
Congratulations to the incoming Seattle Chapter JACL officers and board members

by Vicki Toyohara

Congratulations to the 2001 Seattle Chapter JACL officers and board members. They reflect the diversity and strength of our Nikkei community in their occupations and involvement in the JACL organization and our community at large. The officers and board will continue to lead the Seattle JACL into the 21st century, stronger than ever before in its civil rights activities and in its leadership on issues important to the members of the Seattle JACL, to the Nikkei community, communities of color and to the broader community.

The Seattle Chapter president for 2001 is Akemi Matsumoto, a counselor and instructor at the Bellevue Community College. Administrative Law Judge Vicki Toyohara, Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings, is 1st Vice President. Arlene Oki, planning and development specialist with the City of Seattle, is 2nd Vice President; Ryan Minato, research analyst for the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, is 3rd Vice President; 4th Vice President is Linda Tanouye, a disabilities management consultant, ADD Rehab Services. Our treasurer is Jeffrey Hattori, Administrator, Nikkei Concerns; Kazzie Katayama, project coordinator, King County, is the Historian.

Members elected to the 2001 Seattle Chapter Board are: Elaine Akagi (department head, Visually Impaired Department, Seattle Public Schools); Shea Aoki (retired business woman); Ryan Chin (analyst, Andersen Consulting); Shannon Doolittle (community coordinator, Seattle Chinatown

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International District Public Development Authority); Ann Fujii Lindwall (office manager, Seattle Public Schools); Gil Hirabayashi (retired); Ayako Hurd (retired); Steve Idemoto (policy researcher, Opportunity Institute); Ruthanne Kurose (trustee, Bellevue Community College); Michael Latimer (financial consultant, Merrill Lynch); Cathy Lowenberg (community liaison, Office of Governor Locke); Matthew Nakata (legislative assistant, State Representative Velma Veloria); May Namba (retired); Chiz Norton (psychologist); Bill Tashima (team leader, Social Security Administration); and Kip Tokuda (State Representative, 37th District).

The Seattle Chapter Board approved the following additions to the board at its November 2000 meeting: Dr. Manaji Suzuki, M.D.; Dawn Furushima; and Suzanne Hamada.

Special acknowledgment to the Nominations Committee members, chairperson Vicki Toyohara, Akemi Matsumoto, Michael Latimer, Jeffrey Hattori, Kazzie Katayama and Sam Shoji, for their efforts in ensuring another successful nominations process and an outstanding slate of officers and board members for 2001. Chairperson Toyohara also acknowledges the assistance of others who

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Join us at the Installation Banquet in celebrating the millenium!

by Ann F. Lindwall and Joanne Kimura, co-chairs, Installation Banquet Committee

We are in the home stretch in the planning of the 79th Annual JACL Installation Banquet, to be held on Saturday, January 27, 2001, at the Doubletree Suites at Southcenter. We are expecting a great turnout since our keynote speaker will be Seattle native and author, Bill Hosokawa.

Seattle JACL has been around for almost 80 years and has done much to raise political consciousness on critical community issues such as racial harassment, discrimination

and violence, and to increase our voices in the political arena. We hope you will be able to join us in celebrating the new millennium.

Tickets for the dinner are \$55 per person. For more information or invitation, contact Ann Fujii Lindwall at (206) 367-8749 or <fujiiilindwall@home.com> or Joanne Kimura at (206) 329-0594 or <kimura@dellnet.com.> Thank you for your support!

President's Message

Akemashite Omedetoogozaimasu!

by Akemi Matsumoto

Akemashite Omedetoogozaimasu! Greetings for the New Year from your new Seattle Chapter Board!

As your incoming President, I am excited about our new 2001 Board. We are 27 strong, with seven new Board members who will bring new ideas and energy to our civil rights work. The Board truly reflects our changing Nikkei community. Even the question of, "Are you Nisei, Sansei or Gosei?" doesn't quite make sense given our multi-ethnic families. We range in age from early 20's to early 90's. Loosely counting, we have seven Nisei, eleven Sansei, two Yonsei, and many others that are mixtures of generations and ethnic backgrounds. The Board has a wide range of professional skills and expertise. Each newsletter, we will highlight three Board members so you will know who is governing your organization. I am truly honored to be working with such a talented group of people.

We already have our work cut out for the new year even before our planning retreat. Here are some dates for you to mark on your calendar—we need you, our members, to come out to serve on committees and attend our events. Our work for social justice is far from finished.

- January 15—Martin Luther King March Garfield High School, 11 AM. Look for the JACL banner and march with us.

- January 27—Installation Banquet, Tukwila, Doubletree Suites, 5:30 PM

- Feb. 19—Day of Remembrance, Renton School District

- March 1—Asian Pacific Islander Day in Olympia

- March 25—Medal of Honor Ceremony

- March 26—Wm. F. Nakamura Federal Courthouse Dedication

- June—Seattle Chapter Scholarship Awards Reception

- July 13, 14, & 15—National JACL Youth Conference at Seattle University, Bi-District Conference in Seattle

These are the events we know of as we begin the new year. It will be an active year for us as we reach out to all communities building bridges to foster social justice. I look forward to serving you as President in 2001.

'Never forgive, never forget'

by Bob Shimabukuro

As I perused JACL: a history of the Seattle Chapter, in particular the section of past presidents, I was startled by the number of presidents I had worked with to produce the chapter newsletter, going all the way back to Kip Tokuda in 1993.

Given the controversial year just passed (and given the nature of the Seattle Chapter, what year hasn't been controversial?), I wondered whether the past year was more so than usual. I remember my first contact with JACL over two decades ago when I was told, "Remember Bob, the unverbilized slogan for the Nisei is, 'Never forgive, never forget.' It's no wonder that I never wanted to be considered a Nisei.

However, sometimes, given the rancor of the debates nationally and within the local chapter, it is obvious that the "never forgive, never forget" spirit is not the exclusive property of the Nisei. Collectively, all Japanese Americans have it. And we should not be so dismissive about it. Used negatively, that spirit will divide and destroy. But used properly it can create miracles. It is the spirit that survived the worst of worlds, built and rebuilt communities, and created powerful and lasting works of art and ideas.

As the editor of Seattle Chapter Newsletter (editor Holly Yasui was taking a two-month leave of absence), I was struck then by the incoming and outgoing presidents' messages in January 1993 and again as I reread them on Christmas night 2000, because they represent the other side of the coin. Yes, never forgive and never forget, but also, think positively and keep on truckin'.

Incoming president Kip Tokuda:

Redress, the murder of Vincent Chin and the Rodney King beating reinforced for me two very basic lessons. The first is that hatred and prejudice can and do affect us in real and ugly ways. The second is that social change will not happen in a vacuum, that traditional boundaries must be crossed, that in order to bring about progressive change, we must work collectively with others who share our goals. These are old themes and ones that most of us espouse. But my hope is that we continue to practice this simple concept of working together, crossing traditional boundaries and showing tangible results in 1993,

Outgoing president Joy St. Germain:

As the year begins, I'd like to share a quotation that encourages me. The quote is from (John) Calvin Coolidge, the 30th president of the United States (1923-'29):

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men

See "Never forget" on next page

Chapter history now available

by Ryan Minato

The Seattle Chapter JACL Historical Booklet is now available, with 86 pages of historical photos and detailed accounts of the past and visions of the future. This history of the Seattle Chapter JACL is offered as a concise record of the Chapter's activities from 1921-2000. Although this booklet does not attempt to present a comprehensive and complete history, it is one small step in preserving for future generations the legacy of the Seattle JACL's history. As one of the oldest chapters in the national organization and a six-time winner of the Inagaki Award, Seattle JACL can indeed be proud of its illustrious roots!

Booklet donors

compiled by Kimi Nakanishi

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with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'press on' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race."

Have a prosperous and happy new year and keep on truckin'.

Calling all former Minidokans, families and friends!

by Suma Yagi

We would like to contact former Minidokans, their families and friends who may not have yet heard about the first "All Minidoka Camp Reunion" on April 4-5, 2001, at Caesars in Las Vegas. We would also like to encourage those who may still be undecided to come join the 500 Minidokans already registered to attend. It is not too late to register for this great event!

The \$125 registration fee includes the hospitality socials and banquet with a short program. The deadline for registering is January 31, 2001. If you wish to stay at Caesars Casino/Hotel, you must call them direct at 1-800-634-6661. Please remember to mention that you are attending the Minidoka Reunion to secure a room at the special rate of \$149 per night.

A reminder, if you plan to attend any Las Vegas shows you should make reservations a minimum of several months in advance. We have a contact, Al and Carol Cross as a resource for information regarding shows being featured at the different casinos and golfing at reasonable rates at some local courses. They can be reached at 1-800-562-2462 or (702) 386-9550 for information, reservations and tickets.

Any questions regarding this reunion should be sent by e-mail to co-chairpersons Mits Kawachi, <kmkawachi@hotmail.com>; or Jim Akagi <moteyote@mindspring.com>.

Registration payment should be sent to Tak Todo, 15537 32nd Avenue N.E., Seattle, WA 98155-6530.

Hope to meet you at Caesars over April 4 and 5, 2001. Join us for a memorable and fun reunion!

Thank You!!!

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helped the Nominations Committee members during the mail-out and ballot count: Ryan Minato; Shig Nishiwaki; and Gil Hirabayashi.

We look forward to a successful and productive year under the leadership of President Akemi Matsumoto. Congratulations to our officers and board members on their election or appointment!

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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Please let us know your concerns.

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