

Mako Nakagawa, a leader in justice

Before a sold-out crowd, Mako Nakagawa received the first Leadership in Justice in the Community award from the Hate Free Zone (HFZ) Campaign of Washington on May 24 at Café Flora. Mako was recognized for her generous and ongoing participation in the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride and the educational initiatives that resulted from this historic event.

Other awardees included: Perkins Coie (Leadership in Justice in the Law), Congressman Jim McDermott (Leadership in Justice in Government), Yahya Al-Garib (Leadership in Justice in the Community), and Lynette Villa (Leadership in Justice in the Schools).

The HFZ is a community-based organization that works to uphold the fundamental principles of democracy and justice by supporting and mobilizing targeted communities and allies to advocate for equality, dignity and respect and for systemic change.

Congratulations, Mako, on this well-deserved recognition!

National JACL Convention

This August, the JACL will celebrate its 75th Anniversary at the 38th Biennial National convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. This is the second national convention the Honolulu chapter has hosted, and this one has all the makings of a spectacular event. Many of the Seattle chapter members are planning to attend the convention, some in official capacities and others as boosters. The convention committee has spent many hours planning events to attract all ages and all interests.

There are many workshops planned during the convention with topics ranging from Pidgin, Hawaii's language of diversity, to The Role of Japanese Americans in US/Japan Relations. There are workshops on Hate Crimes, Affirmative Action, Ethnic Dance, Cultural Heritage, the US Patriot Act, and many others. This is the first convention, that I can recall, to have so many scheduled workshops over so many days.

Of course, there are many "fun" events, where members can reconnect with old friends and meet many new ones. The first is the Waikiki Welcome mixer on Tuesday, August 10. Only in Hawaii could a luau be a part of the schedule. Other social events include the Awards Luncheon, Veteran's Tribute Luncheon, Obon dancing and, of course, the Sayonara Banquet.

The business of this organization will be conducted at the 18 hours of National Council sessions. The council will deliberate over resolutions, the budget, the

See "Convention" on page 3

Nisei Veterans Committee 2004 Military Scholarship

The Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) has established a scholarship program for soldiers, sailors, or airmen of Japanese ancestry presently serving on active duty (Regular, Reserves, or National Guard) at any military installation in the Puget Sound area who are currently enrolled in college courses.

The 2004 scholarship will be awarded in fall of 2004 and subsequent scholarships will be awarded each March for at least the next 10 years.

The annual amount for the NVC Military Scholarship is \$1,500 that can be used to purchase a computer, help pay off an existing student loan, pay for books or tuition that is not paid for by the military.

To apply, the candidate must complete the 2004 NVC Military Scholarship application, complete the essay question, and include a letter of recommendation from a teacher, educational advisor/counselor, senior NCO, or commanding officer.

Applications will be judged by a three-member panel and must be received by July 27. The name of the winner will be announced in August and they will be presented their scholarship at the NVC monthly membership meeting on September 24.

For more information about the Seattle NVC visit their website at www.seattlencv.org or if you have any questions about the scholarship program, please contact Steve Finley, (425) 747-2921, stevefinley@earthlink.net.

From Hiroshima to Hope Lantern Floating Ceremony

From Hiroshima to Hope, Seattle's annual memorial for all victims of war, will be held Friday, August 6 at 6:30 PM on the northwest shore of Green Lake, 7312 W Green Lake Dr. N. This free event includes a short program of speeches, entertainment, and the recitation of the Buddhist Mantra of the Soul.

This year's event will be the 20th presentation of what has become the largest U.S. commemoration for the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The public is invited to participate by floating a wooden lantern with a candle symbolizing the soul of a victim, a ceremony drawn from Japanese tradition. Lanterns will be provided by the event organizers. Participants may also write their own messages for their lantern or pick a pre-printed calligraphy. The Seattle Chapter JACL is proud to be one of several sponsors of this outstanding event.

For information or to volunteer, please contact Russel Wi Bareng, Wing Luke Asian Museum, (206) 623-5124 ext. 132, rbareng@wingluke.org, www.wingluke.org.

President's Message

by Bill Tashima, President

It is amazing how fast time goes by. Just as I finish one column, it seems like it is time to write another. I wanted to explain a little bit about our newsletter timetable. The deadline for articles is the third weekend of the previous month just after our Board/Membership meeting. Our Editor, Ryan Minato, does a great job of reviewing, checking and formatting and usually has the newsletter ready by the end of the previous month. With printing, addressing, and mailing, you should receive the newsletter the third week of the issue month.

You can see that there is a built in delay in our news since we are writing almost a month before you get the newsletter. We try to time the articles just right, but we aren't always successful. There may be changes that occur or delays. Rather than just saying *shikataganai*, we do have several suggestions. Please, check out our website at www.jaclseattle.org, where information is kept current. You can also subscribe to our email list by sending a message to email@jaclseattle.org and be notified when each newsletter is available on the website. Finally, if you want to see if there have been any changes to an event, call the JACL office at (206) 622-4098; Changes to JACL events will be included in our voice mail message.

Fighting Tradition

The Seattle JACL was pleased to co-sponsor an appearance by Capt. Bruce Yamashita, USMCR, at the University of Washington. Bruce Yamashita enrolled in the US Marine Corps Officer Candidate School where he was the target of apparent institutional racial harassment by officers and staff. After ten weeks, Bruce was "disenrolled" from the program along with other candidates of color. The Marine Corps is noted for its "Fighting Tradition," and Bruce decided to follow this tradition and fight against this inexcusable racism. He challenged the Marine Corps and eventually succeeded, not only in gaining

his officer's commission, but also in changing Officer Candidate School procedures to prohibit racial harassment.

Many of our members are familiar with this story. Many also heard Bruce Yamashita as the keynote speaker at the JACL Installation Banquet several years ago. In talking with Bruce, he made two telling points.

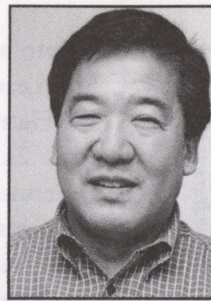
The first was that few people win, individually, when they buck the system. Bruce acknowledged that he did receive his officer's commission, but he knew he would never receive an assignment. He stated that as you fight injustice, you needed to realize that it is not for yourself, but for those who come after. When asked if young adults of color should enter into the service, he answers, if that is their calling they should, otherwise his fight was for naught.

His second point was one of gratitude to the JACL. Bruce heard about JACL growing up in Hawaii and later in law school, but as a Sansei he felt it had little relevance for him. Fighting racial harassment, he turned to the JACL because he didn't know where else to go. JACL was able to work with various Nikkei Veterans groups to organize a campaign to win restitution. As Bruce said, "JACL was there when I needed them." I left the evening feeling reassured because I know that's how JACL is...it's there when you need them.

Scholarship Dinner

We held our annual Scholarship Potluck dinner at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. The fellowship hall was filled, we had a virtual feast of food, and it was a great event. Sara Cardinelli, Seattle JACL's entry in the National Oratorical Contest, gave

See "President" on page 3



President, continued from page 2

her speech at the dinner. We are all proud to have Sara represent the PNWDC in Honolulu. We paid tribute to those for whom the scholarships are endowed: Bunshiro Tazuma, Minoru Tamesa, and Aki Kurose. We awarded Emily Momohara, Kei Yonker, and Erene Flores-Sanchez scholarships. Elaine Akagi read a message from Alison Shkurhan, a scholarship winner from last year. Elmer Tazuma dazzled the assemblage with three tunes on his harmonica. Elsie Taniguchi then informed everyone of Elmer's many other accomplishments.

We were honored to have the Tazuma family: Elmer, Jim, and Fran, as well as members of the Kurose Family: Ruthann, Paul, and Mika Rothman, join us at this event. A special thanks to the Scholarship Committee: Elaine Akagi, Ann Fujii-Lindwall, Kiku Hayashi, May Namba, and Alan Yabui.

Acknowledgments

Congratulations to the International Examiner on their 30th anniversary, celebrated by a dinner held at the Westin. The JACL Board rescheduled its May meeting to allow members the chance to attend this event. Among the Community Voice Award winners recognized at the dinner were Uwajimaya and State Farm Insurance, both generous benefactors to the Seattle JACL. Sharon Tomiko Santos, State Representative and Seattle Chapter Board member, did a wonderful job as auctioneer and co-emcee with Frank Abe. Sharon was able to get the bids on Arlene Oki's famous homemade fudge up to almost \$150!

Tom Ikeda, Executive Director of Densho and Seattle JACL member, has won the 2004 Humanities Washington Award for outstanding and exemplary achievement in the public humanities. He will receive the award at an Awards Luncheon at the Sheraton Seattle on June 9.

In April, I mentioned that several prominent folks had written letters in support of Cherry Kinoshita's Jefferson Award. I inadvertently omitted Ron Sims, King County Executive. Thank you Ron!

Convention, continued from page 1

constitution, and will elect officers to lead us over the next biennium. There are many dedicated members who spend hours preparing to make decisions about how this organization will move forward in the next two years.

The youth of this organization will also be meeting in Hawaii. The National Youth Council, headed by Maya Yamazaki and Josh Spry, will have workshops and meetings during the same week. Their events take place concurrently, and it is hoped that there will be a strong showing of youth presence. Our chapter has committed itself to sending two youth representatives this year.

Please join us in celebrating the 75th anniversary of JACL. Join Arlene Oki, May Namba, Shigeo Uno, Bill Tashima, Ken Kurata, Shea Aoki, Tatsuo Nakata, Ryan Chin, and others who have made plans to attend. The convention will be fun, interesting and a memorable event.

2004 Minidoka Pilgrimage

Sixty-two years ago, almost thirteen thousand people of Japanese-ancestry, most of whom were American citizens, were removed from their homes and sent to a desolate "internment camp" near Twin Falls Idaho. That was Minidoka. Today, most of the 33,000 acres that once made up Minidoka has been taken over by farms. However, in 2001, 73 acres along the North Side Canal, and near the entrance to Minidoka has been designated a National Monument.

The Seattle Chapter of the Japanese America Citizens League, the Nisei Veterans Committee, the Wing Luke Asian Museum and the Friends of Minidoka invite former internees, their families and friends, and other interested persons to attend the 2004 Minidoka Pilgrimage from June 25 - 27.

The Pilgrimage will begin in Bellevue, Washington where participants may board a bus to Twin Falls, which symbolizes the journey via train from Camp Harmony at the Puyallup Fair Grounds, to Twin Falls, Idaho. The bus ride will include videos and discussions about life before the internment, the evacuation, Camp Harmony and life in the camps.

On Saturday, there will be guided tours of what remains of the former site, and an actual barrack. Dinner that night will feature several noteworthy speakers at the Red Lion Inn. A story telling session will conclude the activities for that day. On Sunday, a memorial service will be held at the National Monument to honor internees.



Four Cots, Minidoka Barrack.

Activities in Twin Falls conclude with lunch at the Red Lion and a moving presentation by Living Voices. Participants will also be able to view exhibits about Minidoka.

For those taking the bus, the ride back to Seattle includes time for participants to share their thoughts and feelings about the Pilgrimage. This was a highlight of last year's Pilgrimage, and provided a very satisfying conclusion to the journey.

The registration fee includes lunch and dinner on Saturday, and lunch on Sunday. Also included are the guided tours, exhibits, presentations, and a Saturday night story telling session. Registration is \$195 and includes the bus ride from and to Seattle. Lunch and snacks will be provided on the way to Twin Falls, dinner and snacks on the way back to Seattle. For those not wanting to take the bus from and to Seattle, the registration fee is \$75.

Participants need to make their own lodging arrangements. Rooms have been reserved at the Red Lion, Ameritel, and Motel 6 in Twin Falls.

For more information, please feel free to contact Gloria Shigeno at gloriashigeno@hotmail.com or Alan Momohara at alanmomohara@hotmail.com.

Announcements

Thank You

Generous donors:

General Fund

Miyoko Kaneta in honor of Miyo Shintaku
Rev. Richard and Alice Nishioka
Massie Tomita in honor of Cherry Kinoshita

Aki Kurose Scholarship

May & Rowland Joichi
in honor of May Namba

Temesa/Tazuma Scholarship

Anne Namba
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Elaine Akagi
Vi Mar
Akemi Matsumoto
Tama Murotani-Inaba
Jean Okazaki

Kaisik Smith

Ruby Suzuki
Elsie Taniguchi
Dolly Tokunaga
Estelle Yamaki

Events Calendar

Jun. 25-27 – 2004 Minidoka Pilgrimage;
Contact Gloria Shigeno at
gloriashigeno@hotmail.com or Alan
Momohara at
alanmomohara@hotmail.com.

Jun. 26 – Walk for Rice walk-a-thon hosted
by the Asian Counseling and Referral
Service; Seward Park, 5900 Lake
Washington Blvd. S, 8 AM - 12 PM;
Contact: (206) 695-7551,
www.walkforrice.com.

Jun. 26 – Friendship Dinner & Auction
hosted by the Chinese Information and
Service Center; Sheraton Hotel, 1400 - 6
Ave., 5:30 PM; Contact: Debbie, (206)
624-5633 x112, debbieh@cisc-seattle.org.

Jul. 10-11 – Seattle's Chinatown-
International District Summer Festival with
entertainment, street fair and food court;
Hing Hay Park, 423 Maynard Ave. S,
Saturday: 11 AM - 8 PM, Sunday: 11 AM -
6 PM, FREE; Contact: (206) 382-1197.

Aug. 28 – 30 tickets available for a baseball
game between the Mariners and the Kansas
City Royals hosted by the Lake Washington
JACL; Safeco Field, 1:05 PM, \$10; For
tickets, contact Alan Yabui, (425) 820-
5466, alan0540@aol.com.

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 Bill Tashima 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.

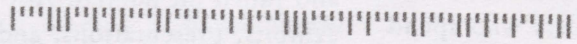
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