

Aki Beautification Day

The 5th Annual Aki Kurose Middle School Academy Beautification Day is set for Saturday, August 28, from 9 AM - 1 PM, so please mark your calendars. With Seattle JACL as a sponsor and organizer, Beautification Day allows students and staff to start the school year off entering a well-groomed school. Each year well over fifty dedicated individuals come to rake, prune, weed, pick-up litter, lay bark and have fun. Anyone can participate and contribute...I bring my whole family! Plenty of refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Aki Kurose Middle School Academy is experiencing a resurgence through the leadership of school staff, parents, students and supporters, creating a wonderful environment of learning and caring. Beautification Day is an event that continues JACL's commitment to youth and to honor our very dear friend, Aki. To share in this event, please bring your yard tools and join us, Aki Kurose Middle School Academy, 3928 S Graham St., RSVP: May Namba, (206) 784-3824.

Manzanar opens to the public

"It's all so unreal. It's all so overwhelming," said Clara Yakushi who returned to Manzanar on April 24, 2004, her first time since World War II. During her wartime incarceration there, Yakushi lived alongside 100 other children in Manzanar's orphanage.

That day, April 24, 2004, marked a historic day for Manzanar and for U.S. history. After decades of activism, former Manzanar internees, their families, and friends witnessed the grand opening of the Manzanar's interpretive center on the anniversary of the 35th Manzanar Pilgrimage.

The interpretive center contains 8,000 square feet of exhibits devoted to educating the public about the incarceration of Nikkei during World War II. Inside the interpretive center, a life size guard tower looms over wandering visitors. On the ground, television clips show Nikkei being loaded on to trains, the 442nd soldiers fighting in Europe, and Ronald Reagan signing the redress bill. Two 45-seat theaters show 20-minute films telling the incarceration story in the words of former internees. On one wall is an enormous scrim with the names of the 10,000 internees who were incarcerated at Manzanar. Beneath the scrim, interpretive panels draw parallels between the World War II treatment and experiences of Nikkei with contemporary examples.

With the 5.1 million dollar interpretive center completed and open daily, a visit to Manzanar is now a well-rounded learning experience. Outside, markers identify barrack blocks and significant locations for

NHAW close to selecting a site for Center

The momentum of the first annual meeting of the Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington (NHAW) in January continues with a flurry of activities to move the Japanese Cultural and Community Center project forward. In addition to a number of executive and core committee meetings, the full Board and other interested parties attended a retreat in May to refine goals and strategies, form working committees, and begin the process for selecting a site.

The committees are:

- ✧ Building Construction (Ron Mamiya, chair)
- ✧ Fundraising (Lori Matsukawa, chair)
- ✧ Program (Kip Tokuda, chair)
- ✧ Finance (Dee Goto, chair)
- ✧ Events (Lillian Hayashi, chair)
- ✧ Communications & Outreach (unfilled)

The Building Construction and Program committees merged to manage the site selection process. Ron developed a Request for Information (RFI) document to solicit proposals from organizations interested in having the Center built on their properties. An evaluation tool has been developed to ensure that proposals are judged fairly and objectively. Proposals were due on June 30 after which the Joint Committee will review and rate them to make a recommendation on a preferred site. The Committee's recommendation will be presented to the full Board on July 20 for ratification.

Sites under consideration include (in alphabetical order):

- ✧ Fujimatsu (old Uwajimaya)
- ✧ Japanese Language School
- ✧ Maynard & Main (Interim)

Board members recently received a briefing from Paul Osaki, Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center in San Francisco. Several NHAW members have visited the Center and noted that the facility is well managed and is a community resource which is in constant use.

Ron, Lori and Kip continue to attend numerous meetings with community groups and individuals to inform, receive feedback, and solicit support for the project. The NHAW appreciates the warm reception that the project has received so far and welcomes ideas from the community.

Please contact Arlene Oki at (425) 556-9110 or takakooki@aol.com if you are interested in serving on a committee. More information can be obtained by accessing the fantastic Japanese Cultural and Community Center website developed by high schooler Alex Blackstock (famous parents are Lori Matsukawa and Larry Blackstock) at www.jcccw.org.

President's Message

by Bill Tashima, President

The "J word" has reared its ugly head again and it happened in Texas...again. In a highly publicized event, Dallas Cowboy's coach Bill Parcells used the racial slur in a news conference to refer to surprise plays of one of his assistant coaches, Sean Payton. Parcells stated, "Sean is going to have a few...no disrespect to Orientals, but what we call 'Jap plays.' OK? Surprise things. No disrespect to anyone."

"No disrespect to Orientals?" "Jap plays?" "No disrespect to anyone?" Give me a break!

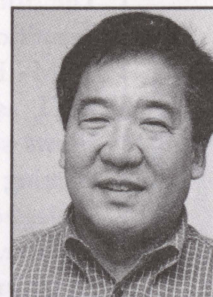
JACL National Director John Tateishi immediately issued a statement expressing disappointment and outrage with Parcells' comment. Among the points that Tateishi made was that JACL finds it "reprehensible that any organization—be it amateur or professional—would tolerate, let alone invoke, racial epithets in any context and use them as standard designations in their operations."

This incident left me shaking my head...I mean, Parcells knew what he said was offensive when he stated, "no disrespect to anyone." And yet, he continued to use the repugnant term in an insulting stereotypical connotation. Parcells has been a respected and liked coach, but it is clear that he just doesn't get it.

At the same time, this incident underscored how a national organization can immediately step up to show our collective indignation with racial slurs. Once again, proud to be a JACL member.

On a side note, ironically, the media play of this event may have a beneficial effect on an ongoing issue in Jefferson County, Texas. There is a county road in Texas, named "Jap Road" in honor of a pioneer Japanese farming family. For years, JACL has struggled to get the County to change the name. However, the County Commissioners have maintained that "Jap" is not a racial derogatory term. With the Parcells incident it is now clear, without a doubt, that "Jap" is an offensive term and cannot serve to honor.

Sharon Sobie Seymour, Former Chapter President, updated the Seattle Board on the activities of the Committee to Change J_P Road (CCJR). CCJR is asking everyone to write the Jefferson County Commissioners to urge a name change. Sharon stated that CCJR is building on the momentum of the Parcells incident to enable a Commissioner vote on a name change. For more information, please visit the CCJR website at www.geocities.com/thomas_kuwahara/.



Building a Dream

In this issue, there is an update on the Japanese Cultural and Community Center. The Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington (NHAW) has been working hard to bring this dream into reality. I won't mention the names of the key people involved because I know that I will inadvertently omit someone; however, suffice to say that NHAW President, Ron Mamiya, has an impressive coalition spanning the spectrum of the Seattle Japanese and Japanese American community.

I will continue to update our membership on this effort. Hopefully we will have a joint membership meeting with the Seattle JACL and Lake Washington JACL and the NHAW. A meeting gives everyone an opportunity to learn the latest, to ask questions, and to volunteer to help out. As the Center progresses, I want to ensure that our membership has the facts and information to help the Board determine our future commitments in this endeavor.

Acknowledgments

Congratulations to this year's Seattle Japanese Community Queen, Emi Nomura Sumida, and her court, Alison Shkurhan and Mari Sugiyama! All three have a Seattle JACL connection. Emi and Alison are former Seattle JACL scholarship winners and Mari is the daughter of longtime JACL member and friend, Al Sugiyama.

See "President" on page 3

Announcements

Thank You

Generous donors:

General Fund

Anna Kurata in honor of Cherry Kinoshita
Floyd and Kimi Yamamoto
in honor of Cherry Kinoshita

Events Calendar

Aug. 1 – Pista sa Nayon, Filipino American festival with music, dancing, and food booths; Seward Park Amphitheatre, 5900 Lake Washington Blvd. S, 9 AM - 8 PM, FREE; Contact: Bengie Santos, (206) 296-4004, www.pista.org.

Aug. 6 – From Hiroshima to Hope annual lantern floating remembrance featuring Seattle Kokon Taiko and other family-oriented programs; Green Lake northwest shore, 7312 W Green Lake Dr. N, 6:30 PM - dusk, FREE; Contact: Wing Luke Asian Museum, (206) 623-5124.

Aug. 28-29 – TibetFest with performance, Tibetan-style bazaar, food and children's activities; Seattle Center House, Fisher Pavilion, all day, FREE; Contact: (206) 444-4059, www.tibetaninwashington.com.

Aug. 28 – 5th Annual Aki Kurose Middle School Academy Beautification Day with refreshments and lunch; 3928 S Graham St., 9 AM - 1 PM; RSVP: May Namba, (206) 784-3824.

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.

President, continued from page 2

Ken Sato was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays by the Emperor of Japan. This award is the highest imperial honor bestowed to a civilian. Ken was honored for his work in improving the welfare of Japanese Americans and the development of the Japanese language. Consul General Tadahiro Abe hosted a commemorative ceremony at his residence in honor of Ken's award. I was privileged to be given an opportunity to be on the program to add the Seattle JACL's gratitude and admiration to a member of our chapter. *Sato-sama, Omedeto gozai masu!*

A belated acknowledgment for Diane Narasaki, ACRS Director, and coordinator for the May 29 APA Summit at the Tacoma Dome. Many people worked hard to ensure the success of this event. But, the person who brought everyone together and persevered with instilling everyone with a vision was Diane.

Good news, bad news, good news. Darrell Mihara, Seattle JACL First VP, accepted a position with the Spokane Falls Community College. This position is a promotion for Darrell, formerly a Dean with the North Seattle Community College. In addition, Darrell was selected to participate in the Washington Executive Leadership Program, executive training for community college personnel. Darrell began his new position on July 1. We will miss Darrell on our Board and his work with the Membership committee to refine our methods in recruiting and retaining members. At our June Board meeting, we elected Doug Honma to be our new First VP. Doug is currently working with the Asian Community Leadership Foundation. We wish the best for Darrell (and Doug) in their new endeavors.

Manzanar, continued from page 1

pedestrians exploring the remains of the one square mile camp. A historic mess hall was acquired and returned to the site in 2003; it stands as the only physical structure evocative of the 600 plus barrack buildings that housed internees. Remains of the ornamental gardens illustrate how internees worked to improve the quality of life in camp while expressing their creativity. At the cemetery, the 'soul consoling tower' called *I REI TO* is a sacred place where visitors can leave personal offerings and prayers.

Already, nearly 60,000 visitors travel to Manzanar a year. With the new interpretive center, the National Park Service estimates 250,000 visitors annually. Manzanar would have remained a little known forgotten place in the California desert if it wasn't for individuals like Sue Kunitomi Embrey, who worked tirelessly over four decades to bring recognition and status to the site. Manzanar aptly illustrates how individuals and communities make up our collective history, and that history is a work in progress determined by contemporary and future generations.

Manzanar contact information: www.nps.gov/manz, (760) 878-2194.

APA Summit in review

by Andrew Lantorla Rogge

The Tacoma Dome played host to one of the largest gatherings of Asian Pacific American (APA) leaders, social service agencies and community groups that this state had ever seen. On May 29, 2004 the APA Summit represented everything and everyone from non-profits and political groups to council members and bone marrow drives. Included were workshops, musical performances and a speech from Ron Sims, King County Executive, all of which inspired many.

The JACL was represented at the Summit with a booth. Volunteering at the booth were about fifty JACL members of various chapters such as Lake Washington, Olympia, Puyallup Valley and Seattle. Promotional materials and membership forms were handed out along with the requisite stack of voter registration forms.

Among others were booths for most every organization in Seattle's International District as well as groups from the surrounding area of Tacoma, dozens of organizations from all over the state, and APA political groups from as far as Washington DC. The Mavin Foundation booth had a bone marrow drive and a petition protesting FDA policies toward gays. Immediate diabetes screenings were offered at another booth. Multi-lingual workshops showed what work is being done to remove language barriers and encouraged an increase in civic involvement to attain equal access to political power. Also present were the Asian Pacific Islander Coalitions (APIC) from Pierce and Snohomish Counties, Southwest Washington and South Puget Sound.

On the main stage there were various speakers and performers, including gubernatorial candidates, cultural presentations, singers, representatives from the poet group Isangmahal, and some mind-blowing, socially-conscious Khmer rap lyricists. Unfortunately there were so few enjoying the heartfelt, dedicated performances, as the seats in front of the stage were very much vacant. The echoing of the words and songs served to underscore the vast Dome and sparse crowds. It was slightly frustrating that by the time Isangmahal had come on stage, performing with passion and incredible energy, most were packing up their booths to leave early.

Overall, the Summit met its goal of voter registration, disseminating information and services, and mobilization of the public. The convening was a great opportunity to network and learn. Further, it showcased the many agencies and services available, a certain benefit to participants.

Newsletter Available On-line: www.jaclseattle.org

Newsletter sponsored in part by these generous donors:

**State Farm
Bon-Macy's
Microsoft**

**Washington Mutual
United Parcel Service**

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.

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

July 2004, Volume 41, 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.

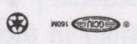
Seattle Chapter JACL website: www.jaclseattle.org
E-mail address: email@jaclseattle.org

- President Bill Tashima (buber@aol.com)
- President-Elect Joy Shigaki (shigaki@juno.com)
- 1st Vice-President Darrell Mihara (darmasmih@aol.com)
- 2nd Vice-President Joy Shigaki (shigaki@juno.com)
- 3rd Vice-President Elaine Akagi (reiko@comcast.net)
- 4th Vice-President Alan Yabui (ayabui@bcc.ctc.edu)
- Treasurer Ken Kurata (kenkurata@windermere.com)

- Corresponding Secretary May Namba (maynamba@comcast.net)
- Historian Arlene Oki (arlene.oki@ci.seattle.wa.us)
- PNWDC Delegate Tatsuo M.W. Nakata (tatsuoakata@yahoo.com)

- Shea Aoki
- Ryan Chin
- Jeffrey Hattori
(hattorijtds@aol.com)
- Kiku Hayashi
- Doug Honma
- Kazzie Katayama
- Ann Fujii Lindwall
(fujiiindwall@comcast.net)
- Ron Mamiya
(ron.mamiya@ci.seattle.us)

- Tadd Mitsui
- Kenji McCullough
- Sharon Tomiko Santos
- Mariko Sata
- Anna Tamura
- Elsie "Leilani" Taniguchi
- Linda Tanouye
- Vicki Yuki
(vyuki@sea-pha.org)



BELLEVUE WA 98005-1741

ARLENE OKI



Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit # 9180

Japanese American Citizens League
Seattle Chapter
P.O. Box 18558
Seattle, WA 98118-0558