

James K. Okubo Medical and Dental Clinic Dedication

by Arlene Oki, President

Over 300 Nisei veterans, their families, and friends attended the Dedication Ceremony for the James K. Okubo Medical and Dental Complex on February 21, 2002 at Fort Lewis.

Governor Gary Locke, Army Chief of Staff Eric K. Shinseki, and Mrs. Nobuyo Okubo, Technician Fifth Grade (T/5) James K. Okubo's widow, participated in the ceremony. Long-time political friends of the Nikkei community, former Governor Mike Lowry and Seattle City Council Jan Drago showed support by joining the community event.

In addition to Nisei Veterans Committee members and Steve Finley, Lt. Colonel Edmund Haraguchi, Chief of the Logistics Division at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, worked tirelessly to get approval from the Commander of Madigan, the Commander of the Dental Command, the Commander of the Western Regional Command, and the Commander of Fort Lewis before he could take it to the Surgeon General and Army Headquarters. Steve reports that Lt. Col. Haraguchi received strong support from each of these leaders.

An exhibit chronicling James Okubo's life is placed at the entrance of the clinic and numerous Aki Sogabe prints adorn walls throughout the building.

T/5 Okubo was presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously in June 2000. In a moving tribute, General Shinseki said that James Okubo, his two brothers and two cousins, all volunteered and were assigned to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team even as their families were confined in Tule Lake and, later, Heart Mountain. His brothers suffered disabling wounds, and one cousin killed.

The following is an excerpt from the program booklet covering his heroism: "T/5 Okubo, a medic, crawled 150 yards to within 40 yards of the enemy lines. Two grenades were thrown at him while he left his last covered position to carry back wounded comrades. Under constant barrages of enemy small arms and machine gun fire, he treated 17 men on 28 October and 8 more men on 29 October. On 4 November, T/5 Okubo ran 75 yards under grazing machine gun fire and, while exposed to hostile fire directed at him, evacuated and treated a seriously wounded crewman from a burning tank, who otherwise would have died. T/5 James K. Okubo's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit and the United States Army." Many Nikkei would want to add, ... and the Japanese American community.



Bill Tashima and General Eric Shinseki

St. Peter's Fundraising Dinner, "The Big Take Out"

by Joy Shigaki, 2nd Vice-President

St. Peter's Episcopal Parish announces the 30th edition of its fundraising dinner, known as "The Big Take Out," on Saturday, May 4, 2002, from 12 PM until 5 PM at St. Peter's Parish Hall, 1610 South King Street, Seattle.

The event will feature both a barbeque country style spare rib dinner plate and a salmon dinner plate. The salmon recipe for this year's dinner is courtesy of Harry Yoshimura, from Seattle's well-known fish market, Mutual Fish. The meals will be packaged as take-out, however, seating will be available in the Parish Hall.

Also featured at "The Big Take Out" will be booths featuring Japanese confections, baked goods, and crafts made by the women of St. Peter's. Additionally, St. Peter's popular cookbooks, "Oriental Flavors I" and "Oriental Flavors II" will be available for purchase.

The donation for either the barbeque rib or salmon plates for this year's event is \$8.00. Tickets will be available at the door, or can be purchased ahead of time by calling the St. Peter's Parish office at (206) 323-5250. All of the proceeds from "The Big Take Out" will be used to support St. Peter's outreach ministries. If you have any questions, please contact the St. Peter's church office at (206) 323-5250.

Congratulations

Thank you State Representative Kip Tokuda of the 37th District for all your dedication and commitment to the Washington APA community. Good luck on your future endeavors!

"Oriental" Bill Becomes A Law

1) Engrossed Senate Bill 5954 requires that, as of July 1, 2002, all state and local government statutes, codes, rules, regulations, and other official documents are required to use the term "Asian" when referring to persons of Asian descent. The use of the term "Oriental" is prohibited.

2) Urges all state and local entities to review their statutes, codes, rules, regulations, and other official documents and revise them to omit the use of the term "Oriental" when referring to persons of Asian descent.

3) Declares that, as used in RCW 35.22.650, the term "minority business" means a business at least fifty-one percent of which is owned by minority group members. Minority group members include, but are not limited to, blacks, women, native Americans, Asians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and Hispanics.

Passed by the Senate: March 11, 2002, Yeas 42, Nays 2
Passed by the House: March 6, 2002, Yeas 86, Nays 6
Governor Locke signed ESB 5954 on April 2, 2002.
ESB 5954 is effective July 1, 2002.

President's Message

by Arlene Oki, President

Though there were several events that were truly memorable during the past month, I must admit that the one that made me most proud involved the naming of the beautiful new medical and dental complex at Fort Lewis for Congressional Medal of Honor awardee Medic James K. Okubo. Though the day was overcast, windy and rainy, the bright spirits of pride and victory made the gloomy day seem inconsequential. We were honored with the presence of the Army's Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki and Governor Gary Locke. It was obvious that he has not forgotten his roots in the Japanese American community in spite of his spectacular ascension into the highest ranks of the U.S. military establishment. We should be proud that a state of the art medical and dental complex has been named for a hero of Japanese ancestry. We can also be proud that today the highest position in the U.S. Army is held by a Japanese American.

I attended the 57th Annual Nisei Veterans Committee Installation Banquet and was very surprised to see a very large group of veterans, wives, children, and grandchildren because it was snowing heavily that afternoon. Again, I had an opportunity to hear a speech by an articulate Japanese American military person, this time a representative of the U.S. Navy. Captain David Yoshihara, who is in charge of operations for U.S. ships in the North Arabian Sea, presented interesting comments about his service on the USS Carl Vinson. The Vinson is a major launching pad for 200 aircraft fighting in the war in Afghanistan. While he showed videos that depicted the destructive nature of war, he also deviated from his wartime recollections to express gratitude for his Japanese American heritage. He noted that the success of future generations is dependent on generations helping each other and families that are close and nurturing.

After those proud days, a National JACL news alert snapped me out of thinking that maybe, just maybe, the state of race relations was improving. The subject of the news alert was the

vitriolic attack on the Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta by syndicated columnist Ann Coulter. The contents of that article serve as a grim reminder that respect for people of color even Presidential Cabinet level people of color, has not changed much. The article in question, which was distributed to major news outlets by Universal Press Syndicate and its parent company, Andrews McMeel Universal, suggests that "Secretary Mineta is burning with hatred for America — he's subjecting all of America to the Bataan Death March!" Her article trivializes the wartime experience of Japanese Americans and criticizes Secretary Mineta for correlating what happened to Japanese Americans with the recent attacks against Arabs and Muslim Americans. The columnist's cynicism and racism came through loud and clear, clearly a discredit to an otherwise worthy profession.

The JACL press alert and the Coulter article can be found at: www.jacl.org/current_prs/condemn_coulter.html. Letters to protest the column, to demand that Andrews McMeel Universal drop future Coulter columns and eliminate her from the speaker's bureau can be mailed to:

John P. McMeel
Chairman, Andrews McMeel Universal
Chairman, Andrews McMeel Publishing

Kathleen W. Andrews
Vice Chairman, Andrews McMeel Universal
Chief Executive Officer, Andrews McMeel Publishing

Andrews McMeel Universal, 4520 Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64111-7701

Most JACL committees are now organized. These include the Anti-Discrimination Committee, the Special Events Committee, the Scholarship Committee, the Installation Banquet

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Announcements

Volunteer

Apr. 20 – Sushi making for Cherry Blossom Festival, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 1610 South King Street, 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Contact: (206) 328-8156 or shigaki@juno.com.

Thank You

For your generous donations:
Linda Sakai in memory of Grace and Katsu Sakai
Margaret Pageler
Tama Tokuda
Linda Suyama
Diane Narasaki and ACRS in honor of Arlene Oki's presidency

Events Calendar

Apr. 19-21 – 27th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival & Japanese Cultural Festival, Seattle Center, all day, free. Contact: (206) 684-7200.

Apr. 25 – Ronald Takaki, "Why Multiculturalism Matters in America," room 130, Kane Hall, University of Washington, Seattle, free tickets, 7 PM. Contact: (206) 634-3400.

May 3 – Seattle Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance fundraiser dinner and silent auction, China Harbor Restaurant, 2040 Westlake Ave. N, Seattle, 6 PM. Contact: (206) 683-8988 or apalaseattle@aol.com.

May 5 – "Journey to Democracy" will explore social justice issues raised by the removal and incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II, keynote United States Senator Daniel Inouye, Seattle Central Community College, 1701 Broadway, 1 - 5 PM. Contact: (206) 587-3800.

May 22 – "Practice and Politics of Multiculturalism" with Dr. Evelyn Hu-DeHart, Bellevue Community College, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, free, 7 - 9 PM. Contact: (425) 564-2202.

June 26-30 – Biennial JACL National Convention, Las Vegas. www.jacl.org.

2002 Banquet A Huge Success

by Suzanne Hamada, Banquet Committee Chair

"Honoring Our Past, Forging a New Future" was the theme for the Seattle Chapter's 80th Annual Installation Banquet held on January 26, 2002, at the Doubletree Hotel, Seattle Airport. Despite the snowfall, over 400 people attended the event. Greetings were delivered by Governor Gary Locke; Deputy Director, King County Department of Transportation, Mr. Harold Taniguchi; Deputy Mayor of Seattle, Mr. Tim Cies; and Senior Council of Japan, Mr. Yoshihara Araki.

Ms. Jill Nishi, Deputy Director of the Washington State Office of Trade and Economic Development, served as the Master of Ceremonies; Reverend David Nieda of Blaine Memorial Methodist Church delivered the Invocation; Mr. Bryan Takeuchi, Commander of the Nisei Veterans Committee, led the Flag Salute. Former National JACL President, Mr. Frank Sato, installed the Board of Directors. Mr. Byron Kunisawa, Founder of *Cultural Solutions, Inc.*, delivered the keynote address. An appeal on behalf of the Help Nicole Organization was made by State Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos and Trish Howard. Taiko drum group, *Kaze Daiko*, and R&B Recording Artist, April, gave special performances at the beginning of the evening.

Gene Kanamori and Jeffrey Hattori were given Community Service Awards in recognition of their continued dedication and service. Kazzie Katayama, Elaine Akagi, and Tatsuo Nakata received the Unsung Heroes Awards for their individual contributions to the JACL Seattle Chapter and the community.

The Banquet was co-sponsored by Eli Lilly, Microsoft, The Bon Marche and Vulcan. Corporate sponsors included Boeing, Eddie Bauer, Key Bank, McDonalds, Motoda Foundation, PEMCO, State Farm, United Parcel Service and Uwajimaya.

There are so many people who should be recognized for their contributions to the success of the 2002 Banquet: our co-sponsors and corporate sponsors, the many businesses who purchased an ad in the program booklet, all of the elected officials and community leaders who found time in their schedules to attend, the community tables and their table captains, the generous individuals who made a donations, to The Kaizen Group for their help with decorations and coats, and to our wonderful membership for your continued support and attendance. Finally, we would be remiss if we did not thank the 2002 Installation Banquet Committee. Your commitment and enthusiasm are inspiring and greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in getting involved in the 2003 Installation Banquet Committee, please contact Suzanne Hamada at (206) 985-2697 or at sdhamada@yahoo.com.

Newsletter Sponsors

The Seattle Chapter Newsletter is sponsored in part by these generous donors:

The Bon Marche	Microsoft
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Recent Membership

Individual

George Abe	Aiko Mizuki
Penny Atcheson	Mako Nakagawa
Alan Furushima	James Nakamoto
Mary Furuta	Sylvia Nogaki
Sharon Harada	Keiko Nungesser (new)
Frank Hidaka	Shuri Saigusa (new)
Debra Hiraki	Yuki Sato
William Hirata	Joy Shigaki
George Kakiuchi	Ruth Shimano
Yo Kaneko	Samuel Shinozaki
J Mark Kawabata (new)	Brian Takagi, MD (new)
Larry Kazumura	Linda Tanouye
Yeichi Kozu	Michi Tanouye (new)
G-Bob Matsumoto	Laurie Tazuma, MD
Yoshiye Mayeda	Tak Tsuchida
Darrell Mihara	Donald Yee

Couples and Family

Donald Akira Family	Donald Mukai and Vickie Toyohara-Mukai
Yukio and Yukino Imada	Ernest and Sanaye Nagai
Chris and Jean Kato	Junzo and Masaye Nakagawa
Wayne and Yuka Kimura	Dennis and Susan Okamoto
Nob and Mary Koura	John and Rose Tenma
Tosh and Tomi Mano	Min and Cherrie Tsubota
Paul and Yoshiko Minato	Alan and Carolyn Yabui
Clement and Rosalia Miyaya	

Student

JC Sullivan	Britt Yamamoto
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Committee, and the International Relations Committee. Many members are also gearing up to for some hard duty (making makisushi and inarizushi) for the Annual Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival April 19 - 21.

With the JACL National Convention just around the corner, several members are busy working on resolutions, nominations, and possible campaigns for national office. The Seattle Chapter JACL is unique in that two of our members hold national offices. They are Ryan Chin, vice president for public affairs, and Matthew Tatsuo Nakata, chair of the National Youth/Student Council. Each has done an outstanding job fulfilling the difficult responsibilities associated with holding a national office. In addition to their work on the National Board, Elaine Akagi serves as chair of the National Education Committee and recently completed a two-year term as governor of the Pacific NW District Council.

I would like to conclude this article by expressing my deepest appreciation to those who attended our 80th Annual Installation Banquet. Support from the Nikkei community and friends is crucial to the survival of the Seattle Chapter JACL. The dedicated members of the Banquet Committee also deserve our thanks for meeting all year long and taking care of numerous details to ensure a smoothly run event.

Mission Statement: The Seattle Chapter JACL 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.

Chapter Board Meeting: Our primary means of carrying out our mission is a monthly meeting, held at 6:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month, except August, at the chapter office, 316 Maynard Ave. S., Seattle. Those wishing to make presentations or be added to the meeting agenda should contact President Arlene Oki prior to the meeting. All are welcome.

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Article and Event Submission: Board members should submit materials to the editor-in-chief (joannnatalia_editor@hotmail.com) 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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E-mail address: email@jaclseattle.org

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