

Trip to Japan

by *Bill Tashima, President-elect*

Last December, I was honored to be selected as a Seattle JACL representative for the Advanced Countries Visitation Program. Sponsored by the Japanese Foreign Ministry, the Advanced Countries Visitation Program provides an all expense paid visit to Japan, aimed to strengthen relations between Japan, USA and Canada and to broaden Nikkei perspectives on today's Japan.

The Japanese government's hospitality was superb, providing first-class accommodations, a car and driver, and a wonderful interpreter to ensure that every step of our agenda went without a glitch. Our hosts also accommodated spur of the moment requests, such as visiting the super market, going to Tokyo University, sightseeing at the Imperial Palace, shopping in Harujuku, clubbing in Roppongi, and going to Shibuya.

The seven-day itinerary was ambitious, visiting Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka, Kyoto and Nara. We went to the Foreign Ministry, the Association of Nikkei Abroad (a care center for aged people), NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), Tsukuba High School, the House of Councilors (Diet), the Recording Industry Association of Japan, a four-hour Kabuki play, a Toyota plant, Osaka Palace, and various shrines and castles in Kyoto and Nara.

In Yokohama, the Association of Nikkei houses the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum, displaying the story of Japanese migration to North and South America. The exhibits made me realize our common bond and experiences with Nikkei in Canada and South America. The Pacific Northwest was represented in part by an early Portland Rose Parade float replica made of fresh vegetables and a replicated wall of the Nippon Kan.

Visiting to a state of the art nursing home was impressive, but what stands out in my memory the most are the faces of the management, staff and residents reflecting pride in their facility. For as many nursing homes my job has allowed me to visit, I have never experienced one with such vibrant people.

Of course, I would be remiss if I failed to mention eating in Japan. I have never seen such a variety of restaurants, food vendors and department store food stalls anywhere else in the world. From Japanese breakfast to yakitori, Hiroshima okonomiyaki to takoyaki, Nagoya tonkatsu to Narazuke, to oden at Asakusa...zenbu oishii desu! I was so happy and smiled during every bite.

As an American, I felt so comfortable in Japan and left feeling a tremendous pride in my Japanese heritage and fortunate to participate in this program. I look forward to JACL continuing strong relations and forging common understanding between the US and Japan and hope the Seattle JACL continues to have the opportunity to engage in this program.

Installation Banquet Success

by *Manaji Suzuki and Suzanne Hamada, 2003 Co-chairs, Installation Banquet Committee*

The 81st Annual Installation Banquet was successfully held on January 25th at the Doubletree Hotel, Seattle Airport. Over 400 people attended the event with the theme "Reflecting on our Past: Shining into the Future". Greetings were delivered by: Mr. Fred Kiga, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor on behalf of The Honorable Gary Locke; Chief of Staff, Office of the King County Executive, Mr. Calvin Hoggard; Mayor of Seattle, The Honorable Greg Nickels; and Japan Consul General, The Honorable Tadahiro Abe.

Mr. Harold Taniguchi, Director, King County Department of Transportation served as the Master of Ceremonies; Reverend Elisabeth Seeger, Rector of St. Peters Episcopal Parish delivered the Invocation; Mr. Bryan Takeuchi, Commander of the Nisei Veterans Committee, led the Flag Salute. National JACL Vice President, Mr. Ryan Chin, installed the Board of Directors. Ms. Pramila Jayapal, Director, Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington delivered the keynote address.

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to the Hate Free Zone of Washington for their work advocating and protecting the civil rights of immigrants and communities of color in our state. The Bon Marche was given the Corporate Support Award for sponsoring the Banquet for the past six years. Cherry Kinoshita was honored with the Donald Kazama Human Rights Award for her national, state and local work in securing redress for Japanese Americans during WWII wartime injustices and for her four decades of service to the JACL on local, district and national levels. George Yamane was posthumously awarded the Community Service Award for his leadership in organizing the Nakamura/Okubo Medal of Honor Commemorative Program in March of 2001, for his campaign to rename the federal courthouse in Seattle after Mr. William Nakamura and a new medical and dental complex at Fort Lewis to honor Dr. James Okubo. Nellie Fujii-Anderson was recognized with the Unsung Hero Award for all of her work as a community activist and in appreciation of the countless hours of volunteer services donated to organizations within the community. Edwin and Suzanne Hamada were presented with a Special Certificate of Appreciation for their work on behalf of the Seattle Chapter and contributions to the community. The Kaizen Youth Group also presented their first annual leadership award.

Corporate support this year was generously provided by State Farm Insurance, The Bon Marche, Microsoft, United Parcel Service Uwajimaya, Motoda Foundation, Safeco Insurance, and Vulcan, Inc. The number of

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President's Message

by Tatsuo M.W. Nakata, President

Greetings and Happy New Year of the Ram! While 2003 and the Year of the Ram have only just begun, Seattle JACL has been off to a running start! Seattle JACL is anticipating a very busy and productive year. While we recognize that there are many challenges ahead of us, we are fully prepared to face these challenges head on.

Thanks to your generous support of our raffle and Annual Installation Banquet, Seattle Chapter JACL has the means to carry out its mission for the year. In doing so, it allows us to provide scholarships to the community. Recognition goes to State Farm Insurance, The Bon Marche, Microsoft, UPS, Uwajimaya, Motoda Foundation, PEMCO, SAFECO, and Vulcan for being such wonderful corporate community supporters and helping to make our banquet a success. We also thank JAE Awards for continuing to do such tremendous work in support of the community, including year-in-year-out assistance recognizing community leaders through designing beautiful awards. Last but not least, a special thank you goes to everyone who attended our banquet, purchased raffle tickets, and purchased ads.

Congratulations and thank you to all of our award recipients: Ms. Nellie Fujii Anderson (Unsung Hero Award), Mr. George Yamane, presented posthumously and accepted by his wife - Mrs. Charlotte Yamane and son - Mr. Curtis Yamane, (Community Service Award), Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington (Certificate of Recognition), Suzanne & Edwin Hamada (Certificate of Appreciation), Ms. Cherry Kinoshita, on behalf of the members and volunteers of the WA Coalition on Redress/ Seattle Redress Committee, (Donald Kazama Human Rights Award), and The Bon Marche (Corporate Support Award).

Our Installation Banquet could not be a success without the generosity and work of a tireless committee, working year-round lining up sponsors, requesting speakers, selecting awardees, soliciting ads, making hundreds of decorations, and sampling food among other tasks. Our Installation Banquet Committee is a fine example of Seattle JACL's many working committees.

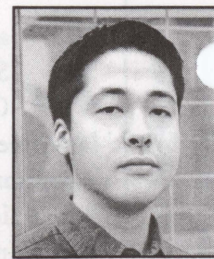
Our chapter could not fulfill our mission if not for the countless hours volunteers dedicated on our organization committees. Our chapter not only benefits from the time and skill committee members bring to our organization, committee members themselves benefit. Serving on a committee is a way to meet new people and refine your professional skills. It is also a good way to make a difference by giving back to the community. It is important to note that you do not have to be a member of the Board of Directors to serve on a committee. Additionally, we offer a wide variety of committees that plan and implement a number of activities. If you are interested in lending a hand and becoming involved with one of our committees, please contact the Chapter office or myself.

We are looking forward to a busy and productive year with many opportunities for you to get involved. This year, Seattle JACL hopes to present a long-term, strategic plan for our organization, increase membership, encourage further member involvement, conduct extensive outreach to multi-racial/ethnic Seattleites, empower young leaders in the community, and continue devoted advocacy in protecting and preserving civil rights, particularly in the aftermath of Sept. 11th.

The early part of 2003 played witness to Seattle JACL jump-start in all of the above areas. One example is our new committee entirely devoted to planning activities and discussing issues specific to people of multi-racial/ethnic backgrounds. Thank you Cathy Lowenberg and Alan Yabui for beginning the necessary discussions and convening the first meeting.

While the 2002 holidays may be over, the time for giving is never over. We all have friends and family members with birthdays and other special occasions to celebrate. Seattle JACL's own Ryan Chin currently serves on JACL's National Board as the Vice President of Membership. During 2002, Mr. Chin implemented the wonderful program of gift memberships. Occasions such as birthdays, weddings,

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Announcements

Thank You

For your generous donations:

Jan Gokami in Memory of Guy Kurose
William T. Hirata
Takashi Hori
Bernadette Horiuchi
Miyoko Ike
Nobuo Isomura
Cherry & Mas Kinoshita
Ed Miles
Emily Momohara

Mako Nakagawa
Rose & James Nohara
Yukiko Sato
Dr. Ruby Shu
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Masako Tamura
Michi Tanouye
Kip Tokuda
Laurence Tsunoda
Charlotte Yamane

Newsletter sponsored in part by these generous donors:

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Join the Civil Rights/ Anti-Discrimination Committee

Seattle JACL has been on the forefront, fighting to preserve and promote civil rights and civil liberties. Join the effort as a member of the JACL Civil Rights/ Anti-Discrimination Committee. This committee aims to be informed, visible, and active on local civil right and civil liberty issues. Our focus will include immigrant issues as well as the current climate faced by Arab-Americans and Muslims. Membership nights will be scheduled to discuss a range of topics and everyone is encouraged to participate.

Our committee goals for the year include:

1. Designing and hosting events/ activities to share the Japanese American experience compared to today's post September 11th environment;
2. Developing community partnerships with other community organizations/ civil rights organizations;
3. Educating and engaging board and membership on civil rights issues; and
4. Recruiting and retaining community members by hosting social functions.

From the redress movement to educating the public about our wartime experiences, a recount of injustice, struggle, and activism is relevant now more than ever, particularly in light of the racial profiling and racist policies affecting and being directed at our Arab-Americans and Muslim brothers and sisters across the country.

Please consider joining us! For more information, please contact Joy Shigaki at (206) 296-4624 or by email at shigaki@juno.com.

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promotions, and Valentine's Day among many others create great opportunities to introduce your friends, co-workers, or anyone you care about to Seattle JACL by providing the gift that keeps on giving - a Seattle JACL Membership. We hope that you will consider sharing the value of a Seattle JACL membership today with those you care about.

In closing, I would like to thank Mr. Ryan Minato for all of his hard work and dedication. Much of the visual work you see, the Seattle JACL website [www.jaclseattle.org], newsletter layout, and Installation Banquet Booklet are a direct result of Mr. Minato's tremendous talent and endless devotion. We further extend gratitude to Ryan for agreeing to serve as our new full-time newsletter editor!

Lastly, we thank all JACL members for helping lay the foundation towards a successful 2003! I look forward to many bright accomplishments this year, accomplishments only achieved through your continued assistance. Peace and Happy New Year!

Recent Membership

Individual

George Abe
Keith Akada
Eva Chikusa
Rae Hanashiro
Frank Hidaka
Samuel Hokari
David Hoekendorf
Kiyoshi Imanaka
Miyako Ishihara
Andy Iwano
Yo Kaneko
Ken Kenmochi
George Kodama
Shareen Locke
Frank McLain
Kiyoshi Mizuhata

Couples/Family

Jan and Glenn Gokami (New)
Ken and Akiko Higashi
Nob and Mary Koura
Paul and Yoshiko Minato
Barney and Pat Matsumoto
Dennis and Susan Okamoto
John and Trish Tubbs
Teresa Yoneyama/Stan Kitashima

Yoshito Mizuta
Emily Momohara
Debbie Nagasawa
Hope Ohashi
Nori Okamura
Kenichi Sato
Brian Takagi
Irene Tanabe
Kiku Tatsumi
Laurie Tazuma
Wendy Tokuda
Laurence Tsunoda
Alan Yabui
Barbara Yasui
Wang Yung

Thousand Club

Jeremy Sher

Student/Youth

Eric Afuso
Ken Iwata

Booster

Shigeko Uno,
Century Club

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businesses that purchased ads in the program this year increased. Thanks go out to all of the corporations and businesses that generously support and believe in our Chapter's mission. Our success is in part due to their assistance.

A raffle held this year raised over \$2000 to support the Chapter Scholarship fund. Cash prizes were awarded to: Ray Ishii, \$1,000; Carole Yabui, \$500; and Abel Bautista \$250. Theme baskets were also raffled and raised over \$1,500 to support the Chapter's general fund. Thank you to Ben Bridge Jewelers, Bainbridge Island Ace Hardware, Mark Fukeda, Salon Divas, JACL Board of Directors and Banquet Committee Members for donating the prizes. Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket, to all of our volunteers who sold tickets and to The Kaizen Youth Group for their dependable volunteers.

Finally, thank you to the 2003 Installation Banquet Committee Members. A more committed group of individuals cannot be found. All of your hard work is greatly appreciated! If you would like to join the committee, please email Marcine Anderson at jaclbanquet@aol.com.

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
E-mail address: email@jaclseattle.org

2002 Officers and Board Members

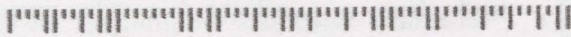
President Tatsuo M.W. Nakata (nakata_ta2001@yahoo.com)
President-elect Bill Tashima (buber@aol.com)
1st Vice-President Vicki Toyohara (donandvickimukai@msn.com)
2nd Vice-President Joy Shigaki (joy_shigaki@metrokc.gov)
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PNWDC Delegate Arlene Oki (arlene.oki@ci.seattle.wa.us)

Shea Aoki
Kiku Hayashi (kikuhayashi@hotmail.com)
Doug Honma
Steve Idemoto (si@economyp.org)
Ann Fujii Lindwall (fujiiindwall@attbi.com)
Cathy Lowenberg (c_lowenberg@hotmail.com)
Ron Mamiya (ron.mamiya@ci.seattle.us)
Darrell Mihara

Ryan Minato (ryanminato@hotmail.com)
Emily Momohara
Steven Peralta
Sharon Tomiko Santos
Tone Shimizu (shimizut@worldnet.att.net)
Manaji Suzuki (manaji@gateway.net)
Anna Tamura
Elsie Taniguchi
Linda Tanouye
Alan Yabui (ayabui@bcc.ctc.edu)



SEATTLE WA 98118-2830

KAZZIE KATAYAMA

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Japanese American Citizens League
Seattle Chapter
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