

Minidoka Reunion

During the weekend of August 1-3, over 1,000 people gathered at the SeaTac DoubleTree Hotel to attend the "Minidoka Remembered 2003" Reunion. The Reunion Committee, chaired by Gloria Shigeno, did an outstanding job of putting together a well organized event with every detail attended to. The schedule included exhibits from about 20 groups including the Seattle JACL, Friends of Minidoka, Densho, National Park Service, Nisei Veterans Committee, and Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community. The Committee also presented various artifacts and archives from Minidoka, such as furniture made in the camps.

The Seattle JACL table included two large poster-board displays made by Elsie Taniguchi, presenting photographs, newspaper articles, and other information relating to the recent Minidoka Pilgrimage and JACL Bi-District Meeting in Twin Falls at the end of June. We also sold our Aki Sogabe cards and framed sets, and passed out chapter information on membership and activities.

The committee scheduled many workshops and presentations including two workshops put on by the National Park Service to gather input on the future of the Minidoka Camp site. Tom Ikeda of Densho showed selected pieces of oral histories on "Minidoka Memories." Gordon Yamaguchi gave a moving talk on "This Was Minidoka." There was a poignant, one-woman, short play on "Within the Silence."

The culmination of the weekend was a banquet attended by almost 800 people. The program, hosted by Rod Kawakami, included recognition of two teachers from Hunt High School (Robert Coombs and Helen Manning); Walt Woodward (deceased Bainbridge Island newspaper publisher who was the only west coast publisher to oppose the evacuation); Rev. Emery E. Andrews (deceased minister of the Japanese Baptist Church); and the 442nd RCT, the 100th Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

The program looked at Minidoka through various artistic perspectives, some of which included poetry by Kathy Sugiyama, art by Roger Shimomura, dance by Yujie Sato-Lee, children's stories by Ken Mochizuki, humor and Japanese puns by Tetsuden Kashima, and letter reading by David Yamaguchi. The weekend was truly a time for laughing, for crying, for bitterness, for forgiveness...friends seeing old friends...children learning more about their parents and grandparents. It was a time of nostalgia but with a special awareness of current events. It was a special kimochi that existed for the entire weekend of Minidoka Remembered.

We thank the following Seattle JACL members for their help with the JACL table: Darrell Mihara, Emily Momohara, Tatsuo Nakata, May Namba, Arlene Oki, Tone Shimizu, Elsie Taniguchi, and Bill Tashima.

Civil Rights Committee Summer Update

The JACL Civil Rights Committee is always working to be present and involved in pressing civil rights and social justice issues. This committee is committed to building collaborative relations with other organizations including the Organization for Chinese Americans (OCA), Arab American Community Coalition (AACC), Coalition to Undo Racism Everywhere (CURE), our sister Lake Washington JACL Chapter, and others to broaden our work and develop effective coalitions. In this process, we are also working to keep our membership and the public informed and engaged on issues that matter.

In the next few months, our committee is planning for two upcoming membership events. This November we are looking to present one on Affirmative Action today in light of the recent Supreme Court decision. Since the Supreme Court delivered its decision on the University of Michigan case on using race as a factor in admission, we feel there is a need to examine its implications in this state and see how it affects the Initiative 200, the formal initiative which banned the use of race in public hiring, college admissions, and contracting. The second membership event will be a movie night highlighting the trafficking of women in this country and other issues to be determined. ALL are welcome to join us in our planning and get better acquainted with our work and wonderful members.

Additionally, we are working in partnership with a number of community organizations that are hosting nonpartisan candidate forums for the Seattle School District and Seattle City Council races. We will keep you informed on the details.

We have developed a Civil Rights List Serve as a way to stay in touch with members and the public on community events, issues being deliberated in the City, State, and National level, and the like. Every few weeks, we will send out emails to group members that we hope will be useful to you. If you are interested in being added, please contact Joy Shigaki at (206) 622-4098 or by email at <shigaki@juno.com> or <jaclevent@yahoo.com>.

Membership Information

Members constitute the life energy of Seattle JACL. We are always looking for new energy and fresh ideas in helping us to preserve liberty and justice for all. Your membership and involvement goes a long way in helping us to make a difference together.



See "Membership" on page 3

Newsletter Available On-line: www.jaclseattle.org

President's Message

by Tatsuo M.W. Nakata, President

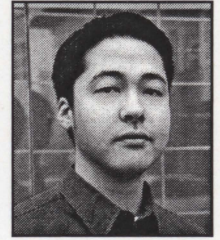
As a civil rights organization, there are many issues of great importance to Seattle JACL. Because of the hard work of many in Seattle JACL, JACL National was able to gain redress for Japanese Americans interned during World War II. This feat still continues to amaze me and is a testament to the strength, dedication, and courage of JACLers. Never in our nation's history has our own federal government realized a wrongdoing of this magnitude and then been made accountable.

Part of the reason for the success of the redress movement was the engagement of JACLers and many other friends within the political process. Redress became reality because of numerous public hearings, advocacy in the form of many JACL members talking with elected officials (through writing letters, making phone calls, and having face-to-face meetings), working with the press, and educating others about internment.

When we, along with other organizations become fully and completely engaged in our political process and our democracy, we see the results of what we can achieve. As a civil rights organization, JACL plays a unique role within our democracy. We are here to let others know about the importance of protecting civil rights in this society. We are here to remind people of the dangers of using policies of racial profiling to combat crime or terrorism. We are here to advocate for issues and policies that will allow our society's diversity to be nourished and to reflect the strength it truly is. This means fighting for equality. This means advocating for all peoples' rights to actively participate in our democracy – making it a true democracy. For example, what would the make-up of our elected representation look like if *all* eligible voters voted?

For these reasons, Seattle JACL was proud to work in collaboration with over 50 other participating organizations to help facilitate the most recent, "Getting Involved in Government: Meeting our Communities' Needs" Educational Conference this past month. Over 140 people gave up a beautiful, summer Saturday morning to attend and be a part of this monumental conference.

The conference covered basic topics such as, "How a Bill Becomes a Law" and, "How to Talk to Your Legislators." Additionally, it also offered panel discussions on, "The Power of Your Vote and Voice" and, "A Panel of New Generation Asian Pacific Americans from Different Levels of Government." It was



inspiring and amazing to be a part of an event where so many people were present to learn and to enhance skills and to further discussion on what we as a community can do to affect positive change with regard to the issues that are currently affecting the Asian Pacific American community.

Seattle JACL firmly believes in strengthening our society's democracy. It is only through further empowering communities and working in collaboration that we can continue to make a difference. July's educational forum was only a first step in moving towards greater representation and increased awareness for the importance of diversity and equality. Many thanks to all who attended and participated.

Lastly, the work of Seattle JACL is achieved only through the dedication and self-less work of many volunteers. We are very fortunate to continue to have new volunteers join us. We are also saddened when some have to leave us. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with local fine arts photographer Emily Momohara as a member of our board of directors. Emily's vision and work helped to facilitate the most recent pilgrimage to Minidoka. Many congratulations to Emily on being accepted to attend graduate school in Kansas where she will study under the tutelage of Seattle's very own world-renowned artist Roger Shimomura. Emily will be deeply missed but Seattle JACL knows that there are many tremendous things that lie ahead for her. Seattle JACL would like to extend our very best wishes to Emily and also our gratitude for all of her hard work and dedication.

Announcements

Thank You

For you generous donations:

Elaine Akagi in Memory of Dorothy Akagi
Edwin & Suzanne Hamada
Wendy Kimball
Cherry Kinoshita
Louis & Jane Lambert
Tim Miyahara
Tama Murotani
JoAnn Kazuko Nakamoto
May Namba in Memory of Tom Okazaki
May Namba
Arlene Oki
Mari Okumura

Masu Sasajima
Carol J. Simmons
Bill Tashima
Min & Cherrie Tsubota
Rev. Jerry Shigaki
Joy Shigaki & Vincent Booy

Newsletter sponsored in part by these generous donors:

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Events Calendar

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.

Sep. 8 – Denise Louie Education Center 4th Annual Jazz Night: Dinner, Silent/ Live Auction, jazz concert featuring music by Deems Tsutakawa. Contact: Roger Johnson, (206) 621-7880.

Sep. 13 – JACL National Gala Fundraiser Dinner, Los Angeles, California. Contact: (213) 626-4471, <psw@jacl.org>.

Recent Membership

Individual

Midori Akagi
 Mae Deguchi
 Mary L. Granger
 Fred I. Hasegawa
 Kimo C. Hirayama
 Yuri Kamasaka
 Mitsuhiro Kodama
 Frank S. Kubo
 Michael Matsunami
 Janice T. Nakamura
 Peggy H. Saito
 Joy M. St. Germain
 Sharon Tomiko Santos
 Ruth A. Sumida
 Grant Takemura
 Peggy Tanemura
 Dr. Nancy Yamaguchi
 Janice Deguchi Yee

Student/Youth

Doug Honma
 Yoko Kusunose

Couples/Family

Mits and Kazzie Katayama
 Rodney and Kristine Kawakami
 Dr. and Mrs. William Sata
 Tone and Barbara Shimizu
 Joe and Lillian Yamamoto

Membership, continued from page 1

Membership Benefits

Free subscription to the Pacific Citizen Newspaper
 Monthly Seattle JACL Newsletter
 Scholarship Program
 JACL Credit Union Services

Membership Categories

Individual \$62 – Regular sustained members of the organization.

Youth & Student \$26 – Category for individuals who are 25 years or younger or who are currently enrolled in a college, trade school, or university at either the undergraduate or graduate level.

Couple & Family \$110 – Spouses or partners (and children) residing in the same household.

Thousand Club \$100, Century Club \$175 – Exclusive membership categories whose members make a larger annual contribution to the programs of the organization.

Life Thousand Club \$1000, Life Century Club \$2000 – Spouse or partner of a current Thousand Club, Century Club, or Life Member.

Chapter Booster \$20, Senior Chapter Booster \$15 – These members do not receive the Pacific Citizen, but do receive the Chapter newsletter. All proceeds from Booster Membership goes to the Seattle Chapter.

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."

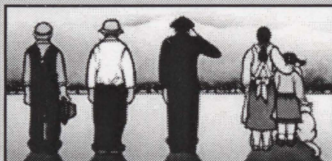
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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



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

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

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.

Seattle Chapter Newsletter: Published a week after the third Wednesday of each month by the Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League. Address: PO Box 18558, Seattle, Washington, 98118. Phone: (206) 622-4098

August 2003, Volume 40, Issue 7
Editor and Newsletter Design: Ryan Minato

Contributors: Bylined articles represent the views of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of Seattle Chapter JACL or the National JACL. The entire contents are copyrighted by Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter. No part of this publication may be printed without prior consent.

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
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