### SEP 2004

www.jaclseattle.org email@jaclseattle.org

# **Response to Michelle Malkin**

### by Karen Yoshitomi, PNW Regional Director

By now, many of you have heard or read about the recently released book by Michelle Malkin, "In Defense of Internment: The Case for 'Racial Profiling' in World War II and the War on Terror." Some may remember Ms. Malkin from her stint with the Seattle Times from 1996 to 1999, or from our encounter with her over Initiative 200 and the anti-affirmative action debate. Well, she's now a syndicated columnist living in Maryland and creating quite a buzz.

The book defends both the evacuation and relocation of ethnic Japanese from the West Coast and puts forth the argument that there was a justification and military rationale for those actions. Malkin relies heavily on highlevel Japanese foreign office diplomatic cables that were intercepted and decrypted. The information derived from these cables were designated "magic" by the United States.

In 1977, approximately 4,200 cables dating from February to December 1941 were published by the Department of Defense, a small number of which referred to Japan's intelligence efforts within the United States and Hawaii. What Malkin fails to acknowledge is that there is a vast difference between raw intelligence and an analysis of that information with collaborating evidence to substantiate the argument that she makes regarding the "...alarming extent of Japan's ongoing espionage operations on the West Coast... and its vital importance in shaping FDR's national security policies..." (In Defense... p.37)

Malkin also submitted a column to the Honolulu Star Bulletin which ran on August 9th that began with the following statement, "Almost everything you'll hear this week from the Japanese American Citizens League about the internment of ethnic Japanese during World War II is false. It's time to correct the record." David Forman, a board member of the Honolulu chapter–JACL ran a guest column along with Malkin's piece and did a masterful job of countering her attempt to incite debate and capitalize on the JACL's presence in Hawaii.

On August 6th Malkin was in Bellevue where she gave a pre-launch speech about her book. I spent most of the time in utter bewilderment while she purported to present the "truth" about the historical facts of the internment, contrary to decades of research and findings by numerous scholars and historians, including U.S. District Court Justice Donald S. Voorhees, the judge who presided over the action to overturn Hirabayashi's wartime conviction. Malkin's speech (as in her book) relied heavily on the "magic" cables as her defense of the internment. Malkin stated that there are myths about the internment in terms of the presence of a security threat and evidence of disloyalty among ethnic Japanese and therefore a military necessity to evacuate and intern all of the West See "Malkin" on page 3

# NHAW Board Selects Cultural Center Site

The Executive Board of the Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington voted unanimously to select the Seattle Japanese Language School site at Rainier Ave. S. and S. Weller Street as the location for the new Japanese Cultural Center. The vote at its July 20, 2004 meeting capped a lengthy discussion of three potential sites studied. "It was a difficult decision," said NHAW Board President Ron Mamiya. "However, the Japanese Language School site was determined to be best suited for our planned uses and the suggested lease terms were hard to refuse." Jeff Hamlett, an architect with Arai Jackson Ellison Murakami LLP added: "An advantage of the Language School site is the Center can be built there in phases."

See "NHAW" on page 3

# A Beautiful Day to Beautify

What started as an overcast day, ended with rays of sunshine and a more beautiful landscape. On Saturday, August 28, from 9 AM - 1 PM, over 30 individuals of all ages and backgrounds came together with the common goal and bond to beautify the grounds of the Aki Kurose Middle School Academy. Through much sweat equity and fun, the front entrance was weeded, edged, pruned, cleared of debris and laid with barked. In the honor of Aki, our purpose is to ensure that the students, staff and community can start the new school year entering a wellgroomed school.

The following is a list of those who participated, thank you very much. If we missed anyone, please accept our apologies: Dave Asamoto, Rick Asamoto, BiHoa Caldwell, David Cunningham, Karen Cunningham, Katie Cunningham, Kristen Cunningham, Derrik Hattori, Jeffrey Hattori, Kiku Hayashi, Kazzie Katayama, Hugo Kurose, Kenji Kurose, Marie Kurose, Paul Kurose, Toshio Kurose, Kenji McCullough, Tadd Mitsui, Tatsuo Nakata, May Namba, Arlene Oki, Akiko Sakurai, Mariko Sata, Lauree Seko, Joy Shigaki, Bill Tashima, Alan Yabui, Margaret Yanagimachi, and Bob "The Gardner."

Special thanks to: BiHoa Caldwell, May Namba and Elaine Akagi for organizing; Margaret Yanagimachi for sharing her home gown and *oishii* cucumbers and green beans; Marie Kurose for the watermelon and orange juice; Bill Tashima for his leadership and donuts; May Namba for home made cookies; Karen Cunningham for chips/ salsa and water; Sharon Maeda for the veggie tray; and "Gardner Bob" who brought all the tools, pruned all the shrubs and provided much assistance and encouragement.

If you are in the neighborhood of the Aki Kurose Middle School Academy, take a look and consider saving the 4th Saturday in August 2005 to join us.

Vol. 41 Issue 9

# **President's Message**

### Convention

2

Aloha! I write this month's column having just returned from Hawaii a few days ago. I still feel the excitement of JACL's 75th Anniversary and the ohana aloha kimochi generated by the hosting Honolulu Chapter. We were welcomed with large banners at the airports and two-by-eight-foot JACL banners on the light posts on every block in Waikiki.

The convention was filled with tons of activities for both delegates and boosters. Many events were covered in detail by the Pacific Citizen, such as the Youth Luncheon, Award Luncheon, and the Tribute to the Veterans. An especially inspirational event was the Min Yasui Oratorical Contest. In this event, youth from each of the Districts spoke for five minutes on the theme of Japanese American Youth and Hate Crimes. Seattle JACLer Sara Cardinelli represented the PNWDC. Sara's presentation was thoughtful, articulate, and organized. She demonstrated such poise and presence in her talk. Sara, you made us all proud!

The Seattle JACL presented two resolutions for National Council consideration. One was a resolution opposing any amendment to the United States Constitution that would ban gay marriages. However, the Resolutions Committee rejected our resolution and a similar Philadelphia resolution along with two other unrelated resolutions all on the grounds that they were redundant to previous National Council actions.

Before rejecting the resolution, I asked that the committee address each of the issues of our resolution. Hugh Burleson, Lake Washington JACL member and Resolution Committee Chair, read into the National Council official record a long list of previous JACL actions that supported the Seattle resolution

Although we did not pass a resolution, we were able to reaffirm JACL's commitment on this issue to equal protection of the law for all Americans. We also secured commitment

### by Bill Tashima, President

from all but one of the incoming elected National Board to oppose such a Constitutional Amendment.

Our second resolution committed JACL to develop a national curriculum and to secure a state mandate to teach the lessons of Japanese American history and wartime experiences to all students in each of the 50 states. Elaine Akagi did

the groundwork on this resolution to assure easy passage. Sharon Tomiko Santos, Seattle JACLer and Washington State Representative, spoke in favor of this resolution and had the delegates in awe with her powerful oration. Sharon quickly dispelled any financial questions by offering to work with JACL to secure outside funding for this effort. Very impressive.

During the closing session of the National Council, outgoing National JACL President Floyd Mori recognized Seattle JACLer Shea Aoki. Floyd read into the national record a summary of Shea's dedication to JACL, including her membership in the Seattle JACL for over 71 years, being on the Seattle JACL Board for the past 50 years, and for attending every National JACL convention since 1936.

We finished the convention with the Sayonara Banquet, a memorable event in which Seattle's own Tom Ikeda received a Japanese American of the Biennium Award for his dedicated work with Densho.

The Seattle JACL was well represented at the convention with twenty-one members attending: Tatsuo Nakata -Official Delegate; Bill Tashima -Official Delegate; May Namba -Alternate; Ken Kurata -Alternate; Kenji McCullough -Youth Rep.; Arlene Oki -PNWDC Rep. (Program for Action); Elaine Akagi -National Education Committee Chair; Vicki Toyohara-Mukai -PNWDC Rep. (By-Laws and Constitution); Ryan Chin -National VP Membership; Sara Cardinelli -PNWDC

See "President" on page 3

### Announcements

### **Thank You**

### Generous donors:

In memory of Dr. Louis Kurahara Mari Ohara Tosh and Peggy Tanemura Daisy Tomita Reiko Tsubota

#### **Events Calendar**

Sept. 23 – JACL strategic planning process; JACL Office, 316 Maynard Ave. S, room 111, 6 PM; Contact: Joy Shigaki, (206) 623-5124 x110, shigaki@juno.com.

Sept. 25 - Sogetsu School of Ikebana presents Mr. Toshiyuki Ohki, Master Instructor from Tokyo; Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41 St., Seattle, 2 - 4 PM. Contact: Aiko Ii, (206) 361-2566.

Sept. 27 - Civil Rights Committee meeting; JACL office, 316 Maynard Ave. S, room 111, Seattle, 6 PM.

Oct. 2 - Northwest Forum on Asian-American Images in Media: FILM; Northwest Asian American Theatre, 409 -7 Ave. S, Seattle, 1 PM, FREE. Contact: JACL office, (206) 622-4098, email@jaclseattle.org

Oct. 9 - Open House with progress report on plans for the Japanese Cultural Center;

Japanese Language School, 1414 S. Weller, Seattle, 1 - 5 PM. Contact: Ken Sato, (206) 363-1414; Arlene Oki, (425) 556-9110.

Oct. 9 - Gary Locke Appreciation Dinner; Meydenbauer Center, 11100 NE Sixth St., Bellevue, no-host cocktail 5:30 PM, dinner 6:30 PM, \$60 before Sept. 30 and \$75 thereafter. Contact: JACL office, (206) 622-4098, email@jaclseattle.org.

Nov. 9 - 3rd Annual Sushi and Sake Fest sponsored by the Japanese American Chamber of Commerce; Grand Hyatt Hotel, 721 Pine St., Seattle, 5:30 - 9 PM, \$50. Contact: Linda Asami, linda@jachamber.com, (206) 320-1010.

# President, continued from page 2

Oratorical Contest entrant; Tom Ikeda -JA of the Biennium winner; Wayne Nakamura -Booster; Margaret Uchimura -Booster; Ed Suguro -Booster; Shigeko Uno -Booster; Shea Aoki -Booster; Jeffrey Hattori -Booster; Mark Fukeda -Booster; Sharon Tomiko Santos -Booster; Don Mukai -Booster; and Elsie Taniguchi ·Booster.

#### **Michelle Malkin**

A new book by Michelle Malkin (see related article) has the premise that the JA internment of WWII was justified and that racial profiling was necessary because of the times and threat of Japanese agents in the nikkei community. Thus far, response from the academic community has discredited Malkin's shoddy research and poor analytical skills.

Unfortunately, we still need to suffer writers like Malkin. However, it is difficult to determine the correct response to writers who really have no concern over right or wrong or the interest of dialogue. These writers want to sell books and controversy helps to sell those books.

The Seattle JACL is working with the PNWDC and the Lake Washington JACL to devise an ongoing strategy to combat Malkin's hurtful allegations. Please attend the Seattle Civil Rights committee meeting on September 27 at the JACL office if you are interested in helping.

## Acknowledgments

Congratulations to the Lake Washington JACL and to Lake Washington Member, Maya Yamazaki. The representative from Lake Washington was the runner up for the George Inagaki JACL Chapter of the Biennium Award. Maya was named as the new Mike Masuoka Washington Intern and will be working on Rep. Robert Mitsui's staff later this year. We received word that Consul General Tadahiro Abe will

be reassigned to a new post in September. The Consul General has gone to great lengths to establish a good relationship with the local nikkei community, including the Seattle JACL. Consul General Abe has always shown gracious hospitality with a warm and personable affect. We have a deep sense of on with the Consul General and we wish him and his family well on his new assignment.

# Holiday cards, rubber stamping and paper arts workshop

Self-paced workshop for rubber stampers of all skill levels on Saturday, October 16 at the Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 South King Street, Seattle, 9:30 AM to noon, \$10. Learn to make holiday cards with rubber stamps and paper folding techniques. Fee includes all project materials, refreshments and door prizes. Pre-registration by phone or mail is required by Oct. 11; include phone number; mail checks for \$10 to JACL - Seattle Chapter, P.O. Box 18558, Seattle 98228-0558. Contact Kiku Hayashi at (206) 622-4098 for more information.



## Malkin, continued from page 1

have and see

Coast ethnic Japanese. She did however indicate that racial profiling today, should be "targeted, limited and restrained," but at the same time attempted to "defend" racial profiling during World War II that was widespread, indiscriminate (in terms of evidence of individual wrongdoing, age or citizenship) and unrestrained.

Malkin stated that the "Japanese Americans and Muslims have declared a solidarity over misguided guilt about the past," and that her book "...seeks to rectify the grossly distorted history of the past before it further undermines the nation's ability to protect its borders and its people from harm." In a statement on behalf of the JACL, John Tateishi stated, "History tells us that intolerance and bigotry played a devastating role in denying Japanese Americans their civil rights during World War II, and it is for this reason that the JACL will continue to be outspoken toward any policy that targets or profiles Muslims and Arab Americans or undermines the civil liberties of any American." Although JACL will not create opportunities for Malkin to promote her book, we will encourage and support response to Malkin's political and personal agenda, through the media, during her appearances across the country and through coalitions with others. JACL is currently developing materials to provide information to its chapters on her book and reputed "defense." Undoubtedly and unfortunately, there will be more to come from Malkin.

## NHAW, continued from page 1

The other sites were Maynard Ave. S. and S. Main, which is currently a parking lot and the Publix Hotel, part of the old Uwajimaya store site. The Seattle Buddhist Church Board asked that its Collins Playfield be taken off the list of potential sites. Each landowner was asked to submit a "Request for Information (RFI)" describing how the property would accommodate the Cultural Center. The Building and Site Selection Committees analyzed the responses using a matrix including parking, zoning, height and space considerations, historic designation and land cost among the criteria.

Architectural studies are already underway while the Board conducts a "seed money" drive to raise \$500,000 for planning, permitting and fundraising. Fundraising Chair Lori Matsukawa has presented plans for the Capital Campaign, which includes an "Executive Campaign Cabinet" responsible for raising about 80 percent of the goal from corporations, foundations and government. There would also be a "Community Campaign Council" responsible for raising 20 percent of the goal from individuals, small businesses, churches and family estates. An Executive Director and a fundraising consultant will be hired to help the NHAW reach its goals.

(see Events Calendar on page 2) The community is invited to an Open House on Oct. 9 at the Japanese Language School to see the School and to receive a progress report on plans for the Cultural Center. The NHAW is also very interested in soliciting your feedback on this ambitious project.

## Permit # 9180 AW , 9111692 **DIA9 US Postage** Non-Profit Org.

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

## 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.

Information

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 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. 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.

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

### 2004 Officers and Board Members

	Bill Tashima (buber@aol.com)
	Joy Shigaki (shigaki@juno.com)
1st Vice-President	Doug Honma (doug_honma@yahoo.com)
2nd Vice-President	vacant
3rd Vice-President	Elaine Akagi (reikoa@comcast.net)
4th Vice-President	
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	M.W. Nakata (tatsuonakata@yahoo.com)

Shea Aoki Ryan Chin Jeffrey Hattori (hattorijtds@aol.com) Kiku Hayashi Kazzie Katayama Ann Fujii Lindwall (fujiilindwall@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)

HOSE LEON

### BELLEVUE WA 98005-1741

### ARLENE OKI standard and a standa

Phone: (206) 622-4098

Editor: Andrew Lantoria Rogge

September 2004, Volume 41, Issue 9