of Public Policy for Quest Communications, Sudha Shetty, Planning Development Specialist for the City of Seattle Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Office, and Miebeth Bustillo-Hutchins, Executive Director of the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

Following the 30-minute presentation, the panel asked a series of questions regarding the group's study and actual process of the study.

Much of the work that went into the presentation centered on providing ACLF participants with the tools and skills needed to work cohesively on a large, undefined project.

At the conclusion of the presentation, panelist Nishita said she was interested in the whole process and the group dynamics of the study." She posed the question, "In trying to accomplish your goal of a final presentation, how were you all able to work together?" The ACLF participants responded by stating that it was a little hard to come together as a group working on such a huge and undefined assignment. But as the group came together to collaborate on interviews or to share thoughts on the project, they came to know each other's working styles better. That made the process

sier. According to Jill Nishi, co-moderator of the leadership workshops that produced the project and presentation, "The goal of this particular project was twofold. The first aspect is that it allowed the participants to research and explore the needs of the International District community. The second aspect of the project

## Bill Hosokawa to keynote Chapter Installation Banquet

by Ann Fujii

Seattle-born Bill Hosokawa will be the keynote speaker at the Seattle Chapter's 79th annual Installation Banquet on Saturday, January 27, 2001 at the Doubletree Suites at Southcenter.



Bill Hosokawa

Hosokawa edited the internment camp publication, the *Heart Mountain Sentinel*. After WWII, he worked for 37 years at *The Denver Post*, eventually as an editorial page editor. He is the author of *Nisei* (University Press of Colorado), *Thirty-five Years in the Frying Pan*, *The Two Worlds of Jim Yoshida*, *The Uranium Age*, and five other books including the definitive history of *The Denver Post*, *Thunder in the Rockies*.

## Thank you to our volunteers at ID Summer Festival!

by Mari Hirabayashi

People came from all over the city, state and country to enjoy the 25th Annual Chinatown/International District Summer Festival, July 8-9th. Many festival attendees stopped by the JACL booth to purchase refreshments and beverages, pick up literature and membership forms, talk with board members about volunteering and learn more about the local chapter. The JACL booth received great exposure at the festival and raised close to \$400 by selling donated baked goods, soft drinks, and books. Special thanks to the following people for their donations and volunteer time: Laurel Yamaguchi, Kevin Yaguchi, Sharon Sobie-Seymour, Shig Nishiwaki, Bill Tashima, Jeffrey Hattori, Mike Latimer, Arlene Oki, Linda Tanouye, Akemi Matsumoto, Suzanne Hamada and family, Elaine Akagi, Shea Aoki, May Namba, Kazzie Katayama, Nancy Kloster, Gilbert Hirabayashi and Yuki Shiogi.

was to allow for a firsthand knowledge of and practice at better understanding of group process and dynamics."

Participant Witzleben added, "The project provided a great opportunity to build relationships with community members while learning about the International District!"

The presentation itself focused on several areas - namely a brief overview of the International District: its Pan-Asian identity, the crime, safety and environment, community development, community involvement, and a conclusion of thoughts and recommendations.

Some of the group's recommendations were: defining a concrete neighborhood plan that is inclusive of all of the communities the International District represents, furthering a "neighborhood atmosphere" through the arrival of a community center and other physical facilities conducive to gathering, addressing the needs of

continued on page 3



## President's message

### Five Days in Monterey

by Sharon Sobie Seymour

My first national convention was an intense and memorable experience. Arlene Oki and I were your delegates and, wow, did we work tirelessly for those five days. We experienced times of excitement, enlightenment, frustration and exhaustion.



As a chapter we garnered a few highlights at the convention. One included the Seattle Chapter winning the George Inagaki Citizenship Award (Chapter of the Biennium). Some of our achievements that were featured in the application were: The No I-200 Campaign, Seattle Redress Project, Pike Place Market Art Project, Youth Bazaar, Family Day, JA Phone Directory, Day of Remembrance Event, Aki Kurose Middle School Dedication and the development of the Aki Kurose Scholarship Fund, to name a few. We won \$800 and a plaque due to the hard work and dedication of the 1998-2000 board members. I would also like to thank you, our membership, for your continued support throughout the years.

Congratulations go to two of our Yonsei board members, Ryan Chin and Matthew Nakata, who stepped up and ran for National Board positions. Ryan is now our National VP of Public Affairs and Matthew is National Youth Student Council Chairperson. The Chapter's nominee for JA of the Biennium, Gordon Hirabayashi, won in the field of Education and Humanities. He said a few words and was honored at the Sayonara Banquet. This banquet was emceed by our very own Lori Matsukawa. She was gracious enough to fill in at the last minute, and of course she did an excellent job.

As the PNW district, we made ourselves known and were at times, very vocal on certain issues. We planned a party, attended workshops, luncheons and held strategy meetings that lasted from late night into the early morning. We also attended other district caucuses trying to promote and rally support for a few of the resolutions. All this work paid off with the passing of almost all the resolutions that we as a chapter and district supported.

It amazed me how different all the chapters were. For example, many only held board meetings a few times throughout the year, their Executive Board served two-year terms, their newsletters came out quarterly, and very few chapters had their state governor and the political community attend their Installation Banquet. On the other hand, it was comforting to know that even though we all came from the different areas across the country, we all shared many common goals and aspirations. It was also a great opportunity to learn what other board members were doing to raise money, encourage youth leadership and increase their membership.

The Convention allowed the leaders of JACL to meet each other, make new friends, voice opinions, discuss and vote on topics that are important to this organization. I am glad I participated and encourage other to do so in 2002 in Viva Las Vegas!

### 36<sup>th</sup> Biennial JACL National Convention Resolutions

by Arlene Oki

Though delegates from the Seattle Chapter supported all of the resolutions which passed, they focused much of their efforts to ensure the successful endorsement of several important resolutions including An Apology to Wartime Resisters, Federal Recognition of Native Hawaiian Sovereignty, and Equal Justice for Dr. Wen Ho Lee. President Sharon Sobie Seymour also advocated for National Council support of the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2000.

The following resolutions were endorsed at the National Convention:

- JACL Apology to Nisei Resisters of Conscience.
- Federal Recognition of Native Hawaiian Sovereignty.
- Full Military Benefits for Filipino World War II Veterans.
- Posthumous Recognition for Jim Miyazaki.
- Support Bill Lan Lee's Nomination for US Asst. Atty. Gen. for Civil Rights.
- Requirement to Enact and Report on 35<sup>th</sup> Biennial Council Resolutions.
- Religious Freedom for Minorities (opposes amendments to US Constitution that would reduce separation of church and state).

The following additional resolutions, under emergency status, were approved:

- Support application of equal protection before the law and right to due process for Dr. Wen Ho Lee.
- Support Hate Crimes Bill.
- Endorse Retention of Masaoka Quotation on National JA Memorial to Patriotism.
- Oppose Siting of Stadium in or near Philadelphia Chinatown.
- Support Confirmation of Former Congressman Norman Mineta for US Secretary of Commerce.
- Commendation for Nisei Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients.

The following resolution did not pass:

- Support *Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2000* (Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-CA), a bill that provides full reparations for Japanese American and Japanese Latin American WW II detainees.

### Chapter gears up for yard work at Aki Kurose School

by Jeffrey Hattori

For those of you who can't get enough of doing yardwork and/or those who want to ensure that the students and staff of Aki Kurose Middle School enter the new school year with a beautiful front lawn and landscape, here is your chance! On Saturday, August 26, the Aki Kurose Middle School Committee is organizing a beautification project at the school, located at

3928 South Graham Street, to clean, prune, weed, and trim the front entrance of the building, from 9 AM until we finish. The Seattle Chapter JACL, which is sponsoring the project, will also plant a tree in memory of Aki.

On a personal note, I recently went out to look at the front of the building with principal Bihoa Caldwell and must admit, the front entrance looks a lot

### Leadership group, continued from page 1

young people through targeted activities and business ventures such as the creation of a forum where several API movies can be shown throughout the year and through the establishment of an International District community radio station.

Further recommendations included: continuing the effort of incorporating mixed income housing, continuing the effort to bring in funding for the establishment of a variety of small owned businesses, resident empowerment through education and consciousness raising, and further development of community leaders who could help to mobilize the community and convey the needs of the community.

The group's findings were based on a series of interviews which they conducted over a four week time period with community leaders, politicians, business owners, writers/publishers, activists, and other community workers familiar with the International District. The

group acknowledged that a few aspects that they would have liked to have covered more in-depth they could not research as thoroughly as they would have liked to due to time constraints. On the whole, the group synthesized a great deal of information about the International District and presented findings from interviews that were suggested as recommendations. The group also collaborated to make recommendations of their own. Said Sharon Sobie-Seymour, "This program is excellent because it gives the youth of our APA community the knowledge and opportunity needed to foster careers and further community involvement."

(For a detailed, unedited account of the presentation, see our website newsletter at: <[www.jaclseattle.com](http://www.jaclseattle.com)>.)

### Donations

Paul Tanaka  
Wayne and Joan Isa  
Chizuko M. Nagaoka (In memory of Eira Nagaoka)

longer than my memory served. Thus, we would greatly appreciate if we could get as many people as possible to join us—say 50. The Committee is busy recruiting, but you can help us by volunteering today!

The Committee and the Chapter will provide the refreshments and lunch. What do you need to bring? Lots of energy, enthusiasm and any of the fol-

lowing: hedge trimmer, pruning tools, weed killer, lopper (pruning tool), edger, shovels, brooms, plastic garbage bags, gloves, gas trimmers and weedeaters, and anything else you could think of. For more information and to volunteer, please call May Namba at (206) 784-3824. We are praying for sunshine and a big turnout! Thank you!

### New Members (N) & Renewals

#### Individuals

Frank Abe  
Penny Atcheson  
Bruce Echigoshima  
Ann M Fujii  
Hisako Funai  
Joy M. St. Germain  
Fumiko Hayashida  
Nancy Kloster  
Yuriko Kojuma  
Yuri Kumasaka  
Yuki Moore Laurenti  
Miyo Mc Coy  
Keri Yukie Koga (N)  
Barbara Nagaoka  
Mitsuo Nakanishi  
James H. Nakamoto  
Ted Nakanishi  
Shigeru Nishiwaki  
Chizu Norton  
Richard Okamoto  
Toshiko Okamoto  
Robert T. Okano  
Susan Otani  
Catherine Quemuel (N)

Sharon Tomiko Santos  
Jeanne I Semura  
Al Sugiyama  
Eddie T. Suguro  
Ruth A. Sumida  
Paul Tanaka  
Kaz T. Tanemura  
Tak Tsuchida  
Wm Toshio Yasutake  
Harry Yoshimura

#### Couples

Wayne and Joan Isa  
George and Marie Ishii  
Terry and Shirley Kameda  
John and Valerie Rader  
Noboru and Takako Taki

#### Students

Alexa Kunitsugu

#### Boosters

Dale Kaku  
George Matsuno  
Kenny Nakatani

### Thank You!!!

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter is sponsored, in part, by generous donations from:

Lilly

Eli Lilly and Company

AIR TOUCH™

Cellular



## Notice

Check out our chapter website, featuring the earliest distribution of our monthly newsletter, plus other items that Jill Beppu has included on site. Lengthy articles and information may be published in full on the web newsletter if space allows. Add the site to your favorites file:

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

### Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter is published a week after the third Wednesday of each 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 37, no. 7.

Editor: Bob Shimabukuro.

Web page coordinator: Jill Beppu

Contributors: Jill Beppu, Ann Fujii, Jeffrey Hattori, Mari Hirabayashi, Matthew Nakata, Arlene Oki and Sharon Sobie-Seymour

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](mailto:shimaito@foxinternet.net), fax 206-722-2044, 6621 S. Bangor St., Seattle, WA 98178) by the Friday after the monthly board meeting.

Non-board members and readers should send items for inclusion to Chapter President Sharon Sobie Seymour, preferably in electronic format.

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

## OFFICERS

*President (2000)*, Sharon Sobie Seymour (253-639-1682, [david.j.seymour@gte.net](mailto:david.j.seymour@gte.net))

*Pres.-elect*, Akemi Matsumoto (425-641-2202, [chickens@stl.uswest.net](mailto:chickens@stl.uswest.net))

*First VP-Operations*, Vicki Toyohara-Mukai (425-865-0272, [dnmukai@msn.com](mailto:dnmukai@msn.com))

*Second-VP-Civil Rights*, Arlene Oki (425-556-9110)

*Third VP-Youth*, Mari Hirabayashi (206-938-0452, [myh21@hotmail.com](mailto:myh21@hotmail.com))

*Fourth VP-Public Relations*, Linda Tanouye (425-869-8161, [Adrehab@aol.com](mailto:Adrehab@aol.com))

*Treasurer*, Michael Latimer (425-637-4673, [Mike-Latimer@ml.com](mailto:Mike-Latimer@ml.com))

*Board delegate*, David Yamaguchi, (425-673-5561, [Trringzrus@aol.com](mailto:Trringzrus@aol.com))

*Corresponding sec.*, Ann Fujii Lindwall ([FujiiLindwall@netzero.net](mailto:FujiiLindwall@netzero.net))

*Historian*, Shea Aoki

*Membership*, Jill Beppu ([jbeppu@jps.net](mailto:jbeppu@jps.net))

Elaine Akagi ([reikoa@aol.com](mailto:reikoa@aol.com))

Randy Aoyama ([randy@aoki-sakamoto.com](mailto:randy@aoki-sakamoto.com))

Ryan Chin ([rchin3@yahoo.com](mailto:rchin3@yahoo.com))

Mark Fukeda ([markf@hotmail.com](mailto:markf@hotmail.com))

Jeffrey Hattori ([jeffreyh@nikkeiconcerns.org](mailto:jeffreyh@nikkeiconcerns.org))

Gil Hirabayashi ([aimeegilhirabayashi@netscape.net](mailto:aimeegilhirabayashi@netscape.net))

Ayako Hurd ([ayakoohurd@dellnet.com](mailto:ayakoohurd@dellnet.com))

Kazzie Katayama

Ryan Minato ([ryanminato@hotmail.com](mailto:ryanminato@hotmail.com))

Ken Nakano

Matthew Nakata ([nakata-ma@leg.wa.gov](mailto:nakata-ma@leg.wa.gov))

May Namba

Joy Shigaki

Bill Tashima ([Buber@aol.com](mailto:Buber@aol.com))

Kip Tokuda ([tokuda\\_ki@leg.wa.gov](mailto:tokuda_ki@leg.wa.gov))

Grant Yamaguchi

Janice Yee ([JaniceYee@aol.com](mailto:JaniceYee@aol.com))

Web address: <[www.jaclseattle.com](http://www.jaclseattle.com)>; E-mail address: <[jacl@scn.org](mailto:jacl@scn.org)>

Membership e-mail address: [membership@jaclseattle.com](mailto:membership@jaclseattle.com)

Please let us know your concerns.

Japanese American Citizens League  
Seattle Chapter  
P.O. Box 18558  
Seattle, WA 98118-0558

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Seattle, WA  
Permit # 9180

ELAINE R. AKAGI  
SEATTLE, WA 98178-4346

