

SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

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Pike Place Market project gets underway

by Ed Suguro

The Civil Liberties Public Education Fund earlier this year awarded the Seattle Chapter JACL \$5,000 for public art in the Pike Place Market. This work of art will honor the Japanese American farmers who were once the majority of the vegetable and fruit sellers at the Market prior to World War II.

A committee under co-chairs Janice Yee and Jill Beppu has been working to implement this project. The budget for the public art is \$30,000. Posters announcing a competition for artists have been circulated. A selection committee will choose the artist from among three finalists.

Although grants have been applied for and a few have been awarded, funds for this project must come from the general public for it to come to fruition. If you would like to donate to this worthy project, send your contribution made payable to Seattle Chapter JACL (indicate that it's for the Pike Place Market project) to: Seattle JACL, c/o Janice Yee, 2538 S. Eddy St., Seattle, WA 98108.

For further information, call Jill Beppu at [redacted] or e-mail at <Public_Art_in_the_Pike_Place_Market@juno.com>.

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Call for Artists: Public Artwork Commemorating the Japanese American Farmers at the Pike Place Market

The Seattle Japanese American Citizens League, along with a consortium of organizations and individuals, Pike Place Market Public Development Authority, Wing Luke Asian Museum, Lake Washington JACL, Puyallup JACL, White River JACL, will commission a public artwork commemorating Japanese American farmers, to be located in Seattle's historic Pike Place Market.

Today, the Market is the centerpiece of Seattle's history of commerce and tourism. Each year, nine million people pass through Pike Place Market, many unaware of the contributions of the Japa-

President's message

'The Tale of Otokichi' and building common bonds

by Jeffrey Hattori

Over 160 years ago, on what was to be a routine excursion to Edo for the Hyojun Maru, three brothers: Otokichi, Kyukichi, and Iwakichi survived an arduous and painful 14 months adrift the Pacific Ocean to find themselves ashore on a strange land and begin a journey that would have a ripple effect across oceans and over time. Hopefully, many of you had the opportunity to attend the performance of the play, "The Tale of Otokichi," on Wednesday, October 1, 1997, at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue. The musical drama kicked off the annual celebration of Bellevue's Japan Week and proved to be a truly entertaining and educating experience.

The "Tale of Otokichi" embodied a number of stories and themes:

- a story of the first Japanese to arrive in America;
- a story of three courageous individuals who lived an adventure that only a small few have ever experienced;
- a story of how an unintended path can sometimes serve as a bridge between two lands and many peoples.

The play captured all of this and more. From the moving opening speech from the Mayor of Mihama (the town from which the three brothers came), to the wonderful performance of the Weekend Troupe of Nagoya Japan where the Hyojun Maru departed on its last and most historic trip, to having members from the Makah Nation re-enact their role in rescuing the marooned Japanese mariners, the play was most symbolic and appropriate. For me, the "Tale of Otokichi" represented a celebration of the human spirit. The differences among the Japanese mariners, British and the Makah were overcome by the human spirit of kindness and caring, of learning and respecting the diversity that so often, tragically, serves as barriers.

One of the ripple effects from this real-life version of the "accidental tourists" is the story of Ranald MacDanald, who was so inspired by his encounter of the Japanese mariners that he began a lifelong quest to learn more about the country of Japan and later contributed to future US-Japan relations. Finally arriving in Japan, he taught English to individuals who later served as key translators for the Japanese government during Commodore Perry's visits.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to all of the organizations involved in sponsoring this event, in particular, the International Relations committee and the Lake Washington Chapter JACL, for their efforts in "building bridges."

Common Bonds: Uniting our Communities

President's message

continued from front page

On Saturday, January 31, 1998, at the Downtown Seattle Sheraton Hotel and Towers, the Seattle Chapter will be celebrating its 76th Annual Installation Banquet. The theme for this event is "Common Bonds: Uniting our Communities," reflecting our on-going commitment towards working with all groups to create a healthy and caring community. At the banquet you will hear from our keynote speaker, Ms. Phyllis Campbell, CEO, US Bank and Ms. Janice Yee, incoming Seattle Chapter President, and meet the 1998 Board Officers and Members. Just as important, we can all celebrate the accomplishments of our Chapter and renew our spirits. This past banquet proved to be very successful. Over 400 were in attendance, the speeches were moving and substantive and the energy and enthusiasm reverberated throughout the year. I hope all of you will plan to join us on January 31st!

Pike Place Market Artwork,

continued from front page

nese American farmers and their subsequent internment. This public artwork project seeks to change that as it will educate residents and visitors from around the nation and the world.

The project budget is approximately \$30,000 total installation by the artist, and a \$1,000 honorarium for the three finalists. For a prospectus, send your name and address to : Seattle JACL, c/o Janice Yee, 2538 S. Eddy St., Seattle, WA 98108 or e-mail <Public_Art_in_the_Pike_Place_Market@juno.com> or call Jill Beppu at

Funding for this project is provided in part by the Civil Liberties, Public Education Fund -CLPEF, and Seattle Japanese American Citizens League.

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No 200 Coalition

I am pleased to announce that Akemi Matsumoto, Seattle Chapter, and Karen Yoshitomi, PNW District, have agreed to serve our JACL representatives on the NO 200 Coalition's Steering Committee. As has been reported earlier, this group is composed of a rainbow of community groups, unions and concerned individuals to educate and advocate our state populace of the very negative impacts of Initiative 200. It is imperative that we take an active role in preventing what is becoming a more prevalent and dangerous way of thinking—that affirmative action is no longer warranted. Along these lines, the Anti-Discrimination committee with representatives from the Organization of Chinese Americans, Filipino American Political Action Group of Washington, and others will be meeting to develop strategies for us to collectively educate and mobilize our community on this issue. If you would like to participate, please give our Chapter Office or Karen a call!

Editor's Note

Please do not send articles for the JACL Newsletter to the Asian Pacific AIDS Council office. I do not receive mail or messages there. As it states on the back page of this newsletter: "Send items for inclusion by the 1st of the month to: JACL Newsletter, c/o Bob Shimabukuro, 6621 S. Bangor St., Seattle, WA 98178."

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter is published on the second Thursday of the month by the Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League.

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Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997

Taking advantage of Roth IRA

by Michael Shinichi Latimer

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 made sweeping changes that will affect millions of taxpayers over the next five years. Most important, it provides investors with new opportunities to save for the future — from buying a house, to funding their children's education, to securing their retirement.

Beginning in January 1, 1998, the new law will offer the Roth IRA which is a nondeductible IRA that allows many individuals to contribute up to \$2000 a year. Some of the benefits are: 1) Distributions are free from all income tax if taken after age 59, or in the event of death or disability, as long as the account had been funded for at least five years. 2) Early withdrawals are free from both penalty and income taxes if used to pay for first-time house purchases (subject to a lifetime limit of \$10,000). 3) There are no age limitations. Individuals can continue to make contributions after age 70. 4) No mandatory withdrawals are required during the account holder's lifetime.

Generally, eligibility phases out for single tax filers with adjusted gross income between \$95,000 and \$110,000 and for joint filers with adjusted gross income between \$150,000 and \$160,000. Also, taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of less than \$100,000 are eligible to roll over or convert a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. A conversion can be made any time after 1997. For conversions made in 1998, the traditional IRA must be distributed (subject to ordinary income tax), then rolled over into the Roth IRA.

Thanks for the help!

Thanks to all the folks that came down to help with the HUGE mailing September 11! Your effort was also HUGE. Thank-yous go out to :

Bob Sato, Lucy Sato, Ted Yasuda, Mits Katayama, May Namba and her granddaughter Hillery, Cal Takagi, Elaine Akagi, Jeffery Hattori, Sam Shoji, Vicki Yuki, Shea Aoki, Arlene Oki, Jill Beppu, and Kazzie Katayama.

The next mailout will be Thursday, November 13.

Eligible taxpayers can hold both the traditional IRA and the new Roth IRA but total contributions cannot exceed \$2000 (100% of compensation, if less) per individual.

For the traditional IRA, significant changes have been made there also. Current traditional IRAs will continue to allow deductible contributions; however, effective January 1, 1998, the new law will reduce restrictions by raising adjusted gross income levels for active participants of employer-sponsored retirement plans. Allowable income levels for single filers will gradually increase from a phase-out range of \$25,000 to \$35,000 today, to \$50,000 to \$60,000 by 2005. For joint filers, the income levels will increase from a phase-out range of \$40,000 to \$50,000 today, to \$80,000 to \$100,000 by 2007.

Also, beginning in 1998, an individual no longer will be considered an active participant in an employer-sponsored retirement plan solely because his or her spouse is an active participant. Spouses filing jointly who do not have a retirement plan at work, or who have no earned income, can make tax-deductible contributions of up to \$2000 even if their spouse is participating in a retirement plan. This eligibility is phased out for couples with adjusted gross income that exceeds \$150,000.

Finally, starting in 1998, the new Education IRA will allow up to \$500 in annual, nondeductible contributions for each child until his or her 18th birthday. Withdrawals for qualified higher-education expenses are tax-free and anyone, parents, grandparents, other relative, friends and even minors can set up and contribute to an account.

So what's the big deal? The opportunity here is to take advantage of tax-deferred compounding which will allow money in your account to grow more quickly because no contributions or gains are taxed while in the protective shelter of your IRA. Everyone who is eligible should at least explore the benefits of an IRA and how it can be used to get the most out of your money. For more information on how an IRA can benefit you, please contact your financial planner.



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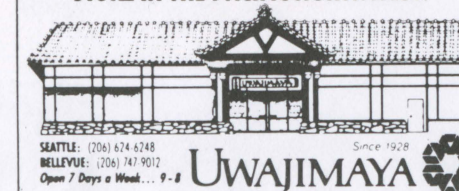
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Health series for elderly continues

By the year 2025, 20% of all Americans will be age 65 or older. Aging brings special challenges, and with so many of us living longer, it makes good sense to give consideration to these issues.

Following the outstanding success of last year's event, Nikkei Concerns, the Kame Project, and Nikkei Long-Term Care Project is presenting a four-part symposium on aging. *Health and Wealth: A Forum on Aging*. Two remaining sessions, October 25, and November 5, 1997, will be held at Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church, 3001 24th Avenue S., Seattle.

The Saturday, October 25 seminar, scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon, will explore the signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease and the latest research in this area. The final session on Wednesday, November 5, 7 to 9 p.m., will focus on estate planning.

Admission is free and refreshments will be provided.

For more information, please contact Greta Hoshibata, 3262409 or Darlene Suyematsu, 323-7100.

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Japanese American Citizens League

Seattle Chapter

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