

## Seeking Nominations for Year 2004 Seattle Chapter Officers and Board Members

The Seattle Chapter JACL Nominations Committee is accepting nominations of persons for its officer and board positions for the year 2004. Persons who are interested in serving as an officer or board member or who wish to submit the name of someone to serve, must submit your name or those of others who have given their consent to:

Nominations Committee chairperson, Vicki J. Toyohara, who can be reached at (206) 464-6771 (Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, day time) or (425) 865-0272 (Thursdays, Fridays, evenings and weekends).

The Board will accept additional nominations from the floor at its November board meeting, which will take place on Wednesday, November 19, 2003, at 6 PM, at the Seattle JACL office located at 316 Maynard Avenue South, Room 111, Seattle, Washington. No additional nominations for officer or board positions will be accepted after the nominations have been closed by the chair at the November 19, 2003 board meeting.

Serving on the Seattle JACL Board provides Nikkei with a meaningful opportunity to be involved in our community. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact committee chairperson Vicki Toyohara.

## Bainbridge Island Memorial Site

by Anna Tamura, National Park Service

I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about a new project brewing in the National Park Service (NPS) related to the Japanese American incarceration during World War II. As all of you know, the two sites related to the Japanese American WWII experience in the National Park System are Minidoka Internment National Monument and Manzanar National Historic Site.

The newest one could be the Eagledale Ferry Dock at Bainbridge Island, where on March 30, 1942 the very first group of Nikkei were rounded up and sent to the camps. 227 Bainbridge Island Nikkei residents were the first in United States history to be taken under Executive Order 9066.

The Bainbridge Island Japanese American community along with local organizations has been working on the memorialization of the site for the last few years. In 2002, their Congressman, Jay Inslee, introduced a bill in Congress called the Bainbridge Island Japanese American

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## Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue

Believe it or not, the Holiday Issue of the Pacific Citizen is getting ready for publication. As in the past, One-Line Greetings are being accepted. These one-liners help friends from the past reconnect. It's an excellent way to send greetings to friends across the country all at once. If you are interested in having your name or family's name included this year's issue, please send the following information to Elaine Akagi at 7414 S 128 St., Seattle, WA 98178: Name (last and first names), Address, City and Zip Code.

The One-Liners this year will cost \$9. Please make your check out to the Pacific Citizen. If you are interested in a business ad, please contact Elaine Akagi at (206) 772-7192 for prices and sizes.

**The deadline will be November 21, 2003.**

## JACL Credit Union Membership Drive

Your fifty can get us a hundred! And you get to keep your fifty!

As outlined in the Pacific Citizen, the National JACL Credit Union is conducting a membership drive with incentives for new members that can mean dollars for the Seattle Chapter and National JACL.

For every five new Credit Union members from a chapter, the Credit Union will donate \$100 to the local chapter and \$100 to the National JACL. If the new member also opens up another Credit Union service, such as a checking account, certificate of deposit, or loan, then the Credit Union will donate an additional \$10 to the local chapter and to National JACL.

You can open a Credit Union Savings Account for as little as \$50. You can open a checking account for \$100. The current interest rates for JACL Credit Union accounts, CDs and loans are more than competitive with local banks and savings as loans.

This is a win-win opportunity for members, the Seattle/National JACL, and the National JACL Credit Union. This is a perfect opportunity to open an account for yourself or for other members in your family, especially children.

For more information, please check out the Credit Union website at [www.jaclcu.com](http://www.jaclcu.com), or call Silvana Watanabe, JACL Credit Union, at 1-800-433-8828. The Seattle JACL also has Credit Union applications available. Please call, the JACL office at (206) 622-4098 and leave a message and we will send the material out to you. The Credit Union Membership Drive ends December 27, 2003.



## President's Message

by Tatsuo M.W. Nakata, President

*Umen na sai* – as this month's president's message will deviate a bit from the normal president's message that you may be used to reading. This month, because many of us will stuff our faces with lots of good food, I would like to offer some food for thought...

Redress and other monumental legislative victories for Japanese Americans was only accomplished through tremendous leadership. Throughout various periods of our nation's time, leaders of the civil rights movement fought a multitude of battles through several different means of activism. Faced with difficulties regardless of time period, and sometimes faced with virtually insurmountable obstacles, using a variety of approaches in gaining justice and equality has always been an absolute must.

We have all heard about and/ or participated in the marches of the 1960's with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and many other leaders who forged the civil rights movement through staging sit-ins, boycotts, and highly visible protests. The civil rights movement improved our country, making it a better, more functioning, healthy democracy and increased respect for all Americans.

If we think about the times that we live in today, I am sure that many would agree that we still have not realized the dream of Dr. King. I am sure that many would acknowledge that our country still suffers from the effects of institutionalized racism. Yes, the advances of previous generations made tremendous headway in alleviating the ill effects of racism, but there is still a lot more work that needs to be done.

If one were to look at all of the disparities that exist among communities of color with regard to economic empowerment, homeownership, health, business proprietorship, media representation, and political representation to name a few, they would notice that there are a number of disparities that still exist in terms of opportunities in life.

Seattle JACL not only exists to protect civil rights, but Seattle JACL also exists to work to advance civil rights and equality. This can be very difficult to do – particularly in the area of civil rights when one can be found constantly trying to work so that the advances made by Dr. King and many, many others are not reversed. However, just as Dr. King did in the 60's, and just as JACL did in the 80's, we must continue to push for greater advancement in equality for all peoples. I mention these two specific examples – because not only were they examples of success – but they are also stories of achievement through innovative approaches that utilized grassroots support.

In the year 2003, we too must continue to examine innovative approaches for addressing issues of equality. We must think outside of the box. We must begin to think about more proactive approaches that are even more efficient than the means that we traditionally think about when we think about organizing.

Within the realm of the political sector, there are so many decisions that are being made everyday. Agree or disagree with these decisions, the fact of the matter remains that the decisions that are made are the ones that govern our lives. If you take a moment to think about the things that government does today, but then also take a moment to dream about the things that government could do tomorrow, you realize that with regard to the disparities that are mentioned above – so much could be done to make our cities, counties, states, and nation – a better place.

We in Washington State have been very privileged to have a number of Asian Pacific American (APA) elected officials and other elected officials who are understanding and

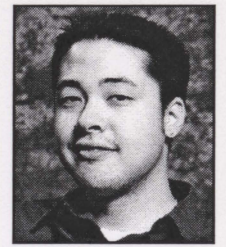


photo credit: John Pai

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### Announcements

#### Thank You

##### For your generous donations:

Kay Mori  
May Namba in memory of Mrs. Shiz Hata  
Lily Tamura

##### Newsletter sponsored in part by these generous donors:

State Farm  
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S  
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#### Events Calendar

**Nov. 18** – Public Hearing on Racial Profiling and Police Accountability; Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 600 - 4 Ave, 5:30 PM.  
**Nov. 19** – Seattle JACL Board Meeting; JACL Hall, 316 Maynard S, International District, 6 - 7:30 PM.  
**Dec. 10** – 8th Annual Seattle Human Rights Day by the Seattle Human Rights Commission with keynote speaker Sherman Alexie; Arctic Building, 700 - 3 Ave., Seattle, 12 - 1:30 PM; Contact: (206) 684-4540.

**Dec. 12** – Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle 4th Annual Breakfast; Washington State Convention Center, 7:30 - 9 AM, \$60; reserve your seat at the Seattle JACL table, please contact: Tatsuo Nakata: (206) 622-4098 or <tatsuonakata@yahoo.com>; for information on the breakfast please contact: (206) 461-3792 x3009.

**Jan. 31, 2004** – Seattle Chapter JACL Annual Installation Banquet with keynote speaker Lori Matsukawa; for ticket or sponsorship information please contact: (206) 622-4098.



## President, continued from page 2

supportive of issues that impact Japanese Americans along with her APAs. We also have been tremendously fortunate – particularly here in Seattle, to have a long, dynamic legacy of activism, coalition building, and mobilizing grassroots support. When it comes to APA issues and civil rights issues, we have support at one end of the political spectrum with elected officials. We also have tremendous support at the other end of the spectrum with grassroots organizations. We have achieved great successes and reached many milestones within this political structure, but there seems to be something missing.

Imagine if there was an intermediary level – in between the elected officials and the grassroots organizations. Imagine if this intermediary level specialized in connecting the grassroots organizers with elected officials who could take up their issues and realize success. In order for elected officials to realize success on issues, they not only need the support of the grassroots behind them – but they also need the support of their colleagues. The intermediary level would specialize in organizing this type of support. The organizing would be done through education and advocacy on the elected official side. It would also be done through holding elected officials strictly accountable for their decisions.

In a day and age where there are numerous groups who are paid specifically to advocate in the legislative arena for a wide range of issues, where is there a group who's sole mission is to advocate and has the capacity to advocate for the APA community? Everyday, in our congress, legislature, and city councils – decisions are being made that directly impact APAs. Everyday, lobbyists are paid to advocate for restaurants, farmers, midwives, apples, and a whole host of other issues and constituencies. Maybe it is time that we, as Asian Pacific Americans or as people concerned about making gains in achieving civil rights for all, have a full-time voice who will stand up for the grassroots and support the elected officials who, in turn, will stand up for civil rights?

I wanted to put forward this concept of political action for others to think about. This idea may or may not be a solution to dealing with the after-effects of the Patriot Act; working toward restoring affirmative action and/ or diversity in contracting, higher education, and employment, and preserving our nation's internment sites to serve as a reminder that never again should civil rights be sacrificed due to racism and hysteria.

While the civil rights movement provided significant achievements and gains – we still have a long way to go. It is time that we begin looking at additional means to achieve our goal of equality and justice for all.

Thank you for your continued support and membership and thank you for allowing me to share some food for thought we give thanks during this month.

## Recent Membership

### Individual

George S. Abe  
Lyle Canceko  
Teri Eguchi  
Florence Fujita  
Tom Y. Hayashi  
Amy Hirasawa  
Shohei Karibe  
Penny Kumagai Atcheson  
Henry A. Matsubu  
Ken Mayeda  
Mitsuye Mihara  
Lydia Minatoya

Kay Mori  
Frank Muramatsu  
Mrs. C. Nishimori  
Janice Nishimori  
Arlene Oki  
George Osawa  
Masaye Sado  
Norman T. Suzuki  
Frieda Takamura  
Lily Tamura  
Florence Teshima  
Yoshi Yatsu

### Student/Youth

Jim McCullough  
Mallory Mihara  
Megan Mihara  
Philippe Sekine

### Booster

Charles M. Aramaki  
Ruby A. Inouye Shu  
Kimio Kamimae  
Mike Murakami  
Jack S. Tanaka

### Couples/Family

Yukio and Yukino Imada  
Henry S. Itoi  
Anna Tamura and Ken Yocom

## Memorial, continued from page 1

Memorial Study Act of 2002. Co-sponsors included: Norm Dicks (WA), Jim McDermott (WA), Adam Smith (WA), Brian Baird (WA), Rick Larsen (WA), David Wu (OR), Robert Matsui (CA), Robert Underwood (GU), and Neil Abercrombie (HI). The bill directs the National Park Service to perform a suitability/feasibility study of the site for potential inclusion in to the National Park System. Congress and the President passed the bill last year. The National Park Service has now begun the formal study process with public workshops held at Bainbridge Island and Seattle earlier this month.

The study is to be completed in about one year and will make recommendations about the site to Congress. Regardless of its final designation, memorialization of the site is being planned by the local Nikkei group with the support of the City of Bainbridge Island. However, if it is recommended as a National Park unit, possibly a National Memorial, it would be a rare NPS unit in the greater Seattle area. The only other one is the Seattle unit of the Klondike Goldrush. Further, it would be an easily accessible location for teaching the American public about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this project, please contact Anna Tamura at [Anna\\_Tamura@nps.gov](mailto:Anna_Tamura@nps.gov).



**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

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**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](http://www.jaclseattle.org)  
E-mail address: [email@jaclseattle.org](mailto:email@jaclseattle.org)

## 2003 Officers and Board Members

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