

Sushi & Sake Aficionados!

The Japanese American Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that it will again host a sumptuous Sushi & Sake Fest to be held from 5:00 to 8:30 PM on Wednesday, October 29 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in downtown Seattle, 721 Pine St. The event drew raves from many of the 1,000 people who attended the festival last year, not only for the opportunity to taste the best sushi and sake in town, but also for the way it was presented.



Sushi and sake.

Admission is \$50 per person for this fun fundraiser. This year, part of the proceeds will benefit the Nikkei Heritage Association, a group focused on developing a Japanese Cultural Center in Seattle. Please call (206) 320-1010 to receive further information.

2003 Hate Crimes Conference

The Organization of Chinese Americans - Greater Seattle Chapter is proud to present the 2003 Hate Crimes Conference with the generous support of Allstate Insurance and the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. Join us and learn from victims about the realities of hate crimes and hear from law enforcement officers and other community advocates on how to report a hate crime and why it is important to do so. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Please help get the word out about this event and circulate the following information to your organization membership and friends.

Event: 2003 Hate Crimes Conference
Location: Aaian Resource Center, 1025 S King St.
Date: October 11, 2003
Time: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Please RSVP by calling (425) 895-1086 or you can email <HateCrimesConference@yahoo.com>.

Aki Sogabe: Japanese Farmers at the Pike Place Market

Aki Sogabe's mural reproduced in a five-card set and printed in vivid full-color. These cards are being sold as a Seattle Chapter fundraising drive.

See page 3

A Beautiful Day to Beautify the Aki Kurose Middle School Academy

What started as an overcast day, ended with rays of sunshine and a more beautiful landscape. Beautifying the grounds of the Aki Kurose Middle School Academy, over 35 individuals of all ages and backgrounds came together with a common goal and bond on Saturday, August 25th, from 9 AM - 1 PM. Through much sweat equity and fun, the front entrance (which covers an entire block—a long one at that!) was weeded, edged, pruned, cleared of debris, and barked. The purpose of this day, on top of honoring Aki, is to ensure that the students, staff, and community can start the new school year entering a well-groomed school. Special thanks to everyone who joined us!!!



Volunteers at Aki Kurose Middle School Academy.

Also, JACLers helped to raise \$175 towards the goal of \$500 to upgrade two doll cases, which houses Japanese dolls commemorating "Children's Day". These dolls were originally donated over 50 years ago and need a new home. If anyone is interested in donating to help upgrade the doll cases, please send your check to:

Payable to: Aki Kurose Middle School Academy
(memo: Japanese Doll Case)
Send to: Attn: Jeffrey Hattori
Seattle JAACL
316 Maynard Ave. S, Suite 111
Seattle, WA 98104

If you are in the neighborhood of the Aki Kurose Middle School Academy, take a look at the Japanese dolls in their cases. A further tour of the school will revile a number of paintings, flyers, and displays that also reflect what Aki cared about...respect, peace, and caring. It is truly inspiring.

President's Message

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

The rain returning, the weather is getting cooler – means only one thing – the fall season is upon us. With the beginning of fall, many young people in Seattle are returning to school. This past month, Seattle JACL was very proud to put together our Annual Beautification Day for Aki Kurose Middle School Academy. Many Seattle JACLers and friends rolled up their sleeves, picked up gardening utensils, and spent a few hours on a Saturday morning talking with friends and helping to take pride in a school named after an amazing community hero. A very special thank you goes to Jeffrey Hattori, Reiko Akagi, May Namba, and Kazzie Katayama for helping to organize this fun-filled day of community service. Also, thank you to President-elect Bill Tashima for bringing the doughnuts!

Fall also marks the time of year when campaigns for political office kick into high gear. Seattle JACL was very happy to co-sponsor a candidates' forum with a twist entitled, "Happy Hour Candidates Forum." Geared toward the twenty- and thirty-something age groups, but welcoming people of all ages, this event took place at The Standard Café located in the heart of the International District at 6th & Main. This event was one of the main forums that took place in the Asian Pacific American (APA) community, asking candidates for Seattle City Council to stop and think about what their stances were on issues of diversity and equality, economic opportunity, and

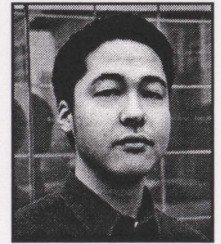
other issues pertaining to APAs. Nearly all of the candidates seeking to represent the citizens of Seattle attended and responded to questions that audience members posed. Elisa Hahn of King 5 TV moderated the discussion before a packed house of nearly 100 attendees.

This month, I hope that JACL members will take the time to study the candidates and the issues and vote during the primary elections. The decisions that the Seattle City Council makes play an important role in our daily lives, and when it comes to civil rights, it is important that your voice be heard.

Next month, Seattle JACL is proud to co-sponsor a candidates' forum specifically dedicated to the issue of racial profiling. We are proud to be among a coalition of groups that includes the People's Coalition for Justice (PCJ), NAACP, the Minority Executive Directors' Coalition (MEDC), and several other organizations working to raise awareness around racial profiling. This forum will be taking place, Saturday, October 4th, from 6 - 9 PM, at the New Holly Community Center. A very special thank you goes to Joy Shigaki, VP for civil rights and members of the JACL civil rights committee, for working on this forum and representing Seattle JACL in the planning process.

Speaking of candidates' forums and elections, nothing could be more helpful in understanding the political process than getting involved in a local civic or community organization. Through becoming active in these organizations you can learn advocacy and effectiveness, creating positive change for the betterment of society. Personally, I have learned a tremendous amount through my work with Seattle JACL and from the dynamic group of people that makes up our board and committees. I would encourage any and all Seattle JACL members to consider volunteering with one of our committees. Serving on a committee can be highly rewarding, provide opportunities to work with exceptional people who care about the same issues and activities that you do, and be a tremendous amount of fun. I hope that all JACL members might consider volunteering to serve on a committee or maybe coming to learn more at one of our board meetings (every third Wednesday of the month, 6 - 7:30 PM, JACL Hall).

Thank you very much for your continued support and membership. Your membership makes all the difference and allows Seattle JACL to remain active and effective.



Announcements

Events Calendar

Sep. 26 – Moving Forward: The Road Not Taken - FACES Conference sponsored by Filipino American Civic Employees of Seattle; Seattle Central Community College, 1701 Broadway; \$75, all day. Contact: Aurora Mendoza, (206) 615-1570, www.facesseattle.org.

Oct. 4 – Candidates' Forum on Racial Profiling, New Holly Community Center, 7054 - 32nd Ave. S, Seattle, 6 - 9 PM. Contact: Joy Shigaki, (206) 622-4098, aclevent@yahoo.com.

Oct. 11 – Hate Crimes Conference presented by OCA with speakers presenting the realities of hate crimes, the importance

of reporting, and how to report them; refreshments and lunch provided; Asian Resource Center, 1025 S King St., Seattle, 8:30 AM - 3 PM. RSVP: (425) 895-1086, HateCrimesConference@yahoo.com.

Oct. 11 – API Community Health Fair with performances and health resources; New Holly Community Center, 7054 - 32nd Ave. S, Seattle, 10 AM - 3 PM. Contact: CISC, (206) 624-5633.

Oct. 18-19 – Arab Festival presented by the Arab Association of Washington with workshops, performance, Arabic food, and traditional bazaar (or souk); Seattle Center House, all day, FREE. Contact: (206) 684-7200, www.arabcenter.net.

Oct. 29 – Sushi & Sake Fest fundraiser to benefit the Nikkei Heritage Association hosted by the Japanese American Chamber of Commerce; Grand Hyatt Hotel in downtown Seattle, 721 Pine St., \$50, 5 - 8:30 PM. Contact: (206) 320-1010.

Thank You

Newsletter sponsored in part by these generous donors:

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From Hiroshima to Hope

by Alan Yabui

Hundreds of lanterns were afloat on Green Lake to commemorate the 58th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, part of Seattle's *From Hiroshima to Hope* event, held the evening of August 6,



Lanterns on lake.

2003. *From Hiroshima to Hope* not only commemorates the first ever atomic bomb victims, which tragically took over 150,000 lives, this event further recognizes victims of war and violence everywhere, symbolizing a strong commitment to world peace.

The evening's program started at 6:30 PM as nearly 2,000 guests and participants were greeted by "gathering music" performed by the World Meditation Ensemble and the Silk Strings group.

As part of the program, Tatsuo Nakata, President of the Seattle JAACL Chapter, read a letter from Mayor Tadatashi Akiba of Hiroshima which stated, "...it is profoundly meaningful and beneficial that so many (Seattle) people have participated and kept *From Hiroshima to Hope* happening every year since 1984. On behalf of the people of Hiroshima, I hereby express our admiration and gratitude to all who make it happen..."

Reverend Koichi Barrish, from the Tsubaki Shinto Shrine, performed the introductory blessing. Seattle Kokon Taiko followed with a performance, their 15th consecutive appearance at the event. Then there was the Arab Children's Dabke Choir and the Arab and Jewish Children's Choir, both of which moved the crowd. Tripat Singh, Muna Mohamud, and Kiyoshi Shikuma were chosen to present this year's keynote remarks, offering words on the topic of "Peace from My Perspective."

For the first time, Sikh community calligraphers joined Japanese, Beikoku Shodo Kenkyukai calligraphers in writing messages of peace and friendship on beautiful paper lanterns. Children from different communities also made origami cranes that were sent to Hiroshima as a message of hope.

The Lantern Floating Ceremony (Toro Nagashi) concluded the evening with paper lanterns set adrift on Green Lake. This portion of the *From Hiroshima to Hope* event is adapted from ancient Buddhist ritual with lanterns set adrift, representing the souls of the dead, and prayers offered to assure the souls a peaceful rest. Reverend Shobo Mitomo, Seattle Nichiren Buddhist Church, started the ceremonial chanting of the Buddhist sutra, leading a procession to the lake's edge. The candle-lit paper lanterns were released to carry their prayers and peace messages. For more than an hour the gathering watched, as lanterns floated slowly in a serpent-like formation of lights, on an otherwise darkened lake.

Recent Membership

Individual

Anne Arakaki-Lock
Gloria Fujii
Kiyoshi George Fukano
Mary M. Gruenewald
Jeffrey Hattori
Elaine Hayes
Ray Ishii
Fred Kaneko
Sally Kitano
Mrs. Kazuo Kobayashi
Janet Kometani
Misayo Kumakura
Alan G. Kurimura
Ruth Ann Kurose
Michael Latimer
Mitzi A. Nakamura
Tatsuo Nakata
Kenji Onishi
Kunio Otani
Harry Takata
Anna Tamura
Etsuo Yoshitome

Senior Booster

Rosie Sugahara

Couples/Family

Thomas and Sara Haven
Tom and Sally Hirai
Rob and Trish Howard
Gene and Vickie Kanamori
Victor and Joanne Kimura
Hugo Kurose Family
Ernest and Sanaye Nagai
Gail Nomura
and Stephen H. Sumida
Steve and Joyce Suzuki
John and Rose Tenma

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."

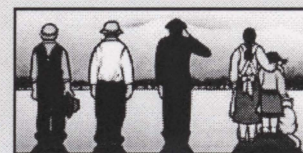
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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



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

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

September 2003, Volume 40, Issue 8

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.

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E-mail address: email@jaclseattle.org

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