



Past presidents lunch at Nikkei Manor

Past chapter presidents gathered at Nikkei Manor November 4th at the Past Presidents Luncheon. (See President's Message on page 2.)

From left: (Back row) Sharon Sobie-Seymour, Kip Tokuda, Samuel Shoji, Toru Sakahara, Lloyd Hara, Raymond Ishii. (Front row) Mako Nakagawa, Lindy Sata, Naomi Iwata Sanchez, Janice Yee, Joy St. Germain, Akemi Matsumoto (President 2001), Tomio Moriguchi and Min Tsubota.

SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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Book by keynote speaker available at Installation Banquet

by *Suzanne Hamada*

Seattle native Bill Hosokawa, author of *Nisei*, *Thirty-five Years in the Frying Pan*, *The Two Worlds of Jim Yoshida* and six other books, will be the keynote speaker at the Chapter JACL Installation Banquet January 27, 2001 at the Doubletree Suites at Southcenter.

Hosokawa's most recent book, *Out of the Frying Pan*, is a fresh, personal account of one of the greatest injustices in 20th-century U.S. history. Hosokawa tells how he, his wife and their infant child were incarcerated in Heart Mountain Relocation Center during World War II.

According to a review in Publishers Weekly, "Hosokawa's book offers glimpses, from various angles and without bitterness, of an American life touched by both injustice and fulfillment."

Those wishing to purchase *Out of the Frying Pan* should send a

See "Hosokawa" on page 3



Bill Hosokawa

Memorial to Patriotism:

Special treat, special gift

by *Bob Sato*

Tears, pride, and celebration with a sense of fulfillment marked the dedication ceremonies for the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C., November 9-11, 2000. About 160 people from the Pacific Northwest joined over 1,800 registered guests from New York to Hawaii, Alaska to Florida, Tokyo/Singapore to Washington, D.C.; former residents of the ten W.R.A. concentration camps; and the many veterans from the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. It was truly three days of impressive celebrations.

The dedication events began on November 9 with the Monument Dedication Program emceed by well-known television anchor Ann Curry. Speeches by Attorney General Janet Reno, Commerce Secretary Norman Mineta, Congressman Robert Matsui, Deputy Secretary of Defense Rudy deLeon, Foundation Executive Director Cherry Tsutsumida, and 442nd Veteran Rudy Tokiwa set the tone for an impressive three days of celebration. That first evening, Lori Matsukawa, King-5 News Anchor, emceed the evening welcome social.

On Friday, November 10, some attended a special wreath laying service at the tomb of the unknown soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, then went on to the panel discussions held at the Smithsonian. Others attended the 10:00 AM premier showing at the Smithsonian of a documentary on the MIS soldiers: *Uncommon Courage; Patriotism and Civil Liberties*, then returned to the hotel where the Pacific Northwest Fundraising Committee hosted a hospitality room during the afternoon hours before the Gala Reception and Dinner that evening.

Senator Bob Dole delivered a very entertaining keynote speech with insightful comments on the experiences of Japanese Ameri-

See "Memorial dedication" on page 3

January 27, 2001: Seattle Chapter JACL Installation Banquet Doubletree Suites at Southcenter

For information: Joanne Kimura, (206) 329-0594 or Ann Fujii, (206) 367-8749

President's Message

An Unforgettable Experience

by Sharon Sobie-Seymour

Last December, I knew the first year of the 21st century would be filled with many possibilities, hopes, changes and challenges. As 2001 draws near I can say that the Seattle Chapter has enjoyed its victories while experiencing few disappointments.



The Board overcame many challenges, but a few others still need attention next year. Fortunately, I'm proud of our many achievements and of the hard work, time and effort put in by our board of directors.

We started the 21st Century off with a highly motivating and profitable Installation Banquet chaired by Arlene Oki & Louis Watanabe. At this event, we announced the establishment of the Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship, which will be available to applicants in 2001. In March we celebrated the dedication of the Aki Kurose Middle School with its peace crane emblem symbolizing the beliefs of this great woman.

The Aki Kurose committee and the Chapter also organized a beautification day at the school in preparation of the new school year. The Day of Remembrance program, this year, reached over 400 high school students, including internment curriculum, Living Voices performances and personal testimonies from Ben Kodama, Miyo Uchiyama & Mako Nakagawa.

Political Education

One of our goals was to educate our membership on local and national political issues and aggressively campaign on pertinent legislation, first being the passage of the Washington State Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, initiated by Representative Kip Tokuda. HB1572 passed the House and Senate by March 2. The \$150,000 grant program is now accepting applications for next year's projects. Other important issues we took a strong stance on were: Hate crime prevention, Native Hawaiian sovereignty rights, the appointment of Bill Lan Lee, the Wen Ho Lee case, the King County logo change, the Ocean Shores incident, the investigation into the Peter Nguyen suicide, the renaming of the Seattle Federal Courthouse to William Nakamura.

2000 Chapter Recap

Board Delegate David Yamaguchi commemorated the 55th anniversary of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki with a lecture and slide presentation of art which reflected the effects of nuclear destruction. We also endorsed and attended the lantern floating ceremony, "From Hiroshima to Hope." We participated in a peaceful demonstration demanding equal rights and just treatment of Scientist Wen Ho Lee, sponsored by the Organization of Chinese Americans, we marched with those organizations fighting police brutality and racial profiling, and joined in the Martin Luther King Day March. The chapter took part in the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Chinatown International District Festival, and the

"Celebration of Distinction Dinner" honoring the accomplishments of Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi. We had the opportunity to honor veterans at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Service and present the Miss Tomodachi Award & Scholarship to Kumi Kato.

Community Project Assistance

Our chapter also provides financial support (when our budget allows) to community projects that are within the scope of our mission statement. This year we assisted the book signing and reception of author Helen Zia, the Paul Horiuchi Legacy Publication Project (featured in the *International Examiner*), the Asian American Historical Timeline Project poster sponsored by CAPAA, and to the efforts of the ROAR coalition, to name a few. Two years ago Kip Tokuda and other community leaders organized the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation. We provided seed money for the first year's program and this July, I had the pleasure of attending a presentation by the inaugural class whose graduation will be held on December 7.

We utilized our Electronic Venue committee (EV), which has brought our JACL office into the world of technology. Our purchase of a computer allows us to store the chapter's activities and history on disc, reach potential members and produce our own brochures, publications etc. plus much more. Historian, Shea Aoki headed up a committee, which put together a chapter historical booklet, updating the 60th Anniversary booklet.

National Convention

Our triumphs at the National Convention included the passage of chapter-sponsored resolutions. Gordon Hirabayashi (nominated by our chapter) won the Nikkei Of The Biennium Award and our chapter won the George Inagaki Award as the Chapter of the Biennium.

Community Organization Awards/Functions

In this busy year, Seattle JACL had representatives at 20 dinners/luncheons hosted by other community organizations and we enjoyed a social chapter outing at a Mariner's baseball game thanks to Ryan Chin.

On November 4th at Nikkei Manor, we held a Past Presidents Luncheon saluting our former Seattle Chapter Presidents. We hosted approximately 30 people with our eldest honored guest in attendance, Toru Sakahara (president 1948, 1957). Thanks to Arlene Oki, Akemi Matsumoto, Bill Tashima, Shea Aoki, Ann Fuji-Lindwall, Gil Hirabayashi, Ryan Minato, Linda Tanouye, Michael Latimer, Manaji Suzuki and Steve Idemoto for putting this luncheon together.

In Gratitude

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your support throughout this year. I would also like to remind all that our accomplishments were not possible without the assistance of individuals and organizations outside of our chapter.

See "Thank You" on following page

Memorial dedication, continued from front page

cans beginning with his army hospital ward mate Capt. Dan Inouye. Jon Nakamatsu, the gold medallist of the June 1997 Van Cliborn International Piano Competition provided the evening entertainment with four extraordinary renditions. His personal comments and his performance were a special treat! He ended several encore renditions by playing a Japanese composition that was extraordinarily beautiful. He said it was his special gift to us, just as the monument was a special gift to our nation.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, following Veterans Breakfast, Memorial Day Service, a White House Tour and a D.C. tour, most everyone attended a sushi reception that evening at a special Smithsonian viewing of the "More Perfect Union Exhibit."

Tosh Okamoto pointed out to me a large scale photo of a stretcher bearing party carrying a wounded person in one of the exhibits. "That's James K. Okubo, T-5 Medic, Medal of Honor winner (from our community) in the front right of the stretcher," he said. They all looked so young. I marvel any of us made it back.

Interesting sidelights:

During our Washington trip, we were hopeful of arranging a thank you luncheon for the key staff people who were so helpful in getting the Nakamura Courthouse naming bill through Congress in record time. Because of election activities, most of the people were in their home districts or otherwise held up and not available. However, Casey Sixkiller from Congressman Jim McDermott's

Hosokawa, continued from front page

check for \$32.50 to Banquet Committee member Suzanne Hamada (4200 Mary Gates Drive NE, #208, Seattle, WA 98105) before January 10 to preorder the book.

Additional orders and copies of the book will be available at the banquet, but due to shipping considerations, it is better to preorder. For information, call Suzanne Hamada, at (206) 985-2697.

In Appreciation

As a gesture of our appreciation for speaking as the keynote at our upcoming Installation Banquet, we would like to put together a Commemorative Book for Bill Hosokawa. If you have any memorabilia, and/or old photos (which would be returned to the owner), or would like to submit a personal essay, please contact Suzanne Hamada.

Thank you, continued from previous page

It has been an honor serving as your President, an experience I will never forget. Due to family priorities and obligations, I will not be serving on next year's board. In the last seven years serving on the JACL board, I have encountered many amazing individuals and have learned so much about the community and myself. Thank you again for this opportunity. Best wishes for the New Year and enjoy the holidays.

office, the key person who coordinated the congressional effort did join us at the PNW Hospitality Room.

Many from the PNW were able to visit with him and expressed their appreciation for his efforts. Casey said he hopes to visit when the courthouse naming takes place in March, 2001.

During the opening day Dedication program, Cherry Tsutsumida gave a moving tribute to the women, our Issei mothers, wives and loved ones. We speak of the "Gold Star" mothers in camp, but we all know their experiences were much more painful than any of us can describe. Cherry remembered them and all the women. They kept the families together, bore the pain and anguish and somehow found a way to bear those unbearable burdens. Cherry's tribute to the "okusans" was especially fitting and touching.

Many of you have met or know Rudy Tokiwa. During his speech at the Dedication, Rudy gave a moving talk on what he and his buddies were thinking at the time they were rescuing the Texas Lost Battalion in late October 1944. They performed acts of courage and sacrifice for each other even with full knowledge that the task given to the 100th/442nd was an unfair assignment. Historian Eric Saul has been quoted as saying "for Asian Americans, civil rights began in a forest in France in 1944, when those Nisei boys broke through the German lines and saved those Texas soldiers." We should never forget the terrible price paid by these men as we contemplate the meaning of this Memorial to Patriotism.

I hope you will all visit this monument in Washington, D.C., to pay your respects to those who paved the way for all of us and to admire a country that was able to acknowledge its mistake and redress its citizens for their wrongful incarceration.

Join Seattle Chapter at the MLK Day March

by Akemi Matsumoto

The Martin Luther King Day March will be held on Monday, January 15, 2001. Meet at Garfield High for workshops, a rally, and a march to downtown Seattle.

If the day is not a holiday for you, take the day off to march with the Seattle JACL. We hope for a large visible contingent to march in solidarity with other communities of color.

Thank You!!!

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Seattle Chapter JAACL is a non-profit, grassroots civil rights organization dedicated to empowering our local community through high-quality programs and strategic partnerships focusing on activism, education, and youth leadership development. As a chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, we strive to be a leading Asian American advocacy group for civil and human rights while promoting and preserving the values and cultural heritage of Japanese Americans.

Our primary means of carrying out our mission is a monthly meeting, held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the chapter office (316 Maynard Ave. S., Seattle) except August. All are welcome. (Those wishing to make presentations or be added to the meeting agenda should contact President Sharon Sobie Seymour)

Seattle Chapter JAACL Newsletter

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Board members should submit materials to the editor (<shimaito@home.com>, 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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