

From Hiroshima to Hope

by Alan Yabui

Annual "From Hiroshima to Hope" celebration to be held at Green Lake, Wednesday, August 6, 2003. Event activities will be held immediately south of the Bathhouse Theater, at the northwest shore of Green Lake. Three children from local community groups will give the keynote address and Reverend Koichi Barrish of Tsubaki Shinto Shrine will give the invocation. This event is coordinated through the Wing Luke Asian Museum.

Held in Seattle since 1984, this event is a remembrance for those who died as a result of the atomic bombs dropped on Japan in 1945. The first bomb was in Hiroshima, August 6, and killed more than 70,000 people. The second, in Nagasaki, August 9, killed over 75,000 people. The estimated loss of life does not include the many bombing victims who later died as a result of radiation poisoning.

The event concludes every year with the floating of hundreds of candle-lit, silk-paper lanterns on the lake. The floating of the lanterns is based on a traditional Buddhist ritual. Lanterns are given out at 6:30 PM and volunteer calligraphers will be available to assist participants wishing to inscribe personal messages on their lantern.

Next Steps at Minidoka

by Anna Tamura

The National Park Service (NPS) continues to develop a General Management Plan for Minidoka with six public workshops scheduled for the Puget Sound area in August. The NPS will present a range of proposals for the long-term development and management of the Minidoka site. Among the numerous proposals are included: acquiring more land, bringing back barracks to the site, education and outreach, reconstructing a portion of the perimeter fence and a watchtower, and much much more. The NPS will ask for our comments and suggestions, making this an exciting opportunity to voice ideas and be involved in Minidoka's future!!! Please come and join.

Aug. 1-2 – NPS Public Workshops at the *Minidoka Remembered Reunion*, SeaTac Doubletree Hotel, 18740 Pacific Hwy. S, Friday at 3 - 5 PM, Saturday at 10 AM - 12 PM.

Aug. 4 – Bainbridge Island Commons, 370 Brian Dr., 6 - 8 PM.

Aug. 5 – Nisei Veterans Hall, 1212 S King St., 10 AM - 12 PM.

Aug. 6 – REI, 222 Yale Ave. N, 6 - 8 PM.

Aug. 7 – Seattle Buddhist Temple, 1427 S Main St., 6 - 8 PM.

Please contact Anna Tamura for more information, (206) 220-4157 or <Anna_Tamura@nps.gov>.

Minidoka Pilgrimage: a Journey Remembered

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by Emily Hanako Momohara

Sunday night, I hurriedly unloaded bags from the bus as each experience of the Minidoka Pilgrimage strengthened my tired body and mind. I reflected on the amazing and touching stories shared and the moving events witnessed: A Nisei man was confronted with memories of his friend drowning when we passed over the canal. A close friend of mine, with her children and grandchildren by her side, bravely revisited a Minidoka barrack. A Shin-nisei thanked her Nisei elders and the JAACL for their fight for equality so similar pains would not be endured today. When the names of 70 fallen Minidoka veterans were read, gasps, whispers and sniffles circled the crowd. The echoes of the twenty-one-gun salute still rang in my ears. I thought of the PBS crew that found themselves weeping along with us and the NY Times reporter who ran to her hotel room trying to make Monday's press deadline. Jerry Arai, our keynote speaker, confronted us with the painful reality that Arab, Muslim, and South Asian Americans are being subjected to the same discrimination and war-hysteria. The Pilgrimage drew attention not only to our community's incarceration, but the value of civil rights and liberties. Saren Sakurai, of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center and Halvsie, gave a speech at the closing ceremony that sums up the mood of our journey:

"From the Issei I have learned: Life is tough but it is not to be sneezed at. If you get knocked down, get back up, dust yourself off, and keep going. When the going gets tough, a Nikkei relies on ingenuity.

From the Nisei I have learned: When the elders speak, listen. When the children ask, answer. Life is what you make it. And it's particularly good to make of your life a good story. To live to tell your story. This may not have been in our culture then, but I can tell you, it's in our culture now.

From the Sansei I have learned: If it's in the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights, take it literally. Trust it. Believe it. Expect it. Demand it. If these rights are found lacking, or have been denied to you, there are things that you can do. When you are right, as we are, you will win.

Now, I'd like to teach those generations something I know about being a Yonsei: You can trust us. We will remember Minidoka. We will carry on its memory and we will come back. We accept the Japanese American legacy as you have offered it to us. I swear to you today, on my ancestors memories interned here, Minidoka and the Nikkei story will not be forgotten. Its stories will be told by me and by my children. But more importantly, it will not be repeated. Because from you we have learned that every experience is a learning experience - and we have learned how to pass that on."

President's Message

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

The end of June marks the completion of half a year and it is hard to believe how quickly time flies. We started 2003 with our installation banquet which centered around the theme, "Reflections of our Past: Shining into the Future." This theme was chosen for several reasons and contains many meanings.

The first part of the theme stands for thoughts on challenges of our shared histories as Japanese Americans and as people who hold firmly to ideals of civil rights and equality. It is "reflecting," as in looking into a mirror. When we look into a mirror from this perspective, we see many, many pictures bouncing back. None of these sights may be greater than those that shine however. The second part of the theme deals with the "shining," the shine of bravery, strength and character of our elders that carries us and guides our decisions, hearts, minds, souls, and shared vision well into the future.

During the last weekend in June, while attending our JACL Pacific Northwest (PNW)/ Intermountain District Council (IDC) biennial, bi-district conference, I had the tremendous opportunity to participate in parts of the Minidoka Pilgrimage as well as see the Minidoka internment site as it stands today. You may have read in the New York Times, Seattle Times, or in another newspaper about the pilgrimage events. Words cannot articulate for me personally, how much of an experience it was to see the site in person and to hear the stories of pilgrimage participants, formerly incarcerated at Minidoka. A very special thank you goes to: Emily Momohara, May Namba, Anna Tamura, Alan Yabui, and Leslie Komori for working so hard over the past six months and organizing what was truly a powerful weekend for all who participated. Also thank you to Alan Momohara for donating funds to help make the pilgrimage possible.

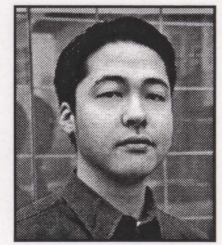
You may have read in the Pacific Citizen about the current financial challenges facing JACL National. These challenges have been brought about for a couple of reasons: namely our struggling economy and the adverse effects the economy has had on National's investments; and a national decline in JACL membership. The consequences of this situation run so deep – that national may be forced to go to some very extreme measures such as paring down a staff that is far below half

capacity and possibly even closing down some of the organization's district offices.

One of the things that make our organization so unique is the fact that we have a nationwide network of members. Our nationwide network is strengthened and reinforced by our regional offices and extremely hardworking staff who are responsible for: writing, marketing, producing, and distributing the Pacific Citizen; advocating for and supporting the passage of civil rights and equality measures in our nation's capitol; informing membership of issues pertaining to Japanese Americans and civil rights and coordinating avenues of communication for members (it is of note that the Minidoka internment site is preserved as a national monument now thanks in part to your hard work as members of our organization); educating the general public about hate crimes; educating others about the incarceration of Japanese Americans; advocating on behalf of those who have been wrongly affected by incidents of racial prejudice and discrimination; creating dialogue and building coalitions between other civil rights organizations and JACL; supporting districts and chapters in reaching larger goals; aiding in the planning and implementing of our national convention; assisting in the planning and implementing of the National Youth/ Student Conference; and many, many other tasks – big and small.

I believe in the principles of civil rights and equality. And I believe that as long as racism, prejudice and bigotry exists – both nationally and locally – the need exists for JACL both nationally and locally exists. Another unique feature about JACL – it is the Japanese American Citizens League. Because part of our mission is based in civil rights and because the other part of our mission – to preserve the Japanese American experience – grew out of the former, our organization plays an interesting role in our society and in the fight for equality for all residents of the United States. Now more than ever the stories of our community need to be shared.

See "President" on page 3



Announcements

Thank You

For you generous donations:

Alan Momohara

Chizuko Nagaoka in memory of Eira Nagaoka.

Suma Yagi to the Aki Kurose Scholarship Fund in memory of Ruby Aoki and in memory of Masa Sumida.

Events Calendar

Jul. 19 – Getting Involved in Government:

Meeting our Communities' Needs Conference, University of Washington, Architectural Building, Room 147, 9 AM - 3 PM. Contact: (206) 595-4892, <gettinginvolvedingovernment3@hotmail.com>.

Jul. 25-27 – Kaizen Youth Leadership Retreat, University of Washington, Delta Zeta Sorority House. Contact: Steven Peralta, (206) 669-2444, <peralts@hotmail.com>.

Aug. 17 – Seattle Chapter JACL & Lake Washington JACL Mariners Afternoon, game against the Boston Red Sox, \$10 tickets with a limited amount remaining. Contact: Alan Yabui, (425) 820-5466, 425-564-3083, <ayabui@bcc.ctc.edu>.

Aug. 23 – 4th Annual Aki Kurose Middle School Academy Beautification Day, Aki Kurose Middle School Academy, 3928 S Graham St., 9 AM - 1 PM. RSVP: May Namba, (206) 784-3824.

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This is why at the Bi-district Conference, Seattle Chapter JACL put forth a resolution for the consideration of the PNW and IDC. This resolution called for the PNW and IDC districts to join together to urge National to reactivate the Legislative Education Committee (LEC) of JACL National as a means to proactively seek to restore civil rights and civil liberties of residents of the United States who have seen these rights steadily erode post September 11th. The LEC was the arm of the JACL responsible for gaining redress for Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II. This resolution was passed unanimously. It now will move on to National.

As you can see, we still have a great amount of work ahead of us. But we continue to fight and we continue to work for you and in partnership with you as a member. I hope that if your membership has lapsed that you will consider renewing. I hope that if you have a friend or a family member who is not currently a member, that you will consider purchasing them a membership as a gift. I hope that if you are a current member, you are proud in knowing that you are a valued partner in an organization that has a long, rich history and that we are unafraid of taking proactive stances and leadership on tough issues. Thank you very much for your continued support and your shared vision for making the world a better place. Have a wonderful summer!

Membership

Membership Categories

- Individual - \$62
- Youth & Student - \$26
- Couple & Family - \$110
- Thousand Club - \$100
- Century Club - \$175
- Life Thousand Club - \$1000
- Life Century Club - \$2000
- Chapter Booster - \$20
- Senior Chapter Booster - \$15

Membership Form

Membership Category: _____

Membership Amount: _____

I would like to designate an additional contribution to:

Education Pike Place Market Art Project

Scholarship Aki Kurose Scholarship

Civil Rights Legacy

Donation Amount: _____

Total: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip: _____

Phone Day/Evening: _____

E-mail: _____

Yes, receive chapter newsletter notice by e-mail.

Yes, list my information in the Japanese American Community Directory

Please make checks payable to JACL and remit to: Seattle Chapter Membership Chair, P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, WA 98118

Recent Membership

Individual

- Carmen Tsuboi Chan
- Jill Yamada Cooke
- Marion Critney
- Mary M. Gruenewald
- Ai C. Handa-Moore
- Norio Harui
- Bernadette Horiuchi
- Lorraine Hoshibata
- George Kaminishi
- Saji Kanazawa
- Tetsuden Kashima
- Momoko Kido
- Frank M. Kikuchi
- Frank Y. Kitamoto
- Janice Kumasaka
- Sumi Kuriyama
- Miyuki Maruhashi
- Lisa Matsukawa-Chinn
- Dan T. Matsumoto
- Nyla Nakano
- Dick Nishioka

- Kurt Nogaki
- Mitsu R. Nomura
- Aiko Okamoto
- Robert T. Okano
- George Osawa
- Patricia N. Sado
- Keiko Sakakibara
- Joy Shigaki
- Kazuko Shimizu
- Charles Z. Smith
- Carol T. Suguro
- Hiro Suzuki
- Michi Tanouye
- Daisy Tomita
- Mildred Tsutsumi
- Suma Yagi
- Dennis Yamasaki
- Mary Yokoyama
- Yae Yorozu
- Yukio B. Yoshihara
- Harry Yoshimura

Booster

- Jene Deguchi
- Tsu Kanzaki
- Mitsuko Morishita
- M. Tsukada
- Mary Uchida
- Fumiko Yoshikawa

Student/Youth

- Mariko Sata

Thousand Club Spouse

- Colleen N. Hayami
- Amy Matsuoka
- Koko Sutow

Couples/Family

- Robyn and Todd Achilles
- David and Karen Cunningham
- Edwin and Suzanne Hamada
- Terry and Shirley Kameda
- Victor and Joanne Kimura
- Mike and Margaret Mizumoto
- Giro and Miyo Nakagawa
- Harry S. and Sachiko Okazaki
- Robert Sadamu Shimabukuro and Alice Ito
- Steve and Joyce Suzuki
- Noboru and Takako Taki
- Tosh and Lois H. Taniguchi
- Min and Cherrie Tsubota
- Tom M. and Nobie Tsukiji
- Masako Tamura and Eric Yap

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.

Seattle Chapter JACL website: www.jaclseattle.org

E-mail address: email@jaclseattle.org

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