

SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

March 1995

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President's Report

by Cal Takagi

Legislative assaults on affirmative action and services to aliens are clearly directed against minority populations, and, as such, are distressingly appealing to the general public. Under the guise of "fairness" and "equal treatment for all," the opponents of affirmative action policies put a socially acceptable face upon legislation which, if passed, would surely legitimize old-style hiring discrimination not only in government operated facilities, but undoubtedly in the private sector as well.

Attempts to limit services to aliens, both documented and undocumented, are couched in economic terms and therefore justifiable to an electorate primed to look for scapegoats. These and other legislative ploys are uncomfortably reminiscent of the numerous anti-Japanese immigrant acts passed by Congress and state legislatures during the early years of the century culminating in the incarceration of Japanese Americans in 1942. As the report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians stated, those decisions were based on race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership. The behavior of the lawmakers who are behind current efforts is certainly in the same vein.

A reading of the history of minorities in the United States reveals that each immigrant group has had to combat hate and prejudice, legal and illegal discrimination, and attacks on their survival. These experiences, shared in common, reveal the extent to which the endemic strain of stereotyped and racist thinking continues to pop up in our society, given a facade of respectability and promoted as "fair and equal treatment" when in fact, they are exactly the opposite. The rush to undo the laws that were originally enacted to rectify years of unfair treatment of minorities and women is unseemly, and thoughtful Americans will oppose their enactment.

Chapter responds generously to earthquake relief fund

The response to the Seattle Chapter's appeal for donations to the Kobe/Osaka Earthquake Relief Fund has been generous. More than \$7,500 has been received to date. Many thanks to all that gave. Forty-six donors were acknowledged in our previous issue. As of March 6, 65 additional contributions were received. These donors are listed as follows:

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Community Focus

"Uncle Hideki" explores multiracial family issues

"Is there anything left here that's Japanese?" Uncle Hideki wonders about the Suyama family. His niece is divorced, her twenty-something kids are "hapa" (half Polish-American and half Japanese-American) and her son's girlfriend is African-American and Filipino-American. Award-winning author Jean Davies Okimoto and director Judith Nihei explore heritage, assimilation, and the family dynamics of a contemporary multiracial family in the Northwest Asian American Theatre's production of "Uncle Hideki," which premieres Thursday, March 16 at the Theatre Off Jackson, 409 - 7th Avenue South, in the International District.



Bea Kiyohara & Herb Tsuchiya in "Uncle Hideki" — Rick Wong photo

The production runs through April 9, playing Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. All performances are held at the wheelchair-accessible, air conditioned Theatre Off Jackson, located at 409 - 7th Avenue South in the International District. (See Calendar, page 6 for ticket information.)

Uncle Hideki features Mika Burns, Bea Kiyohara, Tiffani Koyano, Dylan Okimoto, and Herb Tsuchiya and is supported by grants from The National Endowment for Arts, The Washington State Arts Commission, The Corporate Council for the Arts and The Bishop Foundation.

Miki calligraphy and pottery exhibit to be showcased at Festival

Japanese calligraphy by the late prime minister of Japan Takeo Miki and pottery by his widow, Mutsuko Miki, will be showcased at the 20th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival coming to the Seattle Center April 21-23.

Mdm. Miki is an acclaimed potter who taught last summer at the University of Puget Sound. She will attend the Miki Exhibit at the Festival, which will combine her work along with her late husband's and the calligraphy of their children and grandchildren — three generations.

Takeo Miki was instrumental in founding the Festival 20 years ago in commemoration of the nation's Bicentennial. He presented the city with 1,000 cherry trees planted along Lake Washington, and stone lanterns that stand on the shore in Seward Park.

The arts and crafts festival will also feature a group of 40 Awa Odori dancers and musicians from Japan. They will demonstrate the basic steps and invite the public to

join in the dance. Other dances will also be performed, and several ancient musical instruments will be demonstrated.

The Festival also includes a wide variety of programs for children and adults: children's Japanese activity corner, tea ceremony, videos, a "go" tournament, flower arranging, origami, and ethnic exhibits and demonstrations. Traditional Japanese foods will be on sale.

Seattle Chapter JAACL is a sponsor and provides many volunteer hours. This year, the chapter will sell sushi with proceeds to benefit the chapter. Volunteers will also help sell raffle tickets for the Festival committee.

CREDITS

The Seattle JAACL Newsletter is edited by Bob Shimabukuro. Proofreader: Alice Ito. Contributors: Arlene Oki, Ed Suguro, and Cal Takagi.

Calendar of Events

Compiled by Ed Suguro

Meetings

Tomo No Kai meeting, March 13, 7 p.m., Keiro Nursing Home, 1601 E. Yesler Way. Guest speaker: a representative from Windemere Realty.

Seattle JAACL Board meeting, everyone invited, March 15, 7 p.m., 316 Maynard Ave. S., rm. 111.

Doshi Kai meeting, April 5, 7 p.m. Call Wayne Kimura for location.

Community and Social Events

Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community Teriyaki Dinner, March 19, Commodore Bainbridge Middle School, two seatings: 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Takeout and sushi bar available. Entertainment by Seattle Kokon Taiko. Slide show, historic pictures and the prize-winning exhibit "Kodomo No Tame Ni" will be presented. Tickets \$8.50 adults, \$6.50 seniors/children, available from Bainbridge Nikkei or at the door. Directions: From the ferry dock, go to the second traffic light and turn left (High School Road), then go a

quarter of a mile; school will be on your right. Info: Lucille,

Northwest Asian Weekly Foundation benefit performance of "Miss Saigon," the hit Broadway musical, March 25, 8 p.m., Paramount Theatre, 911 Pine St. For tickets and info: Michael Park.

Seattle Buddhist Church Spring Bazaar, March 26, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 1427 S. Main St., maki sushi, inari sushi, rice curry, bento, teriyaki chicken and other tasty goodies. Info: 329-0800.

Nikkei Community Dance, April 8, 8-11:30 p.m., Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St., BYOB, live band, \$3 per person. Info: 772-1160.

Annual Auction for Northwest Asian American Theatre, May 13, Dome Room of the Arctic Building, 6-11 p.m. Call 340-1445 for tickets.

Tulelake Reunion V, May 19-20, Red Lion Inn and Resort, Sacramento, CA. Mixer, sayonara banquet, local tour or

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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.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

Regular membership	\$42
Couple membership	\$76
1000 Club membership	
Fifty Club (annual)	\$60
Century Club (annual)	\$120
Spouse (annual)	\$35
Thousand Club Life	\$1,000
Century Club Life	\$2,000
Youth/Student membership	
(25 years or younger)	\$14
Seattle JACL only	
Booster Club regular	\$20
Booster Club seniors	\$10

Your membership allows you to attend any or all JACL meetings at your option.

To join JACL, complete the form below, make your check payable to SEATTLE CHAPTER JACL and return it to:

May Namba, Membership chair
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- Membership to National JACL and Seattle Chapter JACL
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- Seattle Chapter monthly newsletter
- Eligible for JACL group health insurance
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Seattle Chapter JACL Membership application

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Thank you for your support!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Reno tour, symposium. Cost: \$80 (excluding tour). Info: Ed Suguro,

weekly ballroom dance class, every Wednesday from 1-3 p.m., Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St.

Arts and Cultural Events

Tea Ceremony Demonstration by the Yabunouchi School, March 12, 2:30 p.m., Downtown Seattle Art Museum, 100 University St., in the Teahouse in the Japanese Art Gallery on the third floor. Tickets: \$4 members, \$10 nonmembers. Info: 654-3121.

"Power of Language: Writers of Color Reading and Discussion Series," Mary Chen, Kathleen Alcalá and Jerry Large will read their writing. They will follow with a panel discussion on racism and urban violence. Mayumi Tsutakawa will serve as moderator. March 21, 7:30 p.m., Theatre Off Jackson, 409 7th Ave. S., \$4 general, \$3 seniors/students. Info: 340-1049.


"The Sophistication of the Japanese Woodcut — Color Prints of the 19th and 20th Centuries," through March

31, Carolyn Staley Fine Prints, 313 1st Ave. S., Tuesday – Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Info: 621-1888.

Recent works by glass artist Hiroshi Yamano, featuring work from the artist's "From East to West" series, through April 2, William Traver Gallery, 110 Union St., Suite 200, Tuesday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday – Sunday, noon – 5 p.m. Info: 587-6501.

Northwest Asian American Theatre presents **"Uncle Hideki,"** a new comedy about a biracial family by Jean Davies Okimoto, directed by Judith Nihei, through April 9, Theatre Off Jackson, 409 7th Ave. S., Thursday – Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 4 p.m. Tickets: \$12, \$9 seniors/students/physically challenged (\$6 on Thursday). Reservations: 340-1049.

Asian New Year's Traditions, Wing Luke Asian Museum features the New Year's celebrations of China, Japan, Korea, South Asia and Vietnam in its gallery, through April 9, Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 7th Ave. S., Tuesday – Friday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday – Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Admission: \$2.50 adults, \$1.50 seniors/students, \$.75 children 5-12. Info: 623-5124.



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The Seattle Chapter JAACL 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 1st of the month to: JAACL Newsletter, c/o Bob Shimabukuro, 6621 S. Bangor St., Seattle, WA 98178.

Japanese American Citizens League

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