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## JACL Youth/Student Conference inspires thought and action

by Matthew Tatsuo Nakata

A full year of planning and work paid off big for getting youth and students further involved in the JACL during the weekend of July 13-15 here in Seattle.

When I first began to campaign for my position as National Youth/Student Council Chair, the million-dollar question that was posed to me by delegates representing JACL chapters all across the nation was, "How do we get more young people involved?" This question is one that chapters everywhere are asking themselves. Additionally, people are asking, "What is the relevance of the JACL to young people?"

The answer to the above questions is quite clear. On July 9, 2001, (just a few short days prior to our youth conference) Seattle witnessed 14 young Asian Americans—participants in a leadership program—stopped, detained, and harassed for 45 minutes for allegedly jaywalking. Their civil rights were violated and trounced upon as they were searched and repeatedly forced to answer the question, "Do you speak English?" Fortunately, these young people were participants in a leadership program and their instructors knew how to begin the process to get answers to their questions of, "Why us?"

But what about other young people that this type of situation might have happened to? Who do they turn to? Anytime racism rears its ugly head and discrimination occurs, it can be a terrifying experience. Many Americans acknowledge that racism and discrimination exists. Our young people in the Asian Pacific American community, like everyone else, can see and experience racism in school, at work, and, unfortunately, while walking down the street. JACL is first and foremost a civil rights organization and its mission, to protect and uphold the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all Americans, is universal to all generations.

Our National Youth/Student Conference saw 115 young people come together from across the nation, from a variety of ethnic back-

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## Seattle Chapter members win national JACL scholarships

by Akemi Matsumoto

The following two freshmen won \$1000 scholarships from National JACL: Maya Yamazaki was awarded the South Park Japanese Community Scholarship and Mari Hayman was awarded the Yukata Nakazawa Memorial Scholarship.

In addition, Edwin T. Hamada won the \$1200 Reverend H. John Yamashita Memorial Scholarship and Britt T. Yamamoto won the \$5000 Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial graduate scholarship.

The Seattle JACL Chapter also awarded \$7500 in scholarships this year to APIA students who are members of JACL.

Seattle Chapter

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grounds, and a variety of ages within what our organization defines as "youth" (ages 15-25). We were able to listen to inspirational speakers such as State Representative Velma Veloria, State Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos, Albert Mensah, and Paul Kuwata. Participants were also able to hone their understanding of and begin dialogue on a number of issues ranging from Asian Pacific American History to Asian Pacific Americans in Entertainment. Like many other national conferences, we were able to focus on a number of traditional and non-traditional leadership areas through this conference.

What separated this conference from many others, however, was its strong youth focus. While sitting at the Vision Awards Banquet (our conference gala event), I felt a new kind of energy in the room. I saw a group of young dancers dancing to hip hop music to open up the program and as I watched the group perform, I realized that I was watching something different. The performance (and the entire conference planning) did not make JACL relevant to young people; it instead *allowed young people to make JACL relevant to them.*

We heard a number of powerful speeches throughout the weekend. Words will stick with an individual for a long time. But, images of a spoken word/ poetry session from a "kollektive arts" group named "isangmahal" will inspire young people to continue to blaze the trails that those courageous artists have already embarked upon. Seeing 15-year-old April Villanueva sing music that she herself had composed inspires our young people to pursue their dreams. Furthermore, *these images inspire not only words and thought—but they inspire action*

As for the questions posed earlier, there are a number of items that our organization needs to seriously pursue in order to discover the "answers." One year later, I myself have a lot of answers and solutions to "getting young people involved within the JACL." I can also reply that I am still continuing to pursue answers to our (JACL's) national members' and leaders' questions. However, one year later, our organization now has 115 more inspired young people who can aid me in letting the National JACL know what we can do to continue to support young Asian Pacific Americans in our struggles for civil rights, or for that matter, the freedom to walk hassle-free down our city's own streets. *One year later, we have 115 more young people who are able to go back to their communities and want to get involved, who want to move into action to address civil rights issues.*

In closing, I want to add that I think that the Seattle Chapter JACL

See "Youth/Student Conference" on page 4

## Seeking fundamental changes in Seattle Police procedures

by Akemi Matsumoto



July has been a very busy month for our Chapter. In addition to the National Youth Conference and the Bi-District Conference the weekend of July 13th, JACL (National, PNW District, and the Seattle Chapter) actively participated in the protest over the July 9th police incident with 14 of our young APA leaders. A community news conference held July 13th resulted in a community meeting with local Seattle elected officials on July 16th.

This is not a new issue for Seattle JACL. We know there are numerous past incidents of racial profiling of our community members by the police in Seattle and the surrounding communi-

ties. We are targets of racism because of our visibility and the perception of us as perpetual foreigners. The Seattle Chapter Anti-Discrimination Committee has attended the Community Coalition for Police Accountability meetings during the last year. We have donated money to this organization, and we continue to work in coalition with the African American Community to ask for fundamental changes in the standard operating procedures of the Seattle Police Department. This incident points out the need to redouble our efforts for all communities of color who are targets of racial profiling.

United with the APA community, Seattle JACL, along with several other community organizations, are planning both short and long term strategies to foster better relationships between the Seattle Police and communities of color. We will keep you informed.

## JACL Board Profiles

SHANON DOOLITTLE recently joined JACL and has taken over the important chair position of the Anti-Discrimination and Political Education committee. She has two BA degrees in Political Science and Chinese Studies from Pacific Lutheran University. Shanon works in the International District as the Public Safety Manager for the SCIDPDA Community Action Partnership. She has two "wonderful but quirky parents (one from Seattle, the other from Taiwan) and an even more eccentric but loving older sister." Shanon works with JACL to increase her knowledge of the larger APA community and to assist with community projects and outreach for important social and political issues.

KIP TOKUDA is one of our past Seattle Chapter Presidents and has been active in JACL for over 15 years. He served on the Executive and Legislative Action committees for three years. Kip has a Masters Degree in Social Work and is an able Washington State Legislator, known for his child advocacy work at the state and local level. Kip is Sansei married to a Chinese American and has one child. Kip works with JACL to push a social justice agenda and to help the organization strengthen partnerships with non-traditional community partners. Kip was instrumental in establishing the Asian Pacific Community Leadership Program, now in its second year of operation.

ELAINE AKAGI is a life member of JACL and has been active in JACL for over 40 years. She has been with the Seattle Chapter for 10 years and has been a steady force in our work, always contributing and doing more than her fair share. She has attended 14 national conventions and is currently the Governor of the Pacific NW District. A past President of not only the Seattle Chapter, but

also the Detroit Chapter, Elaine is an avid JACLer. Elaine has a Masters in Education in Special Education for the Visually Impaired and a Bachelors Degree in Family Life Education from Wayne State University. Elaine currently works for the Seattle Public Schools as Department Head for the Visually Impaired Program. Elaine is a Nisei and enjoys being involved in the community.

GIL HIRABAYASHI has been active in JACL for about seven years. He has served on the banquet, nominations, and anti-discrimination committees and is currently chair of the By Laws Revision committee and the Search Committee for a Permanent Home for our chapter. Gil is now retired and is a gourmet cook. He has a BA in Social Anthropology with a minor in Psychology from Western Washington University and a Masters in Social Work from the University of Washington. Gil is Sansei and married to a Chinese American and has two children. Gil's goals for serving on the board are "one, to help set a long term course for JACL and its youth; two, to assist in the establishment of ties with other groups especially other communities of color, and three to be an outspoken force in fighting racism.

DAWN FURUSHIMA is a new member of JACL and new to Seattle. She has a BA degree from the University of Hawaii and a Master of Arts degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from Teachers College at Columbia University. She currently teaches ESL at Bellevue and Cascadia Community Colleges. Dawn and her Sansei husband have lived in Japan. Dawn serves on the International Relations Committee. She wants to become an active member in JACL to ensure that Asian Americans are treated equally and to give voice to the Asian Pacific American community.

## By Law Changes as of June 2001

Article III, Section 2, 1 (b) Special members—Non-citizen residents of the United State who desire to become associated with the Chapter. **Passed, without objection**

Section 2- Last paragraph: Except as otherwise provided for in these Bylaws, only active, students, booster, special, senior, and student members shall have the right to hold office, and only active, student, special, booster, and senior citizen members shall have the right to vote. **Passed, without objection**

Friendly amendment- "Any candidate for office must be duly nominated by the Nominating Committee or as provided in Article X- Section 1 and 2." **Passed, without objection**

Section 3: Applications for membership shall be made in such form as prescribed by the board. All memberships shall be on a 12-month basis except for honorary memberships, which are effective for the life of the individual. **Passed, without objection**

Article IV, Section 2: The number of directors shall be forty (40), consisting of eleven (11) officers, twenty-one (21), and eight (8) directors appointed by the President with the approval of the elected directors and officers. Directors shall be elected and appointed annually and the term of each director shall be for the subsequent calendar year or until election and qualification of his/her successor. **Passed, without objection**

Article VI, Section 1: 16) Endowment Fund. **Passed, without objection**

Section 4: The chairperson of each committee shall be appointed by the respective officer to whom the committee reports. **Passed, without objection**

Article V, Section 3: All active, special, booster, student, and senior members are eligible to hold any office; provided, that the President, President-Elect and Vice Presidents, shall be twenty-on (21) years of age or older. **Passed, with one abstention**

Article VII, Section 2: Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than seven (7) nor more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting, either personally, by email, or by mail by the Corresponding Secretary, who shall be acting at the direction of the individual or individuals calling the meeting who shall also set the place, day, and hour of the meeting. (added email in proposed change) **Passed, without objection**

Article IX, Section 2: The Board shall determine annual Chapter dues. **Passed, without objection**

Article XII -Misconduct (renaming of Article) **Passed, without objection**

Section 1 & 2: Tabled for review and amendment changes.

Section 3: If a sanctions motion fails to attain a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote the issue is considered closed. **Passed, without objection**

Friendly amendment- Both parties should be given a written notice on the final vote and decision. **Passed, without objection**

## Seattle Chapter JACL Officer Responsibilities

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, all general meetings of the membership and Executive Cabinet meetings. S/he shall, with the Treasurer, sign leases and contracts approved by the Board of Directors. S/he shall be an ex-officio member of all committees (and of the Advisory Board) and cultivate leadership among members of the Board. S/he shall attend community meetings on behalf of the organization and be a spokesperson at such meetings. S/he shall assure that the annual report is filed and minutes and other records are maintained. **Passed, without objection**

Friendly amendment "includes budget responsibilities." **Passed, without objection**

Vice Presidents- Responsibilities for all vice-presidents: "solicits and appoints chairperson of each committee assigned." **Passed, without objection**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President will monitor the activities of assigned standing JACL Committees/Activities. A brief progress report will be made at each board meeting. **Passed, without objection**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President will monitor the activities of assigned standing JACL Committees/Activities. A brief progress report will be made at each board meeting. **Passed, without objection**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President will monitor the activities of assigned standing JACL Committees/Activities. A brief progress report will be made at each board meeting. **Passed, without objection**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President will monitor activities of assigned standing JACL standing Committees/Activities. A brief progress report will be made at each board meeting. **Passed, without objection**

The Treasurer shall assist the President and designated board members in developing an annual budget and in managing of the endowment fund. **Passed, without objection.**

## New Members and Renewals

### Individual

Frank Abe  
Jeffrey Hattori  
Masa Hirano  
Dr. Frank Hori  
George Kaminishi  
Mitsuhiro Kodama  
Kathy Kozu  
Alan Kurimura  
Mitsuo Matsushita  
Frank Miyamoto  
Ruby Nakamura  
Akari Sato  
Grant Takemura

Keiko Anne Taki  
Kimi Tanaka  
Harold Taniguchi  
(New)  
Joe Yabuki (New)  
Suma Yagi

Couples/Family  
Karen and David  
Cunningham  
Barry and Shelley  
Kikuchi  
Hugo Kurose Family  
Gail Nomura/  
Stephen Sumida  
family

Joshua and Carol  
Suehiro  
The Tomita Family  
Shig and Mildred  
Tsutsumi

Thousand Club  
George Kodama  
Koko Sutow  
(Spouse)

Student  
Sheng Lam

## Thank You!!!

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter is sponsored partly through generous donations from:

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has done a magnificent job in getting young people involved and keeping JACL inclusive of our younger community members. One of our biggest assets is that our multigenerational board has many people who are highly supportive of young people. For me personally, it was gratifying to see so many of our chapter and community members assist in making this year's National Youth/ Student Conference something unique and highly successful.

### 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

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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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