

# J A C L NEWSLETTER

SEATTLE CHAPTER

JANUARY 1992

VOLUME 29, NO. 1

## President's Message

by Tim Gojio

**Huskies and the New Year:** Probably like many of you, January 1, 1992 found me in front of a tv set, cheering the Huskies as they overpowered the Michigan Wolverines to win the Rose Bowl and a share of the mythical national championship. New Year is an interesting combination of traditions for my family, where the Japanese New Year's observance (plenty of food, some of which I even like) is combined with American (football bowl games). I would like to think that this combination is uniquely Japanese American: How many other people eat mochi and watch football on January 1st?

**JACL and the New Year:** 1992 will mark several historic occasions. First, the Seattle Chapter JACL will hold its seventieth Annual Installation Banquet on Saturday, January 25, 1992. The banquet will be held at the Doubletree Plaza in Southcenter. I hope to see you there.

Second, 1992 will mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Roosevelt. The anniversary will be marked by the opening of an exhibit at the Wing Luke Asian Museum which commemorates the 50 years prior and 50 years following the signing of EO 9066.

## Nikkei Vets receiving redress payments denied pensions

*reprint from the International Examiner*

The Veterans Administration has terminated pension benefits for several Nikkei veterans in California after the vets reported receiving redress payments.

"So far there has just been two cases reported to our office," said Joy Morimoto, regional director for the Northern California JACL. She said that a third veteran has contacted the Office of Redress Administration (ORA). All three veterans had just received checks in the second round of redress payments, paid to those born in 1927 or earlier (ages 67 or older).

"These gentlemen had gotten their check in October and reported them to the VA," says Morimoto. A month after reporting the redress payments, the veterans were denied their pension benefits.

Morimoto says that the veterans had been receiving approximately \$400-500 a month before their benefits were denied. Morimoto contacted a case worker from the Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs who verified that termination policy for redress recipients. Morimoto said that the case worker seemed clear on the issue.

JACL is currently appealing the case of one veteran

who received a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs informing him of its decision to terminate his pension payments. Citing that the \$20,000 redress payment is counted as income and therefore exceeds the maximum income limitation set by law, the department gives veterans the option of appealing the decision or reapplying after a period of one year.

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 clearly exempts redress payments as income for purposes of determining eligibility for many federally assisted health and housing benefits, including veterans' benefits. This exemption is contained in Section 105(f)(2) of the Act which states that amounts paid to an eligible individual "(2) shall not be included as income or resources for purposes of determining eligibility to receive benefits described in section 3803(c)(2)(C) of title 31, United States Code, or the amount of such benefits." Veterans' benefits under chapters 11, 13, 15, 17 and 21 of title 38 are included in Section 3803(c)(2)(C), and in particular, income determinations for pension purposes are covered in chapter 15.

*continued on page 7*



## Chapter Focus

### Correction

The December newsletter incorrectly identified Ken Sato, co-chair of the Directory Project, as Mark Sato. My apologies, Ken!

### 1991 Endowment Fund

The Seattle chapter would like to thank the generous donors to the Chapter Endowment Fund who made contributions in 1991:

**\$1,000 Donors:** Toyo/George Hayashi, Mr. Ted K. Imanaka, Mary/George Kozu, Mitsuye/Roy A. Mihara, Drs. Ruby/Evan H. Shu

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**Up To \$500:** Theodore S. Chihara, Sachiko/Smith Y. Hayomi, Fujiko Hori (in memory of Toshio Hori), Miyo Iwata, Saji/Minoru Kanazawa, Peggie F. Koya, Mr. Don Matsumoto, T. Matsuoka, Toru Matsuoka,

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### JACL Legacy Fund

The JACL PNWD has reached 45% of its goal of \$700,000 with \$313,555 in contributions and pledges raised as of November 27, 1991. Of the total raised for the PNW, Seattle has contributed over 60% with \$190,845 raised from approximately 233 donors, followed by Portland with \$22,620 or 7% of the total. Ranking second to Seattle nationwide in total amount raised is the San Francisco chapter with \$109,270.

For the two-year period ending on November 27, the overall National JACL Legacy Fund has reached \$2,660,805 from 4008 donors. This amounts to 26.6% of the \$10 million goal. Appreciation and warmest thanks are extended to the following Seattle Chapter donors whose contributions were received up to December 31, 1991.

**\$2,000+:** Harry/Florence Fujita, Fujiko Hori (in memory of Toshio Hori), Hareo/Fugie Kajimura, Sid/Yo Katayama, Kazuo Kato family (in memory of Sumiye Kato), John/Lillian Matsudaira, Dr./Mrs. Theodore T. Nakamura, Leo/Alice Ohashi (for the Seattle Chapter JACL), Dr./Mrs. William Sata

## Chapter focus, *continued from page 2*

**\$1000+:** Mr./Mrs. Tak Aoki, Yone Bartholomew (in memory of Clarence Arai), Toyo Fujiyama (in memory of U. Fuzzy Fujiyama), Mr./Mrs. Jimmy Hata, Ken/Akiko Higashi, Ted/Toshiko Imanishi, Miyoko Kaneta (in memory of mother Mrs. Kiwayo Kaneta), Toyoko Kawahara, Sam/Fumi Kawakami, Alice/Toshiyuki Kawanishi (in memory of Harry/Fusa Kawanishi), William Kato, Naoki/Chitose Sakaguchi), George/Mary Kozu, T. Jack Matsui, Miyo McCoy, Roy/Mitsuye Mihara (in memory of Sei Uyeta), Sumi/Howard MInato, Etsuro/Yoshiko Miyauchi, Jim/Aiko Mizuki, Mitsuko Morishita, Giro/Miyo Nakagawa, Nobuko Nakamura, Ted/Kimi Nakanishi, Mrs. Yoshino Nakashima, Ebo/Elaine Okiyama, Ted/Jean Sakahara (in memory of Thomas/Kazue Sakahara), James/Yuri Suzuki, James/Christine Takizaki, Frank/Dorothy Tsuboi (in memory of parents Tamiye/Frank K. Tsuboi), Alan/Chiye Yabuki, Mr./Mrs. Kiyoo Yamamoto, Richard/Fuji Yamasaki (in memory of William A. Yamasaki), Takako Yoda

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**Other:** Fred Dodobara, Mr./Mrs. Takejiro Hama, Louise Kashino, Minoru/Marion Kosai (in memory of Joe Tamura), Frank Kubota (pledge), Terry/Marie Kurimura, Satoshi/Rose Masuda (in memory of Minoru Masuda), George Miyake, Mr./Mrs. Masaru Nitta, Mr./Mrs. Frank Okazaki (in memory of Kazuo/Tatsu, T/Sgt. Takaaki/Miyoko Okazaki), Gunnar Olsborg, Setsuo Omoto, George K./Hamayo Sato, Lily Shitama, Mr./Mrs. Dan Sotowa (in memory of Joe S. Tamura), W.T./Chiyo Yasutake (in memory of Ralph Carr, former Gov. of Colorado)

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## Community Notes

### International District Photo Exhibit

The work of Dean Wong, photographer for the *International Examiner*, will be exhibited at the Seattle Central Community College Art Gallery through January 24. The exhibit, entitled "Community," includes a variety of photos showing the cultural diversity of the International District. It is sponsored by the SCCC Foundation, the Associated Student Council, and the Fine Arts Committee. Hours are 10am-2pm Monday-Friday; 6pm-8pm Tuesday-Wednesday; and 12-2pm Saturday. For more information call 344-4379.

### Museum wins Multicultural Grant

The Wing Luke Asian Museum was selected as one of eight recipients of a \$13,000 grant from the Metropolitan Life Foundation's Multicultural Initiatives program. This grant will be used to assist in the development and installation of a new exhibit on the history and culture of Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, Koreans, Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders who have settled in Washington state. The display will include approximately 100 photos and 250 artifacts, and is slated to open as part of the museum's permanent collection early in 1993.

### Art Against Racism

Irene H. Kuniyuki was awarded a King County Cultural Resources Division Art Against Racism grant. She will design a limited-edition poster dealing with the racist hysteria directed toward Japanese Americans during World War II and the recent increase of racial harassment against Asian/Pacific Americans. The poster will use images of the Relocation Centers, FBI photographs, documents, and artifacts. The posters will be distributed countywide.

### Hyogo Cultural Center singing lessons

The Hyogo Cultural Center will present a series of ten Women's Chorus lessons on Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30pm, February 4 through April 10. Ten easy, popular Japanese songs will be taught in Japanese (English translations provided). No experience in singing or Japanese is necessary. A performing trip will be arranged after completion of the ten-week course, with *obento* provided. The deadline for registration is January 31. For registration call 728-0610.

### Japan-America lecture/discussions

The Japan-America society is sponsoring two brown bag lecture/discussions: *REI's Mail Order Experience* on January 22 and *U.S.-Japan Scientific Competition*, on February 4. The first lecture will be by Jim Cross, who manages the Mail Order System, International Sales for REI, which has experienced great growth in the past years, especially in Japan. The second lecture, will be by Michael Schrage, a columnist for the *Los Angeles Times* and author of *Shared Minds: The New Technologies of Collaboration* (Random House, 1990) which is soon to be published in Japan. For more information, see the **Calendar**.



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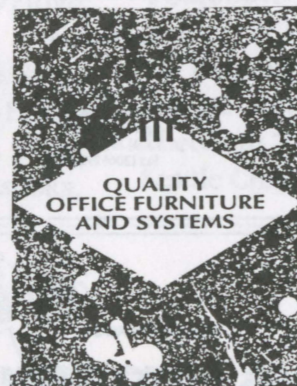
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## Seattle JACL — Join us today!

The JACL is the only national Japanese American nonprofit civil rights organization. Our most recent success was the 18-year effort to win redress for Nikkei who were evacuated from their homes and relocated into concentration camps during World War II. We are also involved in cultural events, providing scholarships, and dealing with issues of concern in many areas, including education, affirmative action, leadership training, and more.

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Your membership allows you to attend any or all JACL meetings at your option. For more information, call Dale Watanabe at \_\_\_\_\_

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- Seattle Chapter monthly newsletter

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- Membership to Seattle Chapter JACL
- Seattle Chapter monthly newsletter

## Seattle Chapter JACL

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Thank you for your support!



## Calendar of events

compiled by Ed Suguro

**Weekly ballroom dance** — every Wednesday, 1-3pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St.

**Community, photos of the International District by Dean Wong** — through Jan. 24, Seattle Central Community College, 1701 Broadway, 10am-2pm Monday-Friday; 6pm-8pm Tuesday-Wednesday; and 12-2pm Saturday. For more information: 344-4379.

**Redwood Curtain** — Seattle Repertory Theatre's performance of a play about an Asian American girl's efforts to make sense of her past and a disturbing encounter with a Vietnamese vet. Through February 1, Bagley Wright Theatre, 155 Mercer. Information/reservations: 443-2222.

**Japanese woodblock prints by Hiroshi Yoshida** — through Feb. 2, Davidson Galleries, 313 Occidental Ave, Tues-Sat 11am-5:30pm, Sun 1-5 pm. For information: 624-7684.

**Strength and Diversity: Japanese American Women 1885-1990** — through March 1, Oregon Historical Society, 1230 SW Park Ave, Portland, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun noon-5pm. Free. For information: (503) 222-1741.

**The Queen's Garden** — Northwest Asian American Theatre's production, Fri-Sat, Jan. 17-18, 8pm; Sun, Jan. 19, 2pm and 7pm, Theatre off Jackson, 409 Seventh Ave S. For tickets and information: 340-1049.

**Hyogo Cultural Center's Oshogatsu** — Thurs, Jan. 16, Hyogo Cultural Center, 2001 Sixth Ave, Suite 1101, 5:30-7:30 pm. Specialty foods, dance perfor-

mance, displays and games. Free. Reservations by January 13, 728-0610.

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

**Chapter board meeting** — Wed, Jan. 22, Japanese Language School, 1414 S. Weller St. Everyone welcome.

**Japanese Culture through Poetry** — lecture by Dr. Richard McKinnon, Hyogo Cultural Center's *Introduction to Japanese Civilization* series, Thurs, Jan. 23, Hyogo Cultural Center, 2001 Sixth Ave, Suite 1101, 5:30-7:00 pm. Admission: \$5. For information: 728-0610.

**Selling Tents to Tokyo: REI's Mail Order Experience** — Japan-America Society brown bag lecture/discussion by Jim Cross of REI, Wed, Jan. 22, Two Union Square, 55th Floor Conference Room, 601 Union, Seattle. Admission: \$10 general public, \$2 students. For registration: 623-7900.

**Contemporary Japanese Cinema night** — video screening of "Our Days with Harris" (*Harris no ita hibi*), Wed, Jan. 22 and Fri, Jan. 24, Hyogo Cultural Center, 2001 Sixth Ave, Suite 1101, 5:45-7:30 pm, brown bag dinners welcome. Admission: free. For information: 728-0610.

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## Calendar, continued from page 6

**Secrets of the Samurai Centerfielder** — Northwest Asian American Theatre's production, Wed-Sat, Jan. 22-25, 8pm; Sun, Jan. 26, 2pm and 7pm, Theatre off Jackson, 409 Seventh Ave S. For tickets and information: 340-1049.

**Seattle JAACL 70th annual Installation Banquet** — Honoring Our Veterans, Sat, Jan. 25, Doubletree Suites Hotel, 16500 Southcenter Parkway, 5:30 social hour, 6:30 pm dinner.

**Evening of Japanese music** — Tues, Jan. 28, Hyogo Cultural Center, 2001 Sixth Ave, Suite 1101, 5:30-7:00 pm. Free, reservations required by January 24, 728-0610.

**Whitney Memorial United Methodist Church sukiyaki dinner** — Sun, Feb. 2, noon-5pm, 1901 S. Fawcett Ave, Tacoma. \$6 donation. For information: 627-0727.

**U.S.-Japan Scientific Cooperation** — Japan-America Society brown-bag lecture/discussion by Michael Schrage, Tues, Feb. 4, Security Pacific Bank, 12th floor conference room, 1301 Fifth Ave. Admission: \$10 general public, \$2 students. For registration: 623-7900.

**Doshi Kai meeting** — Tues, Feb. 4, 6:30pm. Call Wayne Kimura for name and address of restaurant, 827-0460 (days) or 869-5174 (eves/wknds).

**Nikkei community dance** — Sat, Feb. 8, 8-11:30pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St., BYOL, ice provided, \$2. For information: 772-1160.

**Tea Ceremony demonstration** — by Urasenke School of Seattle, Sat-Sun, Feb. 8-9, Seattle Art

Museum, 100 University St., 2-4pm. For reservations: 654-3100.

**Traditional Japanese performances** — dances, songs, koto music and a dance ensemble presented by Nippon Kan Heritage Association, Sun, Feb. 9, Seattle Art Museum, 100 University St., 2 pm.

**Tomo no kai dineout** — Sat, Feb. 29, Anthony's Home Port, 6135 Seaview Ave NW, 12 noon, \$19 per person. Reservations: Mary, 723-8005.

## Nisei Vets' Pension Denial

Continued from page 1

"The fact that several veterans have already had their benefits terminated is disturbing," said Dennis Hayashi, JAACL national director. "The Office of Redress Administration is aware of this situation and is seeking a clarification from the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C. However, there is a sense of urgency in immediately appealing these cases because many veterans depend on these pensions."

Hayashi added that there is concern about other veterans out there who may have also lost their benefits but not questioned it. It is important for veterans to know what their rights are and the resources available to them. If you are a veteran and have received a similar letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs, or know of someone who has, contact Joy Morimoto at National JAACL Headquarters, (415) 921-5225.

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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.*

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The long awaited Japanese American Community Directory is available now! Seattle Chapter JACL volunteers began this project in June of 1991 and distributed the 64 page directory in the mail the second week of January. The directory contains over 12,000 people of Japanese Ancestry living in the Greater Puget Sound area. It also contains over 1,000 listings of Japanese American businesses.

The last Japanese American Community Directory was published by the Seattle JACL almost 10 years ago. Since there were so many changes and additions, the directory committee had to start from scratch. Volunteers canvassed about a dozen telephone directories in the Greater Puget Sound area.

The committee was able to raise about \$6,000 in advertisements thanks to local businesses. Although this revenue has helped to offset the \$14,000 cost of production and mailing, we need your help! If you have received your directory and find it useful, please send in your donation/membership form. If you have not received a copy and would like one, you may order a copy by sending in the coupon below and \$15.

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