

J A C L NEWSLETTER

SEATTLE CHAPTER

DECEMBER 1991

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President's Message

by Gail Tanaka

It was impossible to ignore the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7th. This marked the beginning of World War II for America, a war which indelibly changed the lives of Japanese Americans. The panic caused by Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, combined with racism, led to the evacuation and incarceration of over 100,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry. Executive Order 9066 was signed into law a short two and a half months later on February 19, 1942.

There will be many significant 50-year anniversaries commemorated over the next few months and years. Some of these will be of national significance like the anniversaries of Pearl Harbor and Executive Order 9066. Others will be personal anniversaries,

being shipped to camps, volunteering for military service, losing property, the birth of children in camps, opportunities to move east, and so on. Whether you talk to Pearl Harbor survivors, Nisei vets, families of veterans, or former internees, you will find painful memories of that time. Pain that has not been mitigated by the passage of time.

It's important to talk about this painful history and to learn from those who experienced it. It's time to use this pain to understand our commonality, not to fuel racial antagonisms. The participation of Nisei vets in the 50-year commemoration sponsored by the Pearl Harbor survivors is an excellent example of striving toward understanding and appreciation. Let's learn from history, our future depends on it.

Reflections on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor

editorial by Holly Yasui

As 50-year anniversary commemorations saturate the media, and America's economic distress becomes more widespread, I am deeply perplexed by the comparisons drawn between those two unrelated phenomena and the implications that has for Nikkei.

Last week, I attended a Town Meeting at KOMO-TV, at which these topics were "discussed" (there was less discussion than statement-making, on all sides). When a panelist made snide remarks about racism in Japan, I felt annoyed—not because I excuse unacceptable incidents of Japanese racism, but because I feel that as an American, racism in Japan is less our business than racism in America. I felt righteous in my refusal to feel defensive, because racism in Japan does not reflect upon me, an American.

But when another person in the audience asked "why do we give \$20,000 to the Japanese when so many of us lost loved ones at Pearl Harbor?" my righteousness vanished. After all this time, after all the efforts of so many, our social condition in America is inextricably linked to Japan in the minds

of many who remain stubbornly ignorant. Or perhaps it is not ignorance, which can be "cured" with facts. Perhaps it is willful unreason: intellectual and emotional denial and resentment based on fear, anger, and racism. How does one "cure" willful unreason?

I see ominous signs that forces of racism have been building in the past decade and are now being accommodated and sanctioned. David Duke won a third of the vote in Louisiana and his campaign was financed by many out-of-staters including Washingtonians; crosses have been burned and neo-Nazi pamphlets distributed in Bothell, Bainbridge Island, Seattle, and cities and towns across the nation; the conservative U.S. Supreme Court, about to decide upon a hate-crimes city ordinance in St. Paul.

The outlook on December 7, 1992 does not look good. But at times like this, I remember something my father told me. He said everyone has a contribution to make, each in his or her own way, and that every contribution counts. Perhaps the best and

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Chapter Focus

Editorial, *continued from front page*

in the final analysis, the only way to diminish racism is in the daily tasks of living: to be visibly proud of our heritage (which includes the courage of our community in rebuilding itself after the war) and to be exemplary friends, neighbors, and co-workers—exemplars of the common humanity that we share with all persons of all ancestry.

JACL Japanese Community Directory

The long-awaited Greater Seattle and vicinity Japanese American Community Directory has been completed. It contains about 9,000 individual listings and almost 1,000 business listings, and it runs 64 pages. Copies of the 1991 directory will be mailed in January free to all persons listed, with donations requested for additional copies. Directory Committee co-chairs Janice Yee and Mark Sato thank all who made the directory possible. The Seattle Chapter has underwritten the cost of this directory, but needs about \$8,000 to break even.

Seattle Chapter donations

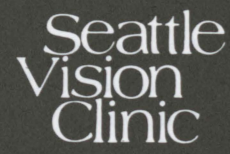
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What? 70th Annual Installation Banquet
When? Saturday, January 25, 5:30 pm
Where? Doubletree Suites Hotel
16500 Southcenter Parkway

The theme of the banquet will be "**HONORING OUR VETERANS,**" and will feature National JACL President Cressy Nakagawa as the keynote speaker. The evening ceremonies will honor all veterans and include a tribute to local veteran groups, MIS Northwest and the Nisei Veterans Committee.

The Seattle chapter officers and board members for 1992 will be introduced and installed during the banquet. Outgoing officers

and board members will be recognized and honored. The master of ceremonies for the banquet is Harry Kadoshima.

A social hour will start at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$30.00 per person and tables of ten can be reserved in advance. You may reserve with this form, or with the invitations sent to you. All Seattle Chapter members, friends, and families are invited to attend the Installation Banquet.

JACL Seattle Chapter Installation Banquet HONORING OUR VETERANS

Name: _____

Street address: _____

City, State, and ZIP: _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (work) _____

Number in party: _____ x \$30 = _____

Entrees (please put number): _____ Salmon dinner _____ Prime Rib dinner

Please make check payable to Seattle JACL and send with this form to: PO Box 75733, Seattle, WA 98125-0733.

Community Notes

Congratulations

Congratulations to JACL Regional Director Karen Yoshitomi and her husband Michael on the occasion of the birth of their daughter Kaila on November 22. The National Office is planning to hire a temporary replacement for the duration of Karen's maternity leave.

EO 9066 exhibit update

The Wing Luke Museum has topped \$100,000 in its fund-raising efforts for the EO 9066 exhibit. Donors contributing \$10,000 or more include the King County Historical Preservation Commission, the Motoda Foundation, the Seattle City Council, and Security Pacific Bank. But the museum is still needs funds to mount and maintain the exhibit, and encourages

individuals to contribute. Donors of \$100 or more will have their name (or the name of one in whose memory donations are made) inscribed on the plaque that will become a permanent part of the exhibit.

Materials still sought for the exhibit include photos of: Japanese Language School picnics at Jefferson Park; Japan Day at Play Land; prewar Pike Place Market; Belleamias, Valedas, or SYNKOA activities between 1945-50; community dances from 1945-50; sports teams or other activities at Collins playfield between 1945-50, preferably including Gene Boyd; sansei picking berries or going to the farm; postwar Nikkei resettlement housing projects. Anyone willing to loan such photos to the Wing Luke Museum for its exhibit please contact Michelle Kumata at

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Calendar of events

compiled by Ed Suguro

M. Butterfly — Seattle Repertory Theatre's production, through Dec 28, Bagley Wright Theatre, 155 Mercer, Tues-Thurs 7:30pm, Fri-Sat 8:00pm; matinees Dec. 21, 22, 28 at 2pm. Information: 443-2222.

Sculpture and paintings by Michihiro Kosuge — through Dec. 29, Linda Hodges Gallery, 410 Occidental Ave S, Tues-Sat 11am-5pm, Sun 1-5pm. For information: 624-3034.

Artwork by Gerald Tsutakawa — through Jan 13, Foster/White Gallery, 7th floor, Frederick & Nelson, open during store hours.

Strength and Diversity: Japanese American Women, 1885 to 1990 — through March 1, 1992,

Oregon Historical Society, 1230 SW Park Ave, Portland, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun noon-5pm. Free. For information: (503) 222-1741.

Chapter board meeting and dinner — Wed, Dec 18, 6pm Sun Ya Restaurant, 605 7th Ave S.

Tomo No Kai potluck dinner — Sat, Dec 21, 5:30pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St. Information: 723-8005.

Nisei Veteran's Committee's New Year Eve party — Tues, Dec 31, 9pm-1am, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King, music by Satin Sounds, BYOL. Tickets: \$15 per couple members, \$20 per couple nonmembers. To reserve tables call Tosh Tokunaga.

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Calendar *(continued from page 5)*

Doshi Kai meeting — Tues, Jan 7, 6:30pm. Call Wayne Kimura for name and address of restaurant, [redacted]

The Big Nisei Broadcast— Northwest Asian American Theatre, January 7-15, Theatre Off Jackson, 409 7th Ave S. Reservations: 340-1049.

Nikkei Community Dance— Sat, Jan 11, 8-11:30pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St. Live bank, BYOL, \$3. For information: 772-1160.

Oshogatsu — Nippon Kan Heritage Association's

celebration, Sat, Jan 18, 7:30pm, Nippon Kan Theatre, 628 S. Washington. Classical Japanese dance, koto music, calligraphy, martial arts and lion dance. Admission \$8 adults, \$5 seniors/students, over 75 free. Tickets at Uwajimaya, House of Rice, or at the door.

Seattle JACL's 70th annual Installation Banquet — *Honoring our Veterans*, Sat, Jan 25, Doubletree Suites Hotel, 16500 Southcenter Pkwy, 5:30pm social hour, 6:30pm dinner. Tickets - \$30 per person. For information or reservations call Ayako Hurd, [redacted] or Takako Yoda, [redacted]

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The Seattle Chapter JACL newsletter is published the 2nd Wednesday of each month by the Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. Send items for inclusion by the first of the month to Holly Yasui, P.O. Box 75272, Seattle, WA 98125.

Japanese American Citizens League

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