

A Beautiful Day to Beautify

by Jeffrey Hattori

What started as an overcast day, ended with rays of sunshine and a more beautiful landscape. On Saturday, August 24th, from 9 AM – 1 PM, over 35 individuals of all ages and backgrounds came together with the common goal and bond to beautify the grounds of the Aki Kurose Middle School Academy. Through much sweat equity and fun, the front entrance (which covers an entire block...a long one at that!) was weeded, edged, pruned, cleared of debris, and, barked. The purpose of the beautification is to honor Aki Kurose through ensuring that students, staff, and community can start the new school year entering a well-groomed school.

The following is a list of those who participated...thank you very much!!! If we missed anyone, please accept our apologies:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Alan Yabui | Kara Leung | Popo Te'o |
| Arlene Oki | Kayla Walker | Ryan Chin |
| BiHoa Caldwell | Kazzie Katayama | Serii Hattori |
| Bill Tashima | Larry Suafa | Sharon Maeda |
| Caroline Tamayo | Manaji Suzuki | Shigeru Nishiwaki |
| Chris Te'o | Mark Fujimoto | Students & Teachers |
| Elaine Akagi | May Namba | Tatsuo Nakata |
| Emily Momohara | Maya Yamazaki | Tele Te'o |
| Frank Irigon | Mika Rothman | Terry Chadsey |
| Guy Kurose | Mits Katayama | Theresa Hattori |
| Jeffrey Hattori | Mori Rothman | Toshio Kurose |
| Johnny Mapuatuli | Nat Dahl | Whitney Tsai |
| Joyce Tsai | Peter Tsai | |



Seattle JACLers gather at Aki Kurose Middle School Academy for, "A Day of Beautification." Photo courtesy Mits Katayama

Special thanks to: "Gardner Bob" – who brought all the tools, pruned all the shrubs, and provided much assistance and encouragement; Shig Nishiwaki for donating 200 daffodil bulbs; and, Superintendent Joseph Olchefske for making a special visit to meet the volunteers.

If you happen to be in the neighborhood of the Aki Kurose Middle School Academy...take a look. We hope that you may consider saving the 4th Saturday in August 2003 to join us!

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Today

by Tatsuo M.W. Nakata

As Japanese Americans, we are all too familiar with the stinging pain and lingering effects of acts of intolerance coupled with losses in civil liberties. We know that our American institutions and democratic system stand as symbols of freedom. But, we also know that if momentous irrationality – manifested in the form of actions and words that unfairly target others because of their religious beliefs, or skin color, or country of origin – is allowed to run rampant and unchallenged, then our democratic system breaks down.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 were horrific. However, from these events we saw many acts of heroism and triumph. But, we also have seen many other acts fueled by September 11th that are not so heroic. We have seen a dramatic increase in hate crimes, harassment, incidents of bias, and discriminatory federal policies. Most of these acts of intolerance have been committed toward our fellow Americans who belong to Arab, Sikh, East African, or Muslim communities. Today, over 1000 people have been secretly detained, over ten different policies justify racial profiling in the name of national security, hate crimes against people who "look Arab" have tripled, and many have lost their jobs and businesses as a result of bias.

Due to these reasons, members of the Seattle Chapter JAACL are collaborating with the Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington and nearly fifty other community groups to organize a public hearing to promote awareness among community members and elected officials about the way 9/11 has affected civil rights and civil liberties. The public hearing will feature a bipartisan commission of high ranking elected officials moderated by Justice Charles Z. Smith. Funding for the hearing has been graciously provided by: *The People's Fund, The Seattle Office for Civil Rights, and A Territory Resource*. Participating coalition groups have also contributed funds and donated countless hours of labor. This event entitled, "*Justice for All: The Aftermath of September 11*" will take place on September 21st from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM, at Town Hall, located at: 1119 8th Avenue in Seattle. I hope that Seattle JAACLers will be able to attend in support or just to learn more about the current erosion of civil liberties. If you are unable to attend, you can always make a difference by taking a few moments to contact your elected officials to voice your concerns.



President's Message

by Arlene Oki, President

I hope that everyone is having a wonderful summer. Though our board is taking a break from our monthly meeting in August, it seems there are still plenty of activities to keep us busy. Much work is taking place to plan an event to discuss and learn about the erosion of civil rights following the attacks on September 11, 2001. The Seattle Chapter is working with the Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington and a coalition of nearly fifty other organizations to organize a public hearing on September 21.

Aki Kurose Middle School Academy Cleanup

Many Chapter members and friends showed up early on a recent Saturday morning to clean up the school grounds at Aki Kurose Middle School Academy. Jeffrey Hattori, with the help of Kazzie Katayama, May Namba and Elaine Akagi helped organize the work party. Volunteer workers pulled weeds, trimmed shrubs and then proceeded to beautify the grounds even more by spreading ground bark and planting 200 daffodil bulbs (donated by Shig Nishiwaki).

Seattle Public Schools Superintendent Joseph Olchefske stopped by to say hello and to express his appreciation. We were happy to see him. Earlier, the Seattle Chapter sent a letter to the Superintendent asking him to retain Bi Hoa Caldwell as the school's principal. We were very happy to learn that she has been rehired and thanked the Superintendent for his decision to keep her at the school. It was wonderful to see young and old joining together in this way to pay homage to beloved community leader Aki Kurose.

Membership Drive

Discussions were held to develop a plan of action to increase membership in our organization. A new, and more inviting, brochure is being developed by Tatsuo M.W. Nakata and will soon be ready for distribution. I encourage all current JACL members to talk to their families and friends about joining the organization.

The mission of our organization has become even more important during this uncertain period in history. We welcome and encourage everyone to take part in our activities. The Seattle Nikkei community is fortunate to have many, many leaders who are capable of doing great things. Then, there are many who

prefer to stay in the background, but provide funds, give expert advice and perform the multitude of tasks related to organizing events. We also appreciate those who "show up" for our community activities and have purchased note cards and pictures. Thank you! Thank you!



Pride and Shame Exhibit

Work is progressing on developing a new, transportable *Pride and Shame* Exhibit. Bea Kiyohara, Dean of Student Services at Seattle Central Community College, recently presented a few photos of the reproductions at our board meeting. Funding for this project was obtained from the Washington State Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. Once completed, the exhibit will enhance JACL's ability to educate the public about the wartime experience of Japanese Americans. American Image Display of Redmond has generously donated the construction of 15 linear feet of display supports for the refurbished panels and will reproduce and print the final image panels. Up to 60 photographs and 140 square feet of graphics will be developed by the company.

The Project's director, Ken Matsudaira, will soon begin consulting with community members about concepts and uses of the new display. Questions abound. Because the photos and text document Japanese American history only up to the late 1960s, should additional photos be added to the exhibit to include the impressive campaign for redress and, more recently, historical similarities with the current situation involving Arab Americans and Muslims? If you have ideas about this project, please e-mail Ken at <Kmatudaira@sccd.ctc.edu> or call him at (206) 344-4379.

Board Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Linda Tanouye for opening up her house on Lake Tapps for a scrumptious barbeque. Because Seattle Chapter board members usually see each other only at meetings, it was nice to have had the opportunity to have some summertime fun

See "President" on page 3

Announcements

Thank You

For your generous donation:

Harold Taniguchi

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Events Calendar

Oct. 25-26 – International Conference on Globalization, Justice, and the Trafficking of Women and Children, Kane Hall at University of Washington, Seattle, Friday: 5 - 9 PM, Saturday: 8 AM - 5:30 PM, \$15 suggested donation. Contact: (206) 685-1090, mglv@u.washington.edu.

Nov. 5 – General Elections, 7AM - 8 PM. Contact: King County Elections Office, (206) 296-8683.

Nov. 17 – Retirement Dinner for Justice Charles Z. Smith, Four Seasons Olympic Hotel, 411 University Street, Seattle, 6 PM. Contact: Kazzie Katayama, (206) 722-2266.

Jan. 25, 2003 – Board Installation Banquet for Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League, DoubleTree Hotel Seattle Airport, 18740 International Blvd, Seattle, 5 PM. Contact: May Namba, (206) 784-3824.

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together. Activities like the barbeque provide an opportunity to showcase another side of our lives...in this case, Linda's culinary talents!

Linda has also organized display booths and recruited organizers to sell the Seattle Chapter's "JA Farmers at the Pike Market" note cards and pictures this summer. Her work has required her to spend long weekends at the Pike Place Market and ID fairs. She and her volunteers have raised almost \$7,000 this year.

In addition to doing a great job chairing the scholarship committee and dinner, Ann Fujii has helped the Chapter in numerous ways. She chairs the Anti-discrimination Committee and is the Pacific Northwest District's representative on the *Pacific Citizen Advisory Committee*, a position that requires her to travel to San Francisco every quarter.

Though he now has a job that requires a lot of out-of-town travel, Jeffrey Hattori spent many hours organizing the Aki Kurose Middle School Academy yard beautification party. And, as our chapter treasurer, he devotes countless hours on an ongoing basis to pay the Chapter's bills and produce detailed monthly budget summaries for our board members.

Remember to vote

Election time is fast approaching. Without telling you how to vote; I urge you to exercise your right to have a legitimate voice in your government. This opportunity will present itself at the primary election on Tuesday, September 17 and the general election on November 5. There are several important ballot issues and political races on the ballot so, please, take the time to learn about them and cast your vote.

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Aki Sogabe: 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 \$1.50 postage and handling fee."

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE (indicate whether day or evening/weekend): _____

Honoring Our Friend Justice Charles Z. Smith

by Jeffrey Hattori

As many JACLers know, Justice Smith has been a long-time friend to many individuals and organizations – including Seattle JACL. A life long champion for social justice, diversity, and the betterment of the human condition, he was a strong supporter during the Redress movement and has been a member of JACL for years.

Justice Smith has led a rich and vibrant professional and community life. In addition to his involvement with the JACL, Justice Smith has volunteered for numerous organizations and received countless awards for his contributions.

This year, Justice Smith is retiring as Washington State Supreme Court Justice after 14 years of dedicated leadership and service. The Seattle JACL is organizing tables to attend a retirement dinner to recognize our dear friend. The dinner will take place on Sunday, November 17th at 6 PM, at the Four Seasons Olympic Hotel. Tickets are \$95 per person.

We would like to have as many JACLers at the dinner as possible to thank and honor Justice Smith. Please call Kazzie Katayama at (206) 722-2266 to RSVP...today!

Recent Membership

Individual

David Koyama

Fusako Mito

Iris Miyahira

Richard Okamoto

Cheryl Ooka

Al Sugiyama

Harold Taniguchi

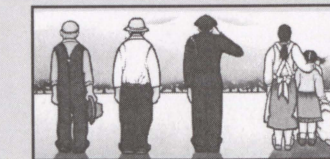
Ben Tsuboi

Ted Yamamura

Couples and Family

William and Shizuke Sata

Joshua and Carol Suehiro



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

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 (nakata_ta2001@yahoo.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.

Seattle Chapter JACL website: www.jaclseattle.org
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