

# SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

September 2000

VOLUME 37, NO. 8

## Seattle Chapter plans Mariners baseball outing

by Ryan Chin

The Seattle Chapter is planning to attend the September 21st Mariner's game against the Oakland A's, pitting the top two West Division leaders, right before the playoffs. Attending as a group gives the chapter a special rate for tickets to this event. Rather than the normal \$14 per ticket cost, Seattle JACLers need only pay \$7—half off each ticket. Tickets are available for members, friends, and family of JACL. However, tickets are limited and will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis—so hurry and order them today. If you would like to attend this game at the new Safeco Field, please contact Ryan Chin ASAP, 206-527-5564.

## Minidoka reunion planned for April 2001; make plans early

by Suma Yagi

Former Minidokans of all ages, their families, and friends are invited to attend the very first All Minidoka Reunion at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, April 4th & 5th, 2001. The two-day informal event starting at 2 p.m. will include registration, socializing in a pre-function social room, hospitality night, climaxed with a social hour and banquet on the second night. We will have community singing with music nostalgic of camp days. Two well-known vocalists whose melodious voices resounded within Minidoka, Suze Takemono and Chickie Ishihara will join in the program.

During your free time, you can choose to spend time in casinos or numerous other available activities. For non-players, the concierge at Caesar's or other casinos can assist you

See "Reunion" on page 3



Chapter participants in the Hiroshima to Hope event included (from left): David Seymour, Sharon Sobie-Seymour w/daughter Anna, Shig Nishiwaki and Bill Tashima.

## Slide show, paper lanterns light up Hiroshima/Nagasaki remembrance program

by Shigeru Nishiwaki

The JACL Seattle Chapter participated in two local events commemorating the 55th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings in 1945. On Thursday, August 3, former chapter president David Yamaguchi gave a slide presentation at the Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park. David spoke about his recent visit to Hiroshima and presented photographs of the physical and emotional effects of the bombings upon the city and its residents. The slides included before and after images of Hiroshima, as well as dramatic images of the victims moments after the bombing. The presentation was followed by a reception in the museum lobby.

JACL was also involved with this year's "From Hiroshima to Hope" lantern floating ceremony at Greenlake on Sunday, August 6, the anniversary of the bombing. JACL was an endorser of the event, which is organized annually by the Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. Nearly a thou-

See "Hiroshima/Nagasaki" on page 2

Save the date!

January 27, 2001: Seattle Chapter JACL Installation Banquet

## President's Message

### Hate crimes prevention movement gearing up

by Sharon Sobie-Seymour

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, the Senate passed the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA), HR 1082 which now includes acts of violence aimed at one's gender, sexual orientation or disability.



Sharon Sobie-Seymour

To date, the House of Representatives has refused to schedule a floor vote on the HCPA. We need to keep the pressure on our Representatives. These types of crimes have been described as domestic terrorism and they are aimed at ethnic and minority Americans, which includes you and me!

Presently, JACL and over 100 other civil rights, religious and law enforcement groups have launched a web-based campaign, United Against Hate, to encourage the passage of HCPA and to support the organizing efforts of individuals and organizations around the nation. This Internet-enhanced campaign is an opportunity for JACL to unite with other groups and build alliances to promote civil rights and combat hate violence. This site will also serve as an avenue for individuals, 'digital delegates', to cast a vote in favor of the HCPA. There was a press conference and kick off August 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Plymouth Congregational Church.

Even if the Hate Crimes Prevention Act becomes a law there is still much work to be done to win the war against hate crimes. As we realized in the Ocean Shores incident, when hate violence is reported it is not always acted upon

appropriately by local law enforcement. This only discourages victims from reporting these incidents. According to The Annual Report of Violence Against Asian Pacific Americans, the Department of Justice, elected officials, law enforcement associations and other institutions need to ensure that law enforcement agencies are accurately identifying and fully investigating, documenting, prosecuting and reporting hate crimes, plus working with community organizations to provide resources needed to increase community outreach and education.

I feel it is necessary that all Americans become informed and take the responsibility to educate others about hate crimes in general. Unfortunately, it is up to the potential victims to fight the hardest for this type of legislation and equality. It is critical that the House pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act so we can move closer to a country free from the terror brought on by hate violence.

Please contact your local State Representative or log on to [www.unitedagainsthate.org](http://www.unitedagainsthate.org), and voice your opinion.

A heartfelt farewell and best wishes to board member, Mari Hirabayashi, and Mark and Marcia Fukeda. They are leaving/have left the board and Washington State. Mark and Marcia are moving to Hawaii so she can go to law school at the University of Hawaii. Mari is transferring with her job to San Francisco.

### Hiroshima/Nagasaki, continued from front page

sand participants attended the event which takes place every summer on the northwest shore of Greenlake.

This year's event featured performances by Seattle Kokon Taiko; Richard Marshall, a Native American, playing the violin; and Marcia Takamura, playing the koto. Among the speakers were Reverend Taiga Ichikawa from the Seattle Nichiren Buddhist Church and youth speakers from the Wing Luke Asian Museum's YouthCAN program. Calligraphers from Beikoku Shodo Kenkyukai provided the lanterns' messages written in Kanji.

As part of the program, volunteers folded 1,000 origami cranes which were to be sent to Hiroshima as a sign of peace.

Folding 1,000 cranes has been a tradition in Japan since the bombings.

The event culminated with hundreds of lanterns being lit and set afloat in Greenlake as the night sky set in, providing a dramatic backdrop to the ceremony.

"These type of events remind us of the affects of our government's actions, even during wartime," chapter president Sharon Sobie-Seymour said. "It's important that we don't forget that the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is a part of American history."

Many thanks to the JACL members who attended and volunteered at each of these events.

### The Winning Chapter!



Seattle Chapter members celebrate the Chapter's George Inagaki Award (Chapter of the Biennium) at the National Convention in Monterey, California. Pictured are, from left (front row): Shea Aoki, Takako Yoda, Shigeko Uno, Cherry Kinoshita; (back row) Ryan Chin, Elaine Akagi, Arlene Oki, Sharon Sobie-Seymour, Matthew Nakata, May Namba.

### Reunion, continued from front page

with tours, shows, and other interesting things.

For a limited time, 100 guest rooms are blocked out for our reunion at the special rate of \$149 per room per night on a first-come basis. Each attendee is responsible for directly securing your own reservation by calling 1-800-634-6661. Additional rooms may be available beyond those blocked for our reunion, if you call early. Also available for lodging are many other casinos in the proximity. The cost of the hospitality social and banquet is \$110 until September 30, after which the cost will be \$125.

To facilitate planning, those interested are asked to contact ASAP: Minidoka Reunion, c/o Tak (Yokoyama) Todo, 15537 32nd Ave. NE, Seattle, Washington 98155-6530, or e-mail Mits Kawachi at <[kmkawachi@hotmail.com](mailto:kmkawachi@hotmail.com)>, or Jim Akagi at <[moteyote@mindspring.com](mailto:moteyote@mindspring.com)>.

#### Membership Categories

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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](mailto:membership@jacleattle.com)>

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Please return to:

May Namba, Membership chair  
2324 NW 94th St., Seattle, WA 98117

Thank you for your support!

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## Looking for a few good people!

*The Seattle Chapter is now seeking nominations for our 2001 Board. The requirements are that you need to be a current Seattle Chapter member and are willing to attend at least 8 board meetings out of 11 during the year. If you are interested, please call Vicki Toyohara-Mukai at (425) 865-0272.*

### Seattle Chapter JAACL Newsletter

The Seattle Chapter JAACL 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

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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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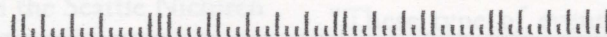
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