

Membership Event

The Civil Rights and Membership Committees invite the membership of the Seattle JACL to an evening at the Wing Luke Asian Museum (WLAM).

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 26, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Location: Wing Luke Asian Museum,
407 - 7th Ave. S, Seattle

Come learn about the work of the Seattle chapter and meet other members as well as current board members. The WLAM is featuring the Beyond Talk: Redrawing Race exhibition, which displays a juried selection of artwork that explores issues of race and race relations in today's society. This is the first exhibition at the Wing Luke Asian Museum to involve a multiracial and multiethnic constituency outside of the Asian Pacific Islander American communities. Refreshments will be provided. The event is free to everyone with donations being accepted. For more information, contact the JACL office at (206) 622-4098.

Convention: youth perspective

by Sara Cardinelli

Attending the 38th Biennial Japanese American Citizen League National Convention was a great opportunity. I am very glad to have went and would recommend this conference to all Japanese American youth. I know, some youth might be hesitant to attend, thinking that it's nothing more than just some boring old conference full of boring old adults. However, it wasn't that at all. It was educational and inspiring and also enjoyable.

There were workshops on a variety of topics ranging from US-Japanese relations to Pidgin, from hate crimes to ethnic dance, from native Hawaiian rights to Hapa's and to same-sex marriage. These workshops and gatherings gave me a chance to converse about issues on a level that I'm not able to with my friends at school. They dealt with issues that will affect me, such as job prospects, future opportunities and my civil rights.

There were also fun, laid-back activities to do as well. On the agenda there was a "Waikiki Welcome Mixer," a Sayounara Banquet included dancing, and one evening there was even an Obonodori at Queen's Park, just across the street from Waikiki Beach. Other activities were the nightly malasada (Portuguese donuts) and ice cream socials. If you had some down time in between sessions you could always go swimming at the hotel pool, relax on the beach right out front, or go shopping at Ala Moana Mall.

This was also a great opportunity to build stronger bonds with the people in your own district as well as to meet new people. This conference was home for a few

See "Convention" on page 3

APIs say NO to I-892

A 50-member coalition of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) elected officials and community leaders has organized to oppose the massive expansion of convenience gambling proposed by Eyman's Initiative 892 (I-892). I-892 is a November ballot initiative that would more than double legal gambling in Washington. It allows neighborhood restaurants, taverns, bowling alleys and card rooms to add 18,000 new electronic video slot machines, in as many as 2,000 establishments, more than 90 times the 22 tribal casino locations.

See "I-892" on page 3

Bainbridge Island Memorial project achieves milestones

The proposed national memorial (Nidoto Nai Yoni - "let it not happen again") has taken some big steps closer to becoming a reality, located at the site of the old Egedale ferry landing where the first Nikkei in American history were sent to internment camps during WWII.

The City of Bainbridge Island gave an enthusiastic green light for the memorial, with unanimous passage of a resolution that allows work on Phase I to officially begin.

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Stories: From Our Side of the Fence

Community readings of the book, "From Our Side of the Fence" were held at Blaine Memorial Methodist Church on Friday, September 10th and at the Nisei Veteran's Hall on Saturday the 11th. Two readers from San Francisco told their own stories from the compilation of essays written by Nisei who were youth at the time of the internment. Both readings were well attended.

After each night's reading, the floor was opened for a question and answer session. During the session, discussion of a writers group in Seattle began to form with enthusiastic support from the crowd and encouragement from the guest readers. The readers felt that this was their way to leave a history for their grandchildren and that we should do the same.

Alan Yabui will explore the idea of a writers group in Seattle through Bellevue Community College and Brian Dempster, editor of the book, is willing to lead the group on a periodic basis. Further, Dee Goto will proceed with the idea of having a Nisei writers group, which will meet on Wednesday afternoons at the Japanese Language School, future site of the Japanese Cultural Center. If you are interested in joining the writers group, call the JACL office at (206) 622-4098 for more information.

President's Message

by Bill Tashima, President

Fall Fundraising Appeal

In the next few weeks, you will be receiving a letter from the Seattle JACL Board asking for a donation to help sustain our chapter activities. While many non-profit organizations will ask for assistance, we hope that you will add the Seattle JACL to the list of groups that you financially support.

The Chapter has several fundraising activities throughout the year. The primary event is the Installation Banquet. A hardworking group of volunteers stage an outstanding event that provides the bulk of our funding. The Banquet Committee, currently chaired by Marcine Anderson, promises another successful event in January 2005.

In addition, we sell our Aki Sogabe Pike Place Market cards at various fairs and gatherings attended by the Chapter. The Board also attempts to make our events revenue neutral by means of collaboration with other groups, donations from committee members, and small fees.

However, like most groups, we struggle to make ends meet, especially while our endowment funds have not yet recovered after the massive dip from a few years ago. Moreover, we find ourselves engaged in more programs, more activities, plus the battle with rising overhead costs.

We hope you will consider the points in our fundraising letter and respond with a tax-deductible contribution. We will also include information on how you can renew your lapsed membership or purchase a gift membership for a student, relative, or friend.

A final note, if you want to help out or volunteer with one of our committees or one of our events, please add the information to the return letter. A Board member will contact you. We will look forward to working with you.

Asian Bar Association Judicial Ratings

We are fast approaching the November elections. For many races, voters are bombarded with news stories, mailings, and telephone calls. Yet, some races can be a mystery when you

complete your ballot, the judicial races being a good example. The Asian Bar Association of Washington (ABAW) conducts a thorough evaluation of candidates for various judge positions and assigns them a rating. To learn more about the evaluation and to see the current ratings, please visit http://www.abaw.org/judicial_eval.html.



New Board Members

At the September board meeting, we elected two new board members Sara Cardinelli and Howard Martin. Sara was our PNW District participant to the National Min Yasui Oratorical Contest. Howard is our current Civil Rights Committee Chair and is active with the ACLU and other civil rights organizations. Sara and Howard – *Yokoso!*

Change of Address/Newsletter Problems

We recently received several letters stating that the Seattle JACL had not processed their change of address or that they were having delivery problems with our monthly newsletter. We are an organization of volunteers and we strive to do our best, but sometimes things slip through the cracks. If you are experiencing problems with our mail or you know of someone who is, please contact us. Our office can be reached at (206) 622-4098 or email us at email@jaclseattle.org.

Email List

The Seattle JACL maintains an email list, primarily used to alert members of when the latest Seattle Chapter newsletter is available on-line. More importantly, the email list also informs members of upcoming events, urgent alerts as well as updates our members with any last minute changes, all in a timely manner. If you would like to be added to our email list, please leave a message with our office using the above methods and include your name, email address, and phone number.

Announcements

Thank You

Generous donors:

Kenny Kai Ho
in honor of Tatsuo Nakata's birthday
Misayo Kumakura
Hugo and Meredith Kurose
Yuki Moore Laurenti and Ai Handa Moore
in tribute to May Namba
Holly Meo
Frank Muramatsu
Ted Nakanishi

Events Calendar

Oct. 26 – Seattle JACL membership event; Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 - 7th Ave. S, Seattle, 5:30 - 7:30 PM, FREE; Contact: (206) 622-4098.
Nov. 6 – Hmong New Year Celebration with cultural activities and exhibits hosted by the Hmong Association of Washington; Seattle Center House, FREE; Contact: (206) 684-7200.
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, (206) 320-1010, linda@jachamber.com.

Nov. 13 – Chaya's Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction; W Hotel, 1112 - 4th Ave., Seattle; Contact: Felicia Gonzales, (206) 568-7576, www.chayaseattle.org.

Nov. 18 – Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation Graduation Dinner; Jerry Brockey Center, South Seattle Community College, 1600 16th Ave. SW, 5:30 - 8:30 PM, \$65; reserve seats at the Seattle JACL table; Doug Honma, (206) 409-7892, doug_honma@yahoo.com; for more information: (206) 625-3850.

Convention, continued from page 1

days to hundreds of people from all over the United States, many of which were youth.

Some youth were there on internships; some, like myself, were contestants in the Min Yasui Oratorical Contest and others were there with family. Nevertheless, no matter what brought you to the conference, everyone was really friendly. It was also nice because you already had a connection with them, being a part of the JACL. Personally, I think that this – meeting new people – was the most enjoyable and memorable part of the entire trip.

The conference also increased my pride in the Japanese culture. I felt like I had a connection with these people and that I belonged. The location was perfect for a JACL conference. This was because Hawaii's population is over a third Japanese American. This has a huge influence on their local culture. The weekly Obonodori held locally in August is an example. Also, when we first stepped off the plane into the Honolulu airport there were huge banners welcoming members of the JACL and honoring our 75th anniversary. These signs were also all over Kalakaua Avenue in Waikiki.

Hopefully, two years from now you will consider coming to the 39th Biennial JACL National Convention in Arizona.

I-892, continued from page 1

With representatives from King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties, this coalition is working to inform their communities around the state about the impact I-892 will have on their families, their neighborhoods and their quality of life.

"I-892 will particularly hurt communities of color as well as disrespects our nation's commitment to tribal sovereignty," Joy Shigaki, Seattle JACL President Elect. "It is our responsibility to support the rights of Washington State's Indian Nations."

The revenue generated by tribal casinos goes to funding critical education, health care and other fundamental services and resources within the tribes, strengthening their self-sufficiency. In addition, some tribes who have been successful are now providing support to other communities in dire need of resources and services.

More than 150 API individuals and organizations have already endorsed NO on I-892, including the Seattle JACL. Key supporters include Asian Pacific Directors Coalition, Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition - King County, Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition - Pierce County, Filipino American Herald, Filipino Community of Seattle, Greater Seattle Chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans, Lake Washington Chapter of the JACL, Kin On, Korean American Voters Alliance, National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region VII, Refugee and Immigrant Parent Advocacy Network, Vietnamese Economic Development Association, Governor Gary Locke, State Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos, Former Seattle City Councilmember Dolores Sibonga, and Former State Representative Kip Tokuda.

Seeking nominations for 2005 Seattle Chapter Officers and Board Members

The Seattle Chapter JACL Nominations Committee is accepting nominations for its officer and board positions for the year 2005. Persons who are interested in serving as an officer or board member, or who wish to submit the name of someone who has given their consent, must submit the name to the Nominations Committee chairperson, Doug Honma, who can be reached by phone at (206) 409-7892 or email at doug_honma@yahoo.com.

The Board will accept additional nominations from the floor at its November board meeting, which will take place on Wednesday, November 17 at 6 PM in the Seattle JACL office located at 316 Maynard Ave. S, 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 17, 2004 board meeting.

Serving on the Seattle JACL Board provides a meaningful opportunity to be involved in the Seattle Nikkei community. If you have any questions, please contact Doug Honma.

Memorial, continued from page 1

The memorial committee can now spend the \$500,000 state grant awarded last year, funds which must be used by June 2005 or they will be lost.

The grant covers final design work, site clearing and grading, stabilizing the shoreline, protecting a nationally historic cedar tree from falling into Eagle Harbor, an interpretive kiosk and signage.

The city will waive all permit fees, remove a pump house, construct a new access road and parking, and provide staff to coordinate the grant and construction project.

Last year the Timber Framers Guild offered their talents to build the interpretive center. However, depending on fund raising, construction on the center may not begin until Phase II or III, so in the mean time the Guild offered to design and build the entry gate at no expense.

The gate blends classic Pacific Northwest design with inspiration from traditional Japanese elements. Temporarily located in front of the Winslow Post Office as an informational kiosk, the gate will later be moved to the finished memorial.

The entire memorial including a pier, interpretive center and contemplative areas is projected to cost \$4 million. Approximately \$600,000 has been raised to date.

Please visit www.bijac.org for more information, or contact Clarence Moriwaki at clarence@bainbridge.net or at (206) 855-9038.

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to the Bainbridge Island WWII Nikkei Internment and Exclusion Memorial Committee (Japanese American Memorial Committee), PO Box 10355, Bainbridge Island, WA, 98110.

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. Phone: (206) 622-4098

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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.

Seattle Chapter JACL website: www.jaclseattle.org
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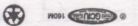
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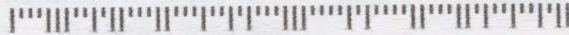
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