



Consultant Byron Kunisawa to keynote Installation Banquet at Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport

by Manaji Suzuki and Suzanne Hamada
Installation Banquet Committee co-chairs

With the 30th Installation Banquet rapidly approaching, the committee is hard at work ensuring the success of this much-anticipated event on January 26, 2002, at the Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport. *Please make note of the change in venue!* For your convenience, parking will be validated.

To date sponsorship has been secured from 16 corporations, with Eli Lilly and Company (\$3,000), The Bon Marche', Microsoft and Vulcan, Inc. (\$2,000) all making generous contributions. Additionally, community ads are being collected for the program booklet. If you know of any business that would benefit from increased exposure to our membership, please call Suzanne Hamada at (206) 985-2697 and we can send them an advertisement form.

The committee welcomes Byron Kunisawa as our keynote speaker this year. Mr. Kunisawa is a Sansei who was born in an internment camp at Topaz, Utah and raised in Oakland, California. He is the founder of Cultural Solutions, Inc. He has provided diversity workshops for federal agencies such as The White House, NASA, the National Science Foundation, and the EPA as well several high tech firms such as GTE and Bell Communications. Byron has published numerous articles and is a sports columnist for *Kick-Off Magazine*. He has been awarded the *NASA Public Service Award and Medal* for his contributions to enhancing civil rights of all Americans.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Banquet and would like to extend a special invitation to the newest members of our Chapter. Please join us for this evening of fun and fellowship!

**30th Installation Banquet
January 26, 2002
Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport
18740 Pacific Highway South**

Congratulations to the 2002 Seattle Chapter JACL Officers, Board Members!

by Vicki Toyohara

Congratulations to the recently elected 2002 Seattle Chapter JACL officers and board members. They reflect the diversity and strength of our Nikkei community in their occupations, and in their involvement in the JACL organization, our Nikkei community and our community at large. The officers and board will continue to lead the Seattle JACL in its civil rights activities and on issues important to the members of the Seattle JACL, the Nikkei community, communities of color and the broader Seattle-area community.

The 2002 Seattle Chapter president is Arlene Oki, long-time community activist, who works as a Planning and Development Specialist for the City of Seattle. President-elect is Matthew "Tatsuo" Nakata, Legislative Assistant for Washington State Representative Velma Veloria. First vice-president is Elaine Akagi, Department Head, Visually Impaired Department, Seattle Public Schools; 2nd vice-president is Joy Shigaki, Community Relations Specialist, King County; 3rd vice-president is Cathy Lowenberg, Community Liaison, Office of Governor Locke; and 4th vice-president is Linda Tanouye, Vocational Consultant, ADD Rehab Management.

Our treasurer is Jeffrey Hattori, Allied Specialist, Eli Lilly; May Namba is corresponding secretary. Recording secretary Suzanne Hamada is a Program Coordinator, Asian Pacific Island Community Leadership Foundation. Kazzie Katayama, Project Coordinator, King County, is our historian; and our board delegate is Akemi Matsumoto, counselor/instructor, Bellevue Community College.

Members elected to the 2002 Seattle Chapter Board are: Shea Aoki (retired); Ryan Chin (consultant, Accenture); Shannon Doolittle (program manager, Seattle Chinatown-International District PDA); Ann Fujii Lindwall (office manager, Seattle Public Schools); Steve Idemoto (research analyst, Economic Opportunities Institute); Gene Kanamori (district human resource manager, United Parcel Services); Ruthann Kurose (trustee, Bellevue Community College); Michael Latimer (financial consultant, Salomon Smith Barney); Ryan Minato (research analyst, Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs); Shig Nishiwaki (product designer, Spacelabs Medical); Chiz Norton (psychologist); Manaji Suzuki (pediatrician, Medalia Silver Lake Pediatrics); Bill Tashima (office director, Social Security Administration); Kip Tokuda (state representative, 37th District); Vicki Toyohara (administrative law judge,

The End of a Year to Remember

by Akemi Matsumoto

The year 2001 will long be remembered because of September 11th. The terrorist attacks made us all reevaluate our lives, our priorities, and our deepest held convictions. In times of fear, JACL will continue to speak up for the freedoms and civil liberties upon which our democracy is built. Seattle JACL had three goals for 2001: 1. to forge at least one new coalition in our civil rights work; 2. to increase our Chapter membership by 30% and 3. to improve the decision making process and communication among Board members.

1. After September 11th, a broad-based coalition was formed to support the Muslim, Arab, and other communities that have experienced discrimination and hate crimes. Seattle JACL is part of this coalition and will work for a Hate Free Washington. We also have worked with the following organizations during the year to build a stronger voice for our communities:

Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of King County, Nisei Veterans Committee, University of Washington Law School, Asian Bar Association, Organization of Chinese Americans, Densho Project, Wing Luke Asian Museum, Seattle Sansei, Cherry Blossom Festival Committee, Island Landmarks, National Japanese American Historical Society, Asian Community Leadership Foundation, Raising our Asian Representation, Community Coalition for Police Accountability, Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, Help Nicole Organization, Northwest Asian American Theater, Aki Kurose Memorial Committee.

2. Our membership goal has been met because of the hard work of our membership chair, Bill Tashima. (See his article for detailed

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Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings); Janice Yee (director, Denise Louie Education Center); and Victoria Yuki (Seattle Housing Authority).

Special acknowledgment to the Nominations Committee members: Vicki Toyohara, Chairperson; Arlene Oki; Kazzie Katayama; Michael Latimer; Akemi Matsumoto; and Tatsuo Nakata for their hard work and efforts in ensuring a successful nominations process and an outstanding slate of officers and board members for 2002.

We look forward to a successful and productive year during 2002 under the leadership of President Arlene Oki. Congratulations President Oki, officers and board members on your election!

numbers.) The Asian Community Leadership Foundation chose Seattle JACL's membership drive as a group project for their leadership trainees. This group formed our new Kaizen Youth Group to organize activities that will hopefully increase our membership among the next generation of APAs.

3. Our Board has worked very hard to update our bylaws, clarify our procedures and document our projects. For an organization to sustain itself in a time of transition, it is vital to openly discuss expectations, values, and procedures. The changing membership of JACL impacts the underlying culture of our organization.

In addition to our goals for the year, we have worked on three critical issues: the Seattle Police-Community Relations, Congressional Redistricting, and the discrimination faced by many communities in the aftermath of September 11th. These issues are the heart of the work of a civil rights organization like Seattle JACL.

Congratulations to Arlene Oki, our 2002 President. We are in capable hands. I am humbled to have served as President this year and am awed by the dedication and hard work of all the volunteers that make Seattle JACL such a vibrant organization. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to "walk my talk."

Kaizen does Hollywood, plans activities and projects

by Edwin Toshio Hamada

The Kaizen Group (our Chapter's newly formed group for youth and young professionals) celebrated its 2nd month in glamorous style by sending nine volunteers to help as escorts for the AMMY Awards in Los Angeles. The AMMY Awards honors Asians and Asian Americans in film and televised entertainment. While no one was "discovered" from our group, they did report having a wonderful time. For more information on the AMMYs, visit the website <www.ammyawards.com>.

On the local scene, Kaizen has an array of activities and projects in the works. Recently, the group attended the play, *Sex in Seattle*. The comedy about Asian American female friends borrows its theme from the popular HBO award winning series "Sex in the City."

Aside from these social events, The Kaizen Group is planning on helping Habitat for Humanity, an organization which brings families and communities in need together with volunteers and resources to build affordable housing. Volunteers will need to attend an orientation session prior to working on-site. If you are interested in participating, or need more information, contact <thekaizengroup@hotmail.com>.

As the holiday season draws near, members of The Kaizen Group

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will be supporting a toy and food drive for needy families sponsored by Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS).

Last but not least, in order to be "official" (versus a bunch of friends hanging out and having a lot of fun) we are finalizing the first Kaizen constitution. This important document will provide framework for this group for years to come.

Kaizen meets twice monthly on Sunday mornings. We will be meeting on the 2nd and the 16th in December at 11 AM. Folks interested in joining are welcome to stop by the JACL office at that time. Hope to see you then! If you have any questions about The Kaizen Group, please contact Edwin Hamada at <toshio@u.washington.edu> or (206) 985-2697.

Corrections on board bios

The following is a corrected bio of board member Shea Aoki. We apologize for any embarrassment the article may have caused.

SHEA AOKI is a lifetime member of JACL and has been involved for over 60 years. She has served on almost all of our committees but most notable are the Cherry Blossom committee for over 25 years, the Endowment committee from 1988-1994 and serving as Chapter Historian for many years. Shea attended Hairdressing and Tailoring School in Oregon, and operated Broadway Cleaners in Seattle before retiring. Shea is also a volunteer at Keiro Nursing Home and is active in the St. Peter's Episcopal Church parish. At 86, Shea hopes to encourage young people to learn about their Nikkei history and the history of Seattle JACL.

Chapter increases membership 32 percent; exceeds goal

by Bill Tashima

At the beginning of this year, Chapter President Akemi Matsumoto and the JACL Board pledged to work toward a 30% increase in chapter membership as a priority goal for 2001. Seattle JACL membership had dipped to below 490 members at the end of year 2000.

Through Matsumoto's leadership and continued focus on membership issues, the JACL Board met its 2001 goal. As of November 2001, the Seattle Chapter had 649 members (32% increase).

The Board is resolved to continue to work toward increasing our membership numbers. At the November meeting, Board members sent out over 100 personalized letters to friends and community members urging that they join the Seattle JACL. The Board has also enthusiastically supported the Kaizen Youth Council which will encourage young Asian and Pacific Islanders to join JACL.

Of course, our best resource for increasing our membership is our current 649 members. Please ask your relatives, friends

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Thank You!!!
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Emily Momohara (New)	Jon and Bobbe Bridge
Shigeru Nishiwaki	Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Nomura
Victor Takemoto	Mr. and Mrs. Alan Yabuki
Hideo Watanabe	

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and acquaintances to consider joining the Seattle Chapter.

For further membership information, visit our website at <www.jaclseattle.org>, e-mail us at <email@jaclseattle.org>, or leave a message at the JAACL office at (206) 320-0095. You can also contact Bill Tashima, Membership Coordinator, at (206) 525-0525 or email at <buber@aol.com>.

Seattle Chapter JAACL Newsletter

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