

Scholarship Dinner Review

On May 21, 2003 the Seattle Chapter awarded academic scholarships to three local high school students at our annual potluck scholarship dinner held at Blaine Methodist Church. Speakers included Phan Yan and Emi Sumida, two of last year's scholarship recipients. After the scholarships were awarded, Elmer Tazuma entertained the audience by playing several songs on his harmonica.

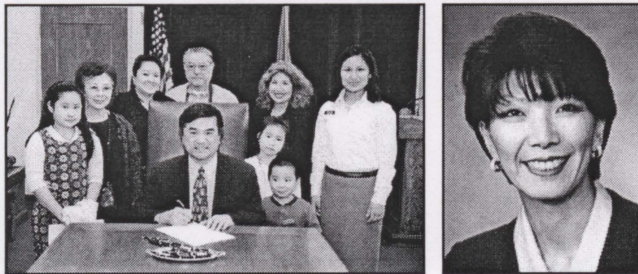
Kim-Khanh Van – awarded the Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship (\$2,000) for best exhibiting commitment to social justice through community service projects and active leadership involvement in cultural diversity issues at Rainier Beach High School. She will be attending the University of Washington.

Alison Shkurhan – awarded the Temesa Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000) for exhibiting commitment to continue the legacy of the Japanese American community through active participation in extra-curricula activities. Alison is an honor student at Cascade High School in Everett, Washington. She will be attending the University of Washington.

Emiko Hastings – awarded the Tazuma Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000) for an honor student record at South Whidbey High School and for being an accomplished flutist. She will be attending Whitman College in Walla Walla.

This year's scholarship committee members were: Alan Yabui (Chair), Ann Lindwall, Reiko Akagi, Kiku Hayashi, May Namba, and Bill Tashima.

Day of Remembrance



Pictured on Left: Governor Locke signing HB 1460, establishing February 19 – the day President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 – as the Civil Liberties Day of Remembrance. Over 110,000 Japanese Americans were interned during World War II. Starting next year, February 19 will be a day for educators and others to remember and learn from the tragedies of that time. HB 1460, which drew unanimous support in the House and the Senate, was signed by the governor on April 18.

Pictured on Right: Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos, longtime supporter of efforts to establish the Day of Remembrance.

Why We Need the Pacific Citizen

by Ann Fujii Lindwall, Seattle Chapter and Pacific Citizen Editorial Board Member

For the Japanese American Citizens League, the Pacific Citizen (PC) is our voice, our presence, and a vehicle to communicate what is important as we fight for civil rights for Japanese Americans and all under represented peoples in America. However, the PC is in dire straights. With dwindling help from the national organization and the resignation of two staff reporters (Tracy Uba and most recently, Martha Nakagawa), increasing burden falls on the remaining PC staff (headed by Caroline Aoyagi, business manager Brian Tanaka, and two additional part-time staff).

We need to help this distinguished publication during these difficult times. As a community we must give "aid and comfort" to the Pacific Citizen and its staff. Below is a list of items that you can help the PC acquire:

- ♦ Software: Norton Anti-virus (Mac) or Norton Systemworks.
- ♦ CD-R discs, USB Flash Drives 64 MB, Memory Stick 128 MB.
- ♦ Air conditioner for their unbearably hot office, \$5,000 (new). The unit should be replaced, not fixed since parts are a problem. Let me know if this item is something you would like to focus on. A general fund for this item can be started by a pool of people.
- ♦ Digital camera, Sony DSC-717, \$800.
- ♦ Replacement Mac and PC computers, \$1,800 each.

The PC staff believes in the need for the Pacific Citizen and the strong voice it provides the JAACL two times a month. As committed as they are, these professional journalists are very underpaid and we need to help them so they can do their jobs. With people's livelihoods at stake, I am asking each of you who truly believes in the PC, and want to see it continue and thrive, to contribute what you can, \$5, \$10, \$15, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more.

My goal is the sky! If 200 people donate \$25 each, that's \$5,000. If 500 people donate \$25 each, that's \$12,500! We need to really show our monetary support for the PC, so they can spend as they see fit. If you have access to some of the forementioned items, maybe you can contribute those plus a small donation. We are very lucky to have such a loyal and committed PC staff that is willing to stick it out. We cannot and should not take them for granted.

Please send your donations to: Manh Pham (PNWDC treasurer), 5418 Komachin Loop SE, Lacey, WA 98513.

Thank you. I hope you will join me in keeping our voice alive and kicking! Gambate!

President's Message

by **Tatsuo M.W. Nakata, President**

Summer means sunshine in Seattle. It also means time to get away, relax, and reflect. The National Youth/ Student Conference offers a tremendous opportunity for all of the above. This conference is planned and implemented by a team of young, dedicated JACLers who comprise the JACL National Youth/ Student Council (NY/ SC). The JACL National Youth/ Student Council is made up of one youth/ student representative or council member from each of the eight JACL regional districts, in addition to a presiding officer – the National Youth/ Student Council Chair (Seattle Chapter's very own Maya Yamazaki), and the National Youth Representative who is responsible for serving as the link from the NY/ SC to the JACL National Board.

The National Youth Student Conference and those who put it together (the NY/ SC) are the future of our organization and our leaders of tomorrow. Today, young people face a number of challenges and issues that are unique to this generation. The NY/ SC, along with those who attend the conference, come together to face these challenges head on and to be prepared for future challenges. But, the youth of the organization need our help!

Previous generations grew up being located geographically near one another. During the present day, many Nikkei and many who are part Nikkei live in a variety of locations for a variety of reasons. It is physically harder to organize and come together as a community. However, our community still exists by means of extended family.

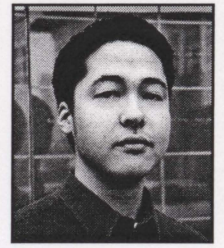
We need to ask for your help in bringing together the youth of our extended family. I hope that each and every member will take a long look at their own families and friends and perhaps encourage or even better yet – sponsor a young person between the ages of 13 and 26 to attend the upcoming National Youth/ Student Conference. Registration costs for this event are intentionally kept to a minimum so that young people will be able to attend. All registration materials and information may be found on Seattle JACL's website at: www.jaclseattle.org If you do not have access to the internet, you can contact Maya Yamazaki at (425) 753-3001.

As we prepare to make plans for summer vacation, time with family, and fun in the sun – a quick look back at the

month of May is in order. The entire month of May was a celebration of Asian Pacific Islander (API) Heritage Month. Accordingly, Seattle JACL participated in recognizing the month by kicking off May with a celebration in collaboration with several other API groups from around Seattle. On Sunday, May 4, we celebrated with traditional dances and a thought-provoking forum on Asian Pacific Islanders in politics. Many, many thanks to our very own President-Elect – Bill Tashima and also to board member Emily Momohara for lending a helping hand at the celebration, selling Aki Sogabe cards and providing prospective new members with information about Seattle JACL.

While at the celebration, I was reminded of just how dynamic our Seattle Chapter JACL members are. I would like to congratulate one of our chapter's very own members - Ms. Lily Eng. The Seattle Federal Executive Board honored Lily for her work as a public employee who provides outstanding service above and beyond her normal call of duty with the Social Security Administration (SSA). She was honored in part for her work as a founding member and the current Chair of the Asian Pacific Advisory Council (APAC). APAC's mission includes promoting equal opportunity for SSA's API employees in recruitment and promotion, promoting equality in SSA services to API communities, and fostering greater awareness of the diversity of API heritages. Lily was also recognized by the Chinese Information Service Center (CISC) for providing twenty years of service as a board member. She and her partner, Jeff Saul, have been longtime supporters of JACL and members for the past two years. Many, many congratulations to Lily!

During the month of May, we also had the opportunity to celebrate the scholars and future leaders of our community. Seattle JACL was pleased to present scholarships to: Kim-Khanh Van (Aki Kurose Scholarship), Emiko Hastings (Bunshiro Tazuma Scholarship), and Alison Shkurhan (Minoru Tamesa Scholarship) at our annual scholarship potluck dinner. Congratulations to these very hard working, young scholars! Also at the potluck, we had the opportunity to hear from Emi



See "President" on page 3

Announcements

Events Calendar

June 18 – Seattle JACL Board Meeting, JACL Hall, 316 Maynard Ave. S, room 111, 6 - 8 PM.

June 20-22 – JACL National Youth/ Student Conference: A Gateway to Leadership, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact: <youthchair@jacl.org> or (206) 622-4098.

June 30 – Nikkei Concerns 3rd Annual Founders' Golf Tournament, Bear Creek Country Club, 13737 - 202 Ave. NE, Woodinville. Contact: May Leong, (206) 726-6522 or <mayl@nikkeiconcerns.org>.

July 19 – Getting Involved in Government: Meeting our Communities' Needs, University of Washington, Architectural Building, Room 147, Seattle, 9 AM - 3 PM. Contact: <gettinginvolvedingovernment3@hotmail.com>.

Newsletter sponsored in part by these generous donors:

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Successful Community Forum on Civil Liberties

by Joy Shigaki, Civil Rights Committee

The "Civil Liberties Violated: 1942 and Today" community forum was a success. Coordinated by Civil Rights groups, this event took place on May 17, 2003 at the New Holly Gathering Hall. Nearly one hundred community members bared witness to a powerful panel of speakers who shared stories of civil liberty violations from 1942 and today. The stories of World War II incarceration are critical in light of recent injustice felt in our Arab, Muslim, and South Asian communities.

To set the stage for this event, Tatsuo Nakata overviewed Executive Order 9066 and the USA Patriot Act. Participants were deeply moved by our speakers, which included Asha Mohamed (local leader in the Somali community), Rham and Mohammed Hamoui (their mother, father, and sister were detained at INS prison for nearly 10 months), Kazzie Katayama (a youth at the start of World War II) and May Namba (Seattle School District employee in 1942).

Participants engaged in small table discussions, finding ways to defend civil liberties. The large group discussion shared the next steps: host similar events to educate people on the current situation of civil liberties, build active community coalitions, humanize our history and current issues through personal stories, find ways to communicate with one another, bring in organizations missing from the discussion, and use our feet and voices in the legislative process to preserve civil rights.

A special thank you to all of the planning committee members who worked tirelessly to make this community event such an incredible success: Devon Abdallah (Arab American Community Coalition), Kush Bambrah (Hate Free Zone), Nori Catabay (JACL), Rebecca Choi (OCA), Doug Honma (JACL), Emily Momohara (JACL), Tatsuo Nakata (JACL), and Kim Nguyen (King County Civil Rights Commission), our community sponsors, endorsers, and event volunteers.

A further thanks goes to local businesses, generously donating food for our event. I encourage you to patronize the following businesses and thank them for their support and kindness, particularly our Middle Eastern businesses that gave such incredible food to enjoy.

- ♦ **Cedars Restaurant on Brooklyn**, 4759 Brooklyn Ave. NE, University District. Owner: Muhammad Bashir Bhatti.
- ♦ **Kabul**, Afghan Cuisine, 2301 N 45th, Wallingford, (206) 545-9000. Owner: Wali Khairzada.
- ♦ **Mediterranean Kitchen**, Specialty Gourmet Middle Eastern Cuisine, Roy St. on Queen Anne, (206) 285-6713. Owners: Kamal & Ghada Aboul Hosn.
- ♦ **Safeway**, 3820 Rainier Ave. S and 3900 S Othello, Seattle.
- ♦ **Tully's Coffee**, 2100 N 45th St., Wallingford.
- ♦ **Viet Wah Superfoods**, 6040 MLK Jr. Way S, South Seattle.
- ♦ **Uwajimaya**, Seattle.

For more information on next steps or a copy of the event program, please contact the JACL office at (206) 622-4098.

Cherry Blossom Report

It was a community effort at the Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Community Festival. Sushi sales went in part to support the proposed Japanese American Community Center, clearing over \$1074 during the Seattle Center event, held April 18-20, 2003. Heading this effort was Utaka Sasaki, Tazue Sasaki, Shea Aoki, and Dee Goto. Among this years community volunteers were:

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|------------------|-----------------------|
| Rose Asakura | Ryan Minato |
| Jennifer Asato | Kyo Mizukata |
| Jo Anne Asato | Tama Murotani |
| Melvin Asato | Kimi Nakanishi |
| Stacy Asato | Miyo Shintaku |
| Alice Baba | Chieko Sumimoto |
| Dorothy Chew | Kathy Suyama |
| Linda Dong | Bill Tashima |
| Terea Imanishi | Shigeko Uno |
| Toshiko Imanishi | Iky Yamada |
| Ann Kumata | Margarett Yanagimochi |
| Darrell Mihara | |

This years theme, *400 Years of Japanese Dance*, was highlighted by performances of Ayako Mai, Kabuki dance, and many more. Also featured: lecture/slide series by Dr. Frank Kitamoto on Bainbridge Island Japanese Americans; Legacy Quilt depicting the WWII evacuation experience of Japanese Americans; demonstrations on origami, kimono dress up, kite making, taiko, and martial arts.

President, continued from page 2

Nomura Sumida and My Phan – last year's scholarship recipients – about how well they are doing in higher education and what their future plans are. Thank you very much to the scholarship committee members: Alan Yabui, Bill Tashima, Reiko Akagi, May Namba, Ann Fujii Lindwall, and Kiku Hayashi, organizing a very fun evening filled with good food and celebration of our scholars. A very special thank you goes to Mr. Elmer Tazuma and Mr. Yukio Tazuma for attending and for helping to carry on the legacy of the Tazuma scholarship. Both Elmer and Yukio have attend every year and it has become a tradition for Elmer to bless us with the sounds of his wonderful harmonica. Thank you everyone for continuing to make our scholarship program a success!

These are merely a few of the happenings for the month of May. It was a tremendous month for your Seattle Chapter JACL and we promise to continue to work hard *for* you and *with* you. Should you feel the need to get further involved, or would just like to visit and find out more about our wonderful working committees, please feel free to contact the Seattle Chapter JACL office at <email@jaclseattle.org> or (206) 622-4098. Thank you very much for your membership and all of your continued support!

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 Tatsuo M.W. Nakata prior to the meeting. All are welcome.

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Article and Event Submission: Board members should submit materials to the editor (ryanminato@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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