

Seattle Chapter

JACL

Newsletter

September 2001

VOLUME 38, NO. 9

2001 Bi-District Conference: 'thought-provoking, informative and fun for all'

by Elaine Akagi

The Pacific Northwest (PNWD) and Intermountain (ID) districts of the JACL met July 12-15 at the Best Western Executive Inn near Seattle Center. Delegates and friends from Utah, Idaho, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Alaska, gathered on Thursday evening to meet and dine at the opening reception. Among the attendees were members of the National Board, including all of the elected officers. Friendships were renewed, while many friendships were begun. The Seattle Chapter was host to this event, so many from the chapter board were present.

The two districts met on Friday morning to hear reports from our national officers. The meeting was shortened so that delegates would have the opportunity to attend a press conference called by API community leaders over the detainment by Seattle Police of members an API youth leadership training program. The press conference attracted the attention of the local media and brought to the forefront the reason JACL exists. JACL's National Director John Tateishi and National President Floyd Mori attended the press conference and spoke on behalf of the organization. They also attended a Seattle City Council meeting held later that day.

The awards luncheon, delayed an hour by the press conferences, honored Maya Hata Lemon for her dedicated work in advocating to make Minidoka a National Memorial and Steve Finley for his efforts to have the Federal Courthouse in Seattle named for William Kenzo Nakamura. Also honored with the Sapphire pin were Don Maekawa, from the Lake Washington chapter, and Terry Yamada, from the Portland chapter. Keynote speaker Dr. Satsuki Ina, who produced the documentary "Children of the Camps" and worked with former internees, spoke on the psychological effects of major trauma. Ina's documentary addressed the issues of those who were children when they were incarcerated during WWII.

In the evening the delegates had an opportunity to visit SAFECO Field and watch our winning Mariners and Ichiro. Although the San Francisco contingency was most pleased with the Giant's win, all who attended the game had an enjoyable evening.

Our Saturday session focusing on healing (thus the theme,



Song of the Earth, one in a set of five cards that memorialize the influence of Nikkei farmers in the development of Pike Place Market. The two text panels of the seven-panel public art mural by Aki Sogabe are reprinted on the backs of this card set. This five-card set is being sold for \$15, and can be ordered from the chapter using the order form on page three. All proceeds benefit the Seattle Chapter JACL.

Honshin, meaning "true heart") began with a keynote address by John Tateishi, who spoke to the bitterness that has remained in the JA community over the wartime incarceration and the role played by JACL; the honor and pride we share over the veterans of the 442nd, 100th, and the MIS; and the anger towards the wartime resisters of conscience.

Following the address, Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos, moderated a panel discussion. The panel consisted of Mits Koshiyama, a resister of conscience; Fred Shiosaki, a veteran; Frank Abe, producer of the documentary, *Conscience and the Constitution*; and Bill Hosokawa, journalist and longtime JACLer. Each panelist spoke of their experience and tried to describe the circumstances and atmosphere during the time of internment. It is difficult for the younger JA's to understand what happened in the early '40s, and we hoped that this panel might help to clear the air. Rep. Santos did a superb job of setting the stage and, in the end, closing the discussion. Following the panel, attendees praised our district's initiative in beginning a dialogue and educating our membership. Suggestions have been made to have a similar panel at the national convention next year.

A number of workshops followed in the afternoon. Two tracks were provided. One, focusing on senior issues, had representatives from AARP leading the workshop. AARP was a significant funder of the bi-district conference. The second track focused on Minidoka, with Dr. Ina addressing how this traumatic event affected the former internees. Also addressed was the current movement to have the Minidoka National Monument funded and how we can help to keep it a reminder to future generations.

The delegates also attended the National Youth/Student Conference Vision Awards Dinner. I think we all marveled at the young dance troupe that performed. Were we really able to make those moves at one time? Many of us even walked over to the Youth Dance, to hear a young talent by the name of April Villanueva. It

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President's Message

Going, going, gone: JACL business makes summer fly away!

by Akemi Matsumoto



It has been a very busy summer with the two JACL conferences, the Seattle police incident involving 14 youth leadership program trainees, redistricting, the continued search for a permanent home for Seattle JACL and our current note card fundraiser! The summer has flown by.

Several Seattle JACLers volunteered for the National OCA Conference the last weekend in July—it was a huge multi-generational conference with workshops, a job fair, high school and college leadership days, and a senior health screening fair.

We also volunteered at the Green Lake ceremony honoring victims of all violence, "Hiroshima to Hope" *toro nagashi*, which honored the victims of all violence, and at the Nisei Vets screening of the video on the Medal of Honor Ceremony.

Increasing the pool of bone marrow for multi-ethnic populations

contributed by Jeffrey Hattori

Nicole Howard is a bright, independent, fun, and beautiful 4-year-old from Seattle. Suddenly, in May of this year, she could not walk. That same day, she was admitted into the hospital and her parents were given the devastating news that Nicole had chronic myeloid leukemia (CML). CML is a very rare type of leukemia found in only one child out of a million under the age of ten. The only known cure is a bone marrow transplant.

To date, no suitable bone marrow donor has been found for Nicole. Because Nicole is multi-ethnic (Japanese and Caucasian), her search for a bone marrow match is much more difficult. Few multi-ethnic individuals (2%) are registered as donors.

Help Nicole, a volunteer organization committed to finding Nicole a bone marrow match, is sponsoring a bone marrow registration drive on September 15, 10 AM–4 PM, at Garfield Community Center in Seattle. The event is co-sponsored by the MAVIN Foundation and Puget Sound Blood Center, with corporate sponsorship from CityBank and Kim Marine Documentation.

Revised JACL website allows more member contact with Congress

by Ryan Chin

Many changes have been made to the National JACL web site recently; however, the main goal remains the same: to fight discrimination. As such, we have incorporated software that allows members and those interested in fighting for equality to follow issues and federal legislation important to the JACL. Users can now see how their elected officials stand on legislation, follow the voting record of their Congresspeople, and instantly have letters written to their legislators with several clicks of the mouse. The incorporation of these tools makes it easier for the JACL to be able to forcefully advocate for anti-discriminatory legislation. Users will

See "Web power" on page 4

I testified at the Seattle Redistricting Commission Hearing on August 2nd stressing the community of interest that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have because of their common issues. A community of interest is one of the defined means for redrawing district lines. Seattle JACL, represented by Tatsuo Nakata and Cathy Lowenberg, is participating in Raising our Asian Representation (ROAR) and CAPAA efforts to coordinate community input into the redistricting process.

On a final note, I would like to thank all of you who have sent us unsolicited donations. Some come with membership renewals from those aware that our local chapter only receives \$4 of the \$50 membership fee. Other donations just come. To date this year we have received over \$2200 ranging from \$5 to \$250. These generous donations help us use the precious time the Board and General Members volunteer for our civil rights and advocacy work.

THANK YOU!

tration drive on September 15, 10 AM–4 PM, at Garfield Community Center in Seattle. The event is co-sponsored by the MAVIN Foundation and Puget Sound Blood Center, with corporate sponsorship from CityBank and Kim Marine Documentation.

Help Nicole's steering committee and volunteers are made up of the Howard family, Ooka family, friends, relatives and other caring individuals who are united in successfully reaching this very important goal. For more information, visit their website at <www.helpnicole.org>.

New Members and Renewals

Individual	Motoi Naito	Thousand Club
Emi Abe (New)	Richard Okamoto	Smith Hayami
Sumie Akizuki	George Osawa	Miyo Kiba
Jill Yamada Cooke	Catherine Quemuel	
Patricia Fujii	Tad Sato	Student
Kiyoshi Fukano	Jerry Shigaki	John D'Ambrosia (New)
Fred Hasegawa	Tone Shimizu	Jim McCullough
Phil Hayasaka	Charles Z Smith	Kenji McCullough
Joyce Hands	Marilyn Suzuki	David Martos (New)
Hannah Hirabayashi	Eddie Tsuruta (New)	Kenji Onishi
David Hoekendorf	Ruth Woo (New)	Robyn Rader
Akio Hoshino	Etsuo Yoshitome	Mariko Sata
Douglas Kanai		
Rod Kim (New)	Couples/Family	Boosters
Janet Kometani	Marshall Hoffman	Miyuki Maruhashi (New)
David Koyama	Family	Rosie Sugahara
Lisa Matsukawa-Chinn	Washin and Kathleen	
Michael Matsunami	Murakami	
Ryan Minato	Curtis and Wendy Ono	
Iris Miyahira	Gordon Sata and Doris	
Kay Mori	Lock	
Paul Mori		

Book about Seattle redress pioneers released

by Bob Shimabukuro

It is here at last. *Born in Seattle: The Campaign for Japanese American Redress*, written by yours truly and published by the University of Washington Press, has been released. A reading and book release party sponsored by the Seattle Chapter JACL, Wing Luke Asian Museum (WLAM), Northwest Asian American Theatre (NWAAT) and the University of Washington Press will be held on Wednesday, September 26, 5-7:30 p.m.

Outside of a small circle of Asian American Studies scholars and graduate school students, little is known about Japanese American redress. Even less is known about the roots of redress. A common misperception is that young "radical" Sansei started the movement. Few know that redress started in Seattle with a handful of Nisei Boeing engineers angry about the treatment they were receiving at work.

Born in Seattle is about community organizers, many of whom you may know, who mobilized within and beyond their community to pull off what many thought was an impossible dream in the early 1970s. They were driven in their belief that, given the truth about World War II expulsion and incarceration of Japanese Americans, the American public would support their campaign. As we all know, the campaign was successful.

Come join us at the book party and help us celebrate the book release. If you can't make that date, you'll have another opportunity October 2, 7:30 PM, at a book reading at Elliott Bay Book Company, co-sponsored by Asian American Journalists Association.

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sure looked like the kids were having a lot of fun!

The conference came to an end, on a typical rainy Seattle day. The joint districts met a final time (at least for another two years) and passed a joint resolution to support a Salt Lake City constitutional proposal to eliminate the status of "Special Members," non-citizens who have all the privileges of membership, EXCEPT, to hold national office. The resolution will enable all members to have the same rights and privileges. This issue will be presented at the National Council session next year.

Conference attendees ended their stay by attending a special performance of *Miss Minidoka 1943*, a tour of the Wing Luke Asian Museum, and participated in the Tacoma Obon. The weekend was a productive, thought-provoking, informative and fun for all.



Japanese Farmers at the Pike Place Market

Please send me _____ sets of "Japanese Farmers at the Pike Place Market," a five-card set. I have enclosed \$15 for each set, plus a \$3 postage and handling fee."

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

NAME: _____

STREET (OR PO BOX#): _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE (indicate whether day or eves/weekend) _____

Please send completed form to:
Seattle Chapter JACL
PO Box 18558
Seattle, WA 98118-0558

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JACL Booklet

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Lucy Kishiue	Paula Harris-White
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Kay Mori
Ruth Woo

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Thank You!!!

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Web power, continued from page 2

find that this level of advocacy online is unique to the JAACL. I encourage you to use this feature weekly, and also to e-mail friends about this feature on jacl.org.

Simply, go to <jacl.org>, enter your zip code in the box on the left side, click enter; click the message you would like to write about; fill in your address in the boxes provided; and send your message.

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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