

Win-Win

by Ryan Chin, National VP of Membership

It is no secret to those of you who follow National JACL through the Pacific Citizen and other sources that the organization has been having a tough time generating revenue over the past couple of years. The root cause is clearly our downtrodden economy.

The JACL has three main sources of funding: investment income, grants, and membership dues. As the recession has sunk in, the investment income of the organization has fallen dramatically – not unlike many of our own personal stock portfolios. Furthermore, as stock values have fallen, the amount that foundations can give has dramatically dropped. That has left the organization with one primary source of funding: membership dues.

Although it is initially perceived as a chore to go out and ask others to join the organization, it really is an excellent opportunity. Over the years, the organization has been largely satisfied with letting new members come to us. Our lack of a constant, hard push for membership shows as the membership's median age has risen dramatically over the years. The majority of JACL members are now above 55 years of age.

The danger of having such an imbalance in the age of membership is significant. At a continued rate, the projection for the organization is about 8,000 members in about 10 - 12 years. This would be down from about 23,000. While some chapters may maintain strength, such a dramatic decrease in the membership would greatly reduce the size of national operations including, but not limited to: the Pacific Citizen, National Headquarters, Regional Offices, and the DC Office.

National has started an effort to improve our membership numbers. All chapter presidents received membership kits that included a list of all lapsed members in recent years, membership brochures, a listing of all chapter benefits, a listing of five core membership activities for each chapter to do, and a highlights piece of the last biennium. National has done a mailing to attempt to welcome back all past national scholarship winners who are no longer members. National has started a gift membership drive to sell memberships in conjunction with the holiday season.

How can you help your chapter and organization?

You can make a tremendous difference by selling a few memberships or even buying some for family and friends. This represents a true win-win situation as it will provide financial assistance to the chapter and also to national. It will help provide adequate money to continue providing the programs and services that benefit not only members, but also society in general. New members will reap the merits of the organization for years to come.

Help make a difference today!

HelpNicole is Still Searching for a Match

by Rob Howard, Nicole's Dad

HelpNicole has asked for the JACL's help to find a matching bone marrow donor for five-year-old Nicole Howard. Nicole has leukemia and the only known cure is a bone marrow transplant.

So far the JACL has helped to educate and recruit nearly 500 new bone marrow donors, but we still haven't found a donor for Nicole. This search is difficult because Nicole is multiracial, both Japanese and Caucasian. Bone marrow traits are inherited just like eye and hair color so Nicole's donor will most likely also be Japanese and Caucasian.

HelpNicole needs to recruit some 50,000 new mixed-race bone marrow donors to find a match for Nicole. (Unless we get extremely lucky!)

We are asking for your help: we need people who are willing to hold bone marrow registration drives on our behalf. We also need help with fundraising to continue our recruitment efforts. For more information, please call (206) 367-LIFE or visit our website at www.helpnicole.org.

Nicole is on a drug called Gleevec and she is in remission. She occasionally has pain and we are worried about her weight, but given what she is up against, she is doing well. She recently started Kindergarten and says she likes it very much. We hope that the JACL and the Japanese American community can rally behind our effort, as it will inevitably save lives in our community.

Pacific Citizen Holiday Ads

by Elaine Reiko Akagi

It's once again time to consider including your name in the Pacific Citizen's Holiday Issue One Line greeting. Every year, hundreds of members send "Seasons Greetings" to friends across the nation through the PC. This is a simple, cost effective way to let your friends know where you are and how to get in touch with you. The one-line greetings reach all JACL members across the country. It's very simple to be included on the Seattle chapter's page.

If you are interested in being included, please send your name, address, city and zip code as you would like it printed, along with a check for \$9 (made out to the Seattle chapter JACL) to: Elaine Akagi, 7414 So. 128th St., Seattle, WA 98178, (206) 772-7192.

The deadline to get the request to us is November 20th, so please don't delay.

Newsletter Available On-line: www.jaclseattle.org

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SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

JACL

President's Message

by Arlene Oki, President

Every once in a while it is nice to be reminded that the Seattle Chapter is a part of a vital regional and national network. And so I enjoyed attending the Pacific Northwest District Council (PNWDC) meetings on October 19 and 21. The PNWDC meetings are held quarterly at the regional headquarters of State Farm Insurance in Dupont, Washington. The facility is centrally located and includes very spacious conference space.

The regional group is composed of delegates and presidents from nine JACL chapters in the Pacific Northwest: Anchorage, Alaska; Spokane; Puyallup; Olympia; Gresham; Lake Washington (east King County); White River; Portland and Seattle. Our president is David Masuo of Anchorage and our District Director is Karen Yoshitomi who provides administrative support and represents the National office.

The agenda covered a broad array of issues and required us to make some tough budget decisions to address the fiscal crisis that the national organization is facing.

We also held a strategy session to set short term and long term goals. The discussion also focused on ways to attract more members. Concern was expressed that our activities are not meeting the needs of the broad Nikkei population. Someone suggested that local chapters should sponsor more cultural and family-friendly events. Others suggested that the main mission of the JACL is to advocate for civil rights, equality and justice and that organizations like ours are needed now more than ever.

After the meeting, a drawing took place that involved Seattle chapter members. Under the watchful eyes of Maya Yamazaki and Elaine Akagi, I picked a name from a pool of Seattle Chapter board members interested in joining the "Advanced Country's Japanese American Invitation Program," sponsored by the Japanese government. The group will gain an understanding about modern-day Japan during their week-long visit in December. We appreciate this opportunity to work with the Japanese Consulate's office. Oh...and the lucky winner is Bill Tashima, who happens to be our 2003 president-elect nominee!

An excellent slate of nominees for officers and board members of our organization for 2003 has been developed by Vicki Toyohara-Mukai and her committee. Thanks to all who participated.

As vice president for civil rights, Joy Shigaki has done an exemplary job working with Ann Fujii-Lindwall and her antidiscrimination committee on civil rights issues. The Committee is working diligently to identify major civil rights issues and to develop strategies to ensure that justice is served. The committee, composed of Joy Shigaki, Ann Fujii-Lindwall, Akemi Matsumoto, Emily Momohara, Cathy Lowenberg, Kiku Hayashi, Steve Idemoto, Anna Tamura and Tatsuo Nakata will be developing an action plan for the coming year.

An immediate civil rights concern is the failure of the Bush Administration to re-appoint Paul Igasaki to the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC). He is the only Asian Pacific American on any federal civil rights commission and his service on the Commission has been outstanding. As Vice Chair and acting Chair, he was responsible for major reforms in the EEOC. Remember, it was a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission who made insensitive comments about Muslims and Arab Americans earlier this year...making it even more imperative that people like Igasaki remain on commission such as the EEOC. With his legal background and 20 years of civil rights advocacy, his re-appointment should almost be automatic. The Seattle Chapter has sent a letter to the Executive and Washington State's congressional delegation to support his re-appointment to this important policy-making position. Members can express their support by accessing the website: www.jacl.org and then clicking "issues." This important link also provides information and the means to support other civil rights issues important to the Japanese American community.



Announcements

Events Calendar

Nov. 18 – Minidoka Internment National Monument, Bainbridge Island Commons, 370 Brian Drive, 4:30 PM Open House, 6 PM Workshop. Contact: (206) 220-4157.

Nov. 18 – JACL Civil Rights/ Anti-Discrimination Committee Meeting, Panama Hotel Tea House, 607 S Main, 6 PM. Contact: Joy Shigaki (206) 296-4624.

Nov. 19 – Minidoka Internment National Monument, Nisei Veteran's Hall, 1212 S King Street, 9 AM Open House, 9:30 AM Workshop. Contact: (206) 220-4157.

Nov. 19 – Minidoka Internment National Monument, Husky Union Building, Room 106B, University of Washington, 4:30 PM Open House, 6 PM Workshop. Contact: (206) 220-4157.

Nov. 19 – Japanese ornamental box-making class, Seattle JACL office, 316 Maynard Ave. S., 6:30 PM. Nominal charge for materials. Contact: Kazzie Katayama (206) 722-2266.

Nov. 20 – Minidoka Internment National Monument, Japanese Baptist Church, 160 Broadway, 4:30 PM Open House, 6 PM Workshop. Contact: (206) 220-4157.

Nov. 21 – Minidoka Internment National Monument, Seattle Buddhist Church, 1427

S Main Street, 4:30 PM Open House, 6 PM Workshop. Contact: (206) 220-4157.

Nov. 21 – Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation (ACLF) Third Annual Graduation Dinner, South Seattle Community College, Jerry Brockey Center for the Culinary Arts, 6000 16th Ave. SW, Seattle, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM, Tickets price - \$50. Contact: (206) 356-5886.

Jan. 25, 2003 – Seattle Chapter JACL Installation Banquet, SeaTac Doubletree Hotel, 18740 International Blvd., 5 PM. Contact: May Namba (206) 784-3824.

Input Needed for Planning of Minidoka National Monument

by Anna Tamura

In 2001, President Clinton designated 73 acres of the Minidoka Relocation Center as a National Monument. As a result, Minidoka became nationally significant and will be protected and developed as a place to learn about the internment and incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. This designation is both recognition of the hardships faced by Japanese Americans during World War II, as well as admission by the Federal Government of its unconstitutional actions against 120,000 citizens and residents.

For the past nine months, staff from the National Park Service has conducted meetings with Japanese American organizations to raise awareness about Minidoka Internment National Monument. In mid-November, they will host a series of open houses and workshops in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to listen to the public, particularly Japanese American communities. This is an opportunity to provide comments, raise issues, offer suggestions, and help define the future of Minidoka. Based on information gathered from these meetings, the National Park Service will develop alternatives for a General Management Plan that will guide the 20 year development of Minidoka. Public participation is vital to the success of this planning effort!

For many of us, internment was and still is an emotional and troubling issue in our hearts and minds. Sixty years later, it continues to haunt and affect those who lived through it and the generations after. We have an opportunity to play an active role in shaping the development of Minidoka, as it is a place that has dramatically affected our community. History is often written and rewritten. This is a chance to write our own history and represent the Nikkei experience from our own eyes, the way we feel is respectful and true.

Open Houses and Workshops are scheduled in the Puget Sound area throughout the month of November (Please see "Announcements" section for exact dates, times, and locations). For further information please contact (206) 220-4157.

Kaizen Group Holds Bone Marrow Drive

On Saturday, September 21, 2002, at the Seattle Uwajimaya, The Kaizen Group helped assist the Puget Sound Blood Center raise awareness about the need to join the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) registry and donate blood. This community service drive was to help Nicole Howard (see related article, "Help Nicole is Still Searching for a Match") and others who need a lifesaving marrow transplant. The Kaizen Group urged all people to join the Registry to help increase the chances that Nicole and other multi-racial persons are able to find a marrow donor match. Currently, multi-racial people make up only two percent of the NMDP registry of over four million potential donors. Stay tuned for details on how to get involved with the next Kaizen Group community service project.

Civil Rights Committee to Begin Planning 2003

The Civil Rights/ Anti-discrimination committee welcomes all interested individuals to join us in tracking current and pressing civil rights, anti-discrimination, and social justice issues. We have two meetings remaining for 2002 – one on November 18th and the other on December 13th (Please see "Announcements" section for details). Our December meeting will be a great opportunity to meet new people, learn more about current issues, socialize, and plan our activities for 2003. We hope that you can make it and find out more about becoming a part of this important Seattle JACL committee. No experience needed, just an interest to make a change in the world! For further information, please contact Joy Shigaki at: shigaki@juno.com or (206) 296-4624.

Kaizen Group Leadership Award

by Steven Peralta

A new generation of young leaders has emerged, The Kaizen Group. *'The Kaizen Group is composed of a diverse group of young and emerging Asian/Pacific Islander Americans who are devoted to constant improvement of our American society. We continue to improve our ethical leadership skills through community empowerment. We embrace positive change, and give voice to new and innovative ideas that foster the civil and human rights of all people. We will build coalitions with other organizations through community collaboration and will continually recruit and retain a diverse group of young members in the Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.'*

As a way to inspire young people in our community, the Kaizen Group is announcing the first ever Kaizen Group Leadership Award. The Kaizen Group will present this award to a deserving young person at the upcoming Seattle JACL Installation Banquet on January 25, 2003.

We are currently seeking your help in identifying an outstanding candidate for this recognition! Nominators are invited and encouraged to identify a person of Asian/ Pacific American descent below the age of 30 years, who may be characterized by many or all of the following: this person strives to address social problems with effective solutions; s/he provides leadership to the community; s/he inspires other young people to take action and make a difference; s/he brings different groups and communities of color together; her/his leadership is largely unrecognized beyond her/his community or field; and s/he, if recognized, would inspire other young people. Both the award recipient and the nominator will receive a complimentary ticket, sponsored by the Kaizen Group, for the Installation Banquet.

To receive a nominations packet, complete list of criteria, or for questions on nominating an outstanding young person please contact: Steven Peralta at: peralts@hotmail.com or (206) 669-2444. You may also find nominations material at: <http://www.jaclseattle.org>

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_ra2001@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.

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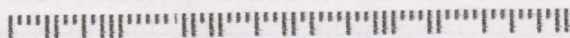
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