

Washington State Bill of Rights Resolution (HJM 4006)

Board member corner, featuring Doug Honma

With the Bill of Rights in tatters and our civil rights and civil liberties being destroyed, what can we do to protect our hard won freedoms? A resolution supporting the Bill of Rights sends a strong message to Congress that our nation will not throw away our Constitution and our rights. By supporting a Bill of Rights Resolution for the State of Washington, we are actively upholding civil liberties and civil rights for all residents of our state.

Four states and over 365 communities across the nation have passed civil liberties resolutions. Cities, towns, counties, and four states – Maine, Vermont, Alaska, and Hawaii – have passed resolutions that not only express their concerns regarding the USA PATRIOT Act but all reaffirm their commitment to civil rights and civil liberties. In Washington, 24 communities have adopted resolutions – King County, Seattle, Olympia, Tacoma, Bellingham, Snoqualmie, Oroville, Tonasket, Jefferson County, Clallam County, Port Townsend, Vashon-Maury Island, Bainbridge Island, Riverside, San Juan County, Whatcom County, Tumwater, Twisp, Whitman College, the student associations at the University of Washington, Washington State University, Western Washington University and the faculty senates at Western Washington University and Whitman College.

In the name of the “war on terrorism”, the USA PATRIOT Act was rushed through Congress six short weeks after the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001 with little debate by Members of Congress, most of whom did not even read the 342 page bill. This legislation gave the Executive Branch sweeping new powers that undermine the Bill of Rights and our civil rights without being necessary in keeping us safe. Shortly thereafter, the Administration initiated numerous executive orders, regulations, and policies and practices that also threaten our rights.

Numerous sections of the USA PATRIOT Act remove checks on law enforcement and threaten our basic civil rights and civil liberties. Actions under the act have infringed upon peoples’ rights to privacy, due process and freedom from undue scrutiny or surveillance. For example, law enforcement can now access numerous types of records, including educational, medical, financial and library, without demonstrating probable cause of a crime. The government can seize assets of an individual or organization without prior notice or hearing, just based on the government’s assertion that the individual or organization has engaged in or are planning an act of “domestic terrorism”. The definition of terrorism has been expanded so that some domestic groups that engage in

Doug is President Elect for the Seattle Chapter. He is currently the program coordinator for the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation (ACLF), a non-profit organization that fosters the development of emerging leaders of the API community and bolsters unity across ethnic groups and professional sectors to promote issues critical to APIs. He manages logistics for the organization’s programs and general administration as well as provides support for outreach and fund development efforts.

In addition to serving on the Seattle Chapter Board for the last two years, Doug was also a youth representative from the Pacific Northwest District to JACL’s National Youth/Student Council from 2000 through 2001 and also served on ACLF’s Board of Directors prior to joining its staff.

In his free time outside of the office and API community work, he enjoys swimming, cooking, eating, and spending time outdoors. Doug is Japanese American and a native of Portland, Oregon.

Scholarship Announcement

The Seattle Chapter JACL is again sponsoring three higher education scholarships for high school seniors in the Puget Sound region. The scholarships are the Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship (Seattle School District only), the Minoru Tamesa Scholarship, and the Bunshiro Tazuma Scholarship.

Applications may be downloaded from the Seattle Chapter JACL home page at www.jaclseattle.org. If you need a copy mailed to you, leave a message for Ann Fujii Lindwall at (206) 367-8749. Deadline for all three scholarships is March 31, 2005.

Got too much snail mail? Get your newsletter by email

Would you like to switch and receive the latest, greatest Seattle JACL newsletter faster? And cut down on the amount of snail mail you receive? And save trees? If so, simply send a message to email@jaclseattle.org to request your newsletter by email.

Newsletter Available On-line: www.jaclseattle.org

President's Message

by Joy Shigaki, President

With only two months into the year, our chapter has been very busy hosting public events, reaching out to the broader community, and developing work plans for our respective committees. Many thanks to our hard working board and committee members for all they do. And they all do it as dedicated volunteers. Amazing.

Education Workshop

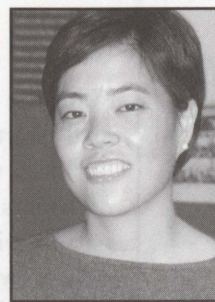
Special thanks to Elaine Akagi and Alan Yabui for organizing a workshop *Japanese American History, Internment, and Today's World* for younger and older board and community members. Mako Nakagawa facilitated the day that highlighted early Japanese American history, JACL contributions, and covered up to today. A panel of former internees added to the day, which included Don Maekawa, May Namba, and Sam Mitsui. The afternoon session highlighted the impacts on civil liberties since 9-11 and Nadine and Mohammed Hamoui shared their experiences.

JACL Day of Remembrance Event

Over 85 people attended the Seattle Chapter Day of Remembrance event on February 19 at the Northwest Asian American Theatre with a showing of *In Time of War* and a panel discussion of community members. It was organized as a remembrance of the signing of Executive Order 9066, the Japanese American incarceration during World War II, and to recommit ourselves to protecting civil liberties and constitutional rights for all people in this country.

Dave Tanner, one of the producers of the film, joined us for this event. The film focused on the World War II experiences of Japanese Americans in the Northwest and highlights the evacuation, internment and military service of Japanese Americans and underscores the important themes of constitutional rights, racism and loyalty. Tom Ikeda, Executive Director of Densho, moderated the panel as they reflected on the experience of local Japanese Americans during the incarceration and the impacts on civil liberties and civil rights for today's Arab American, South Asian, and Muslim American community. Special thanks to Devon Abdallah, Ibrahim al-Husseini, Doug Honma, Roy Inui, and May Namba for their outstanding insights and contributions to the panel.

Thank you to our co-sponsors University of Washington Department of American Ethnic Studies, Nisei Veterans Committee, Lake Washington Chapter JACL, ACLU of Washington, Military Intelligence Service Northwest Association, and People's Institute Northwest. Thank you to our endorsers Arab American Community Coalition, Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington, Wing Luke Asian Museum, Iraqi Community Center, and Densho.



Key Issues - 2005 Legislative Session

I would like to draw your attention to several important issues that are being considered in this year's legislative session. JACL would like to encourage you to take action by calling or writing your District Senators and Representatives, key committee members, and the Governor to support these critical issues. To find your legislators check online at www.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/Default.aspx.

Bill of Rights Resolution - The Seattle JACL endorses the Bill of Rights Resolution in the House (HJM 4006) and in the Senate (SJM 8020) to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of all residents.

Affirmation Action in Higher Education - In 1998, voters passed Initiative 200, banning the use of race in government hiring and higher education admissions in Washington State. This year Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles (D-36) and Representative Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney (D-46) are legislative sponsors of the new bills Senate (SB 5575) and House of Representatives (HB 1586) stating that Washington State's colleges and universities should be allowed to consider all of a prospective student's talents and characteristics in order to create a vibrant and diverse learning environment.

Civil Liberties Public Education Fund - This fund was established to provide educational and instructional materials to K-12 and post-secondary students and other citizens of Washington State about the experiences of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II and the lessons to be

See "President" on page 3

Announcements

Thank you generous donors

Fundraising Campaign

Ai Constance Handa Moore
Yuki Laurenti

Additional Donations Up to \$49 Level

Kiku Tatsumi
Emily Hanako Momohara
Ben & Lucille Kodama

Education Committee

Elsie Taniguchi

Aki Kurose Scholarship

Ruthann Kurose

Events Calendar 2005

Mar. 21 - Civil Rights Committee meeting; JACL Office, 316 Maynard South, room 111, 6 PM; Contact: Doug Honma, doug_honma@yahoo.com, (206) 625-3850.

Mar. 22 - Free screening of Conscience and the Constitution followed by discussion with producer Frank Abe; Bellevue Regional Library, Meeting Room 1, 1111 - 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, 7 PM.

Mar. 26 - Free screening of Conscience and the Constitution followed by discussion with producer Frank Abe; Seattle Public Library, Microsoft Auditorium, Level 1, 1000 Fourth Ave., Seattle, 2 PM.

President, continued from page 2

learned about civil liberties from that experience. We must preserve this funding since this is in the Superintendent of Public Instruction's budget.

With many pressing issues that require our attention and mobilization, please go to our website at www.jaclseattle.org to get additional information as well as the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Legislative Agenda.

Join Us in Our Work!

If you would like to receive emails on events, issues, or to become involved in a committee, please send a message to us at email@jaclseattle.org. Let us continue to be vigilant in building on a legacy of justice and equality for all people!

Memberships for February

Individual

Momoye Asaba	Frank McLain
Mitzi Butler	Yoshito Mizuta
Bi Hoa Caldwell	Emily Hanako Momohara
Theodore S. Chihara	Chizuko Norton
Frank S. Fujii	Nori Okamura
Mary Furuta	Mrs. Terry Okazaki
Shuko Y. Hara	Jean Sakahara
Jill Hashimoto	Grace H. Sakuma
Fumiko Hayashida	Kenichi Sato
Frank T. Hidaka	Nancy Shioyama
Albert G. Hikida	Stanley N. Shikuma
Tsuguo Ikeda	Gail Takahashi
Woodrow Ito	Elmer Tazuma
Shohei Karibe	Yukio Tazuma
Chiyuki Kashiwagi	Florence Teshima
William T. Kawahara	Joyce T. Teshima
Masao Kojima	Tama Tokuda
Ann Kawasaki Romero	Messie Tomita
Teru Kiyohara	Saburo Tsuboi
Anna Kurata	Kiku Yano
Ruthann Kurose	Barbara Yasui
Charlene Mano Shen	Kei Yonker
Lori Matsukawa	Albert S. Yorozu
Kristine M. Martin	Victoria A. Yuki

Couples/Family

Hiram & Helen Akita	Mits & Kazzie Katayama
David & Antonia Asamoto	Ben & Lucille Kodama
Jeffrey & Lily Eng	Donald & Patricia
Kenji & Chiyo Ikejiri	Norikane Logerwell
Dwight K. & Cynthia Chan Imanaka	Barney N. & Pat H. Matsumoto
George & Marie Ishii	Paul & Yoshiko Minato
Kaz & Masue Ishimitsu	Victor M. & Lilly Takemoto

Student/Youth

Mori Kurose-Rothman	Booster
Drew Matsumoto	Elsie L. Taniguchi
Binah P. Palmer	Kiku Tatsumi
Dana Prapasirikul	

Resolution, continued from page 1

certain types of civil disobedience could find themselves labeled as terrorists. Immigrants and other non-citizens can be indefinitely incarcerated without the government needing to prove that they are wrongdoers.

Moreover, people across the political spectrum have communicated concern that the USA PATRIOT Act gives government officials too much power without sufficient safeguards. For example, in November 2003, Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich wrote in the San Francisco Chronicle, "I strongly believe Congress must act now to rein in the Patriot Act, limit its use to national security concerns and prevent it from developing 'mission creep' into areas outside of national security."

Many of the Federal Executive Branch actions have also threatened our freedoms. Below are just a few examples of assaults on our civil liberties. Since September 11th, over 8,000 Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian immigrants have been interrogated because of their religion or ethnic background, not because of actual unlawful activity. Thousands of men, mostly of Arab, Middle Eastern or South Asian origin, have been held in secretive federal custody for weeks and months, often without any charges filed against them. To this day, the government refuses to publish these men's names and whereabouts. Without evidence of wrongdoing, the FBI can spy on religious and political organizations and individuals. Communications between federal detainees and their lawyers can be monitored, destroying the attorney-client privilege and threatening the right to counsel. Families have been broken-up, lives destroyed with thousands of people deported often to countries that they have not seen in years.

A Washington State Bill of Rights resolution can begin to correct these offenses by affirming the people of Washington's commitment to civil rights and civil liberties for all residents. Similarly, it would send the message to Congress that Washington State is committed to protecting the Bill of Rights and our freedoms.

Please contact your state representative and ask him or her to support our civil liberties and to vote in favour of the Bill of Rights Resolution in the House (HJM 4006) and in the Senate (SJM 8020). You can locate your legislature at www.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/Default.aspx.

Newsletter sponsored in part by these generous donors

State Farm	United Parcel Service
Bon-Macy's	Evergreen-Washelli
Microsoft	PEMCO Insurance

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 Joy Shigaki 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

March 2005, Volume 42, Issue 3
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

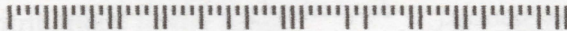
2005 Officers and Board Members

- President Joy Shigaki (shigaki@juno.com)
- President-Elect Doug Honma (doug_honma@yahoo.com)
- 1st Vice-President Jeffrey Hattori (hattorijtds@aol.com)
- 2nd Vice-President Tatsuo M.W. Nakata (tatsuonakata@yahoo.com)
- 3rd Vice-President Elaine Akagi (reikoa@comcast.net)
- 4th Vice-President Kazzie Katayama
- Treasurer Ken Kurata (kenkurata@windermere.com)
- Corresponding Secretary May Namba (maynamba@comcast.net)
- Historian Arlene Oki (arlene.oki@ci.seattle.wa.us)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Devon Abdallah | Tadd Mitsui |
| Shea Aoki | Dwight Mizoguchi |
| Sara Hidano-Cardinelli | Binah Palmer |
| Kyle Funakoshi | Akiko Sakurai |
| Kiku Hayashi | Sharon Tomiko Santos |
| Jan Kumasaka | Mariko Sata |
| Mori Kurose | Anna Tamura |
| Ruthann Kurose | Elsie "Leilani" Taniguchi |
| Howard Martin | Bill Tashima (buber@aol.com) |
| Kristi Woo Matsuda | Alan Yabui (ayabui@bcc.ctc.edu) |
| Kenji McCullough | |

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