
SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

March 1998

VOLUME 35, NO. 3

Railroad, mine workers ruled eligible for redress

The U.S. Justice Department announced February 27 that Japanese American railroad and mine workers who were fired from companies during WWII, and their family members, are potentially eligible for redress payments under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

The Department's Office of Redress Administration (ORA) has determined that at least 15 workers who applied for redress were fired because of an unjustified perception that they posed a security risk solely because of their Japanese ancestry. ORA further found that the federal government played a role in the firings by various companies. This decision was based on years of research conducted in cooperation with community organizations which provided historical documents and individuals' statements.

"I am pleased that the federal government could come through for these individuals who suffered these hardships," said Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights William Lee. "I hope that this will finally end a tragic period in American history for these workers and their families."

In the next few weeks, ORA will be contacting individuals affected by this decision to request any additional information which may be necessary to finalize their case. If the proper documentation is submitted on a timely basis, ORA expects to pay these individuals over the next two to four months.

Since the program's inception, ORA has provided \$20,000 per person in redress to 81,278 eligible claimants. Historical research suggests that an additional 2,200 individuals may be eligible.

Thanks to all who attended Puyallup Day of Remembrance

by Sharon Sobie

A sincere thank you to the 430 people who attended the February 19th Day of Remembrance ceremony at the Puyallup Fairgrounds, at which WWII internees were honored and sixth grade classes from the Puyallup School District learned about the evacuation from the internees themselves.

Mistress of ceremony Joan Yoshitomi introduced the speakers who included Mona Lee Locke, Fred Kiga, Doug Sutherland, Dick Sovde, Robert Mizukami, Mike Shiogi and myself.

Following the program, students and internees were entranced by a performance of "Within the Silence," written by Ken Mochizuki.

The assembly of children and honorees, our future and our past, made a strong impact on those present. For the youth, it humanized this historical event by putting faces with the names of the people who experienced this injustice. For the honorees, it gave them the opportunity to see the interest that these children had in learning more about the lives of those who were incarcerated during WWII.

I would like to see this observance be a yearly event. It is imperative that the present and next generations of Japanese Americans never forget what happened on February 19, 1942, and realize that what we are today and will be tomorrow was made possible by the sacrifices and contributions of those interned.

I would also like to thank the Wing Luke Asian Museum for all their assistance and support, as well as our co-sponsors, the Puyallup and Lake Washington JACL chapters. See you next year on February 19, 1999.

Deadlines approaching for JACL local and national scholarships

by David Yamaguchi

Applications for Seattle chapter and national scholarships are still available for students planning to attend any institution of higher learning in the fall, but deadlines are rapidly approaching! To be eligible, applicants or their parents must be JACL members.

Locally, we anticipate awarding about \$2,000, probably

See "Scholarships" on page 6

'They still don't get it'

by Janice Yee

How long have we been telling people that stereotyping is wrong? How long have we been telling people that we are Americans? Obviously, not long or loudly enough. The recent scandal over ObaChine's "good luck poster" is a shining example of how ignorant people still are. The print is a turn-of-the-century depiction of a Chinese man in a servant's jacket holding a cup of tea. He has overly exaggerated slanted eyes and wears a long braid.

Now I don't know about you, but I am offended by this imagery. The owner of the upscale pan-Asian restaurant, on the other hand finds the image cute and benign. So is stereotyping cute or benign? Is it cute or benign that Asian Americans faced extreme hardship and unfair laws? Is it cute or benign that these Asian Americans were relegated to menial jobs because of discrimination and racism? Is it cute or benign that this type of portrayal of Asian Americans perpetuates the notion that we are not as American as whites? I think not. This image is not cute or benign, this image harkens back to the days when WE were portrayed as foreigners, not to be trusted.

I commend Ron Chew, executive director of the Wing

Luke Asian Museum, in publicly denouncing this poster and join him in his condemnation of this racist poster and the restaurant owners' ignorant response.

Indeed, Asian Americans have made significant progress in how we are treated. However, incidents like this latest one still raise questions as to how far have we really come, and how far we really have to go.

Aki Sogabe was selected as artist for public art in the Pike Place Market project.

Ms. Sogabe creates very unique images using paper cuttings. "The Songs of the Earth" will include five images depicting farmers in the market or farm scenes before, during and after the war. If approved by the Historical Commission, her artwork will hang in the main arcade at the entrance of the Market. Ms. Sogabe, along with the JAACL, will be presenting her work for approval at the Pike Place Market Historical Commission meeting on April 15, at 4:30 p.m. at the Pike Place Market PDA Conference Room at 85 Pike Street. Those of you that are interested in this project are encouraged to attend; we need your support (and your donations)! Please call Jill Beppu for more information at [redacted]

Volunteers needed for Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival

The Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival is recruiting volunteers to assist with its annual festival to be held at the Seattle Center from April 17 to April 19. Festival organizers are bringing 17 expert craftspeople and exhibitors from Kyushu, Japan, to present both traditional and high tech exhibits.

The Festival's theme this year, "Fire and Silicon," aptly describes the island of Kyushu. The Japanese island has long been famous for its hot springs, but in recent years has

become known as the "Silicon Island of Japan" because of the many high tech companies located there.

An orientation session for volunteers will be held on Wednesday, April 1 at 6:30 P.M. at the Seattle Center. Please call Michael Harper at [redacted] for the meeting's location and other details.

The Seattle Chapter JAACL Newsletter

The Seattle Chapter JAACL Newsletter is published on the second Thursday of the month by the Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League. Seattle Chapter JAACL mailing address: P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, Washington, 98118-0558. Seattle Chapter JAACL office address: 316 Maynard Ave. South, Seattle, Washington, 98104. Phone: 622-4098. Issue no: Volume 35, no. 3. Editor: Bob Shimabukuro. Contributors: Jeffrey Hattori, Michael Latimer, Arlene Oki, Robert Sato, Sharon Sobie, David Yamaguchi and Janice Yee. Bylined articles represent the views of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of Seattle Chapter JAACL or the National JAACL. The entire contents are copyrighted by Seattle Chapter JAACL Newsletter and no part of the publication may be printed without prior consent.

DEGUCHI & SUGAMURA, P.L.L.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Paul Deguchi
Certified Public Accountant

2707 Northeast 125th Street • Seattle, Washington 98125
206.363.7665 • FAX: 206.363.7323

An update on the fight to protect affirmative action

The current situation

As has been reported for the last six months, Washington State is currently facing its most serious threat against affirmative action through Initiative 200. Similar to California's Proposition 209 in its veil of confusion and questionable principles, Washington will serve as a test case as to whether this type of legislation and these values will continue to grow across our country.

Currently, I-200 sits in the state legislature during this year's short session. Earlier in the session, Senate Bill 6689 and House Bill 3130, introduced by 37th District Senator Adam Kline, and 37th District Representative Kip Tokuda, respectively, proposed an alternative measure that seeks to protect affirmative action. HB 3130, which also has the backing of Governor Gary Locke, reaffirms that quotas and the lowering of qualifications for public sector admissions into higher education, employment or contracting are neither condoned nor sought for. The premise for these bills is that, though progress has been made, inequities based on race and gender continue to negatively impact earning power and employment; and if we are to be a country that values its diversity, legislation that promotes equal access and opportunity must continue...for now.

By the time this newsletter reaches all of you, the state legislature will have decided the fate of I-200 and the alternative measures. Indications point to I-200 going to ballot in November.

The impact of I-200 has also reared its head at the local level, where the King County Council is slated to vote on its affirmative action plan Monday, March 9, that includes a consideration to delete selective certification, which would essentially create a "toothless" plan.

What can we do?

In November 1997, the Seattle Chapter JAACL along with a wide variety of Asian Pacific organizations and individuals formed a group, Asian Pacific American Coalition for Equality (APACE), to educate and mobilize our communities on affirmative action at a statewide level. APACE, chaired by JAACler Akemi Matsumoto, has met on a bi-weekly basis at the Chapter office (usually 20-30 individuals are in attendance!) to develop grassroots community strategies.

So far, a number of fundraising activities have occurred

while community briefings have been held in Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia. Each of the committees are working aggressively to implement a strategic and coordinated effort to ensure that our community's voice is heard. I am pleased to report that many of the Seattle Chapter Board Members and other Pacific Northwest JAACL Chapter members are in support of and represented on this very important coalition.

It is quite clear that the battles that we have fought and won are being resurrected and the values we most cherish and believe in are being challenged. The time is now for each of us and our community to "step up to the plate." We will continue to keep you abreast of the status of affirmative action. If you have any questions or would like to participate in the efforts of APACE, please call Karen Yoshitomi, Pacific Northwest District Director at [redacted] or Jeffrey Hattori at [redacted]

Gotanda's 'Sisters Marumoto' to play at Seattle Rep

"The Sisters Marumoto," the latest work by playwright Philip Kan Gotanda, will be presented as a Seattle Repertory Theatre's New Play Workshop April 24-26. The play is a family drama of Japanese Americans returning home after their WWII internment.

Gotanda's plays have been produced in theatres nationally during the last 15 years, and his play "The Wash" was made into a movie. Gotanda's plays produced in the Seattle area include, "Fish Head Soup," "The Wash," "Yankee Dawg You Die," "A Song for Nisei Fisherman" and "The Ballad of Yachiyō."

Presentations of "Sisters" will be held on Friday (23) at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday (April 23, 24) at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at \$12 each. For information, call the Seattle Rep at 443-2222.

Newsletter Notes: An apology

Did you notice that your February newsletter came a coupleweeks late? Well, we are in the process of working with a mailing house to fold, label, sort and mail our newsletter. Last month was our first attempt at the new process. We apologize for the delay in getting the newsletter and are working hard at smoothing over the glitches.

Japanese American story to be told in memorial in Washington, D.C.

(Condensed from articles by Robert Sato and Major General (Retired) James H. Mukoyama, Jr.)

The National Japanese American Memorial (NJAM) to be constructed in our nation's capital is intended to be both a tribute to the loyalty and patriotism of Japanese Americans during WWII and an educational and reflective experience. It is not a monument to war, but rather an informative site which would be a pleasurable experience for visitors.

The stories of Japanese immigration to Hawaii and the United States, the incarceration of West Coast Japanese Americans during WWII, the accomplishments of the nisei soldiers who served in the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service, and the story of redress will be presented in inscriptions, landscaping and sculpture over three quarters of an acre within a short walk of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

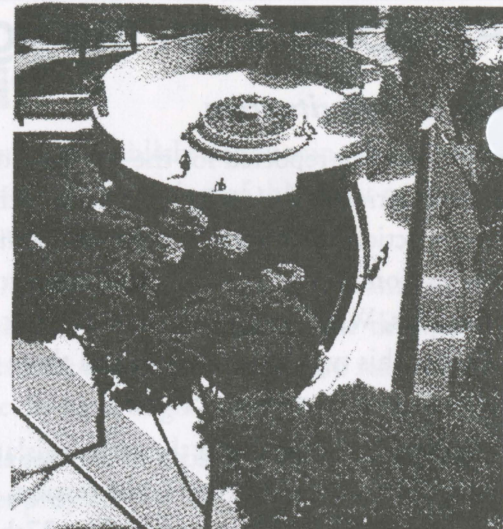
The site and the design of the memorial has been ap-

proved by the National Capitol Design Commission, which acknowledged that the Japanese American experience during WWII was unique and of historical significance to all Americans.

The monument is built as a gift to our Nation and a symbol that our faith in the ideals of this country has been vindicated. It will be a constant reminder for future Americans to ponder their own stewardship as "We, the People of these United States."

The monument has a price tag of \$8.6 million. The Pacific

Continued on next page



Model of the National Japanese American Memorial

What now, Dow?

by Michael S. Latimer

Market performance in February was strong and further gains are likely to develop in the next few months before the averages reach an intermediate-term or cyclical peak. How far will the Dow go? Who knows? One thing is certain, on a near-term basis, momentum has become overbought and market sentiment has become more bullish. In a contrarian perspective these factors would indicate that stocks could face an interim reaction during the next few weeks. The upside momentum of the market's advance has been positive in terms of breadth, volume and the improving relative performance of the mid-to-small cap sector and again this may be creating an environment conducive to a minor pullback.

The market is also being affected by three significant trends: bonds, the dollar, and crude oil. Bond prices has

been correcting since their peak in mid-January and could be vulnerable to further decline which could tend to put a damper on stocks. Also, the dollar index has been in a sideways pattern for the past six months which if turned down could influence the European equity markets and in turn the U.S. market. Finally, crude oil prices have reached a deeply oversold position which may lead to an upturn in oil prices, causing inflation concerns which affects bond and stocks.

If you're a short-term investor the near-term may again be somewhat rocky, but if you're focused on the long-term horizon then business is as usual. I like to compare the market to a man walking up a hill playing with a yo-yo. The yo-yo can be compared to individual stocks that go up and down but the long-term goal is to reach the top of that hill.

Memorial, continued from previous page

Northwest Committee of the NJAM Foundation is expected to use \$600,000 of that total.

Those interested in finding out more about the memorial or wishing to donate time or money to the memorial should contact Robert Sato, NJAM Foundation, P.O. Box 4815, Seattle, WA 98104, or call 206-622-7722.

Thank You!!!

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter is sponsored, in part, by generous donations from:
the SAFECO Corporation
and
Eli Lilly and Company

Membership

Your president, Janice Yee, and your board delegate, Jeffrey Hattori will be leading competing teams during this year's membership drive. They will be competing for (besides members) the right to choose a karaoke song for the loser to sing at JACL's annual holiday party in December. You can help one of them embar-

ass the other by joining today and indicating on your membership form to whom you would like your membership to be credited. Stay tuned for more updates on the 1998 Membership Challenge!

Welcome new and renewing JACL members!

Sumie Akizuki*	Janice T Nakamura **
Ryan Chin	Richard Nakanishi
Mae Deguchi*	Kyle Okada
Sharon Harada	Toshiko Okamoto
Chris Jean Kato	Carol Y. Okano
Eileen A. Kato	Harry & Sachiko Okazaki**
Edward Kido	Arlene Oki
Cathryn Kozu Tsutsumoto	Fred & Michiko Ono*
Yeichi Kozu	Christine Shigaki
Bob & Betty Matsumoto	Jonathan Watanabe
Yoshiye O. Mayeda	Grant Yamaguchi***
Clement & Rosalia Miyaya	Janice D. Yee

*New members

** Thank you for adding an extra donation for the chapter

***Upgrade from regular membership to century membership

Membership Categories

Individual	\$50
Couple	\$85
1000 Club/Century	\$70-\$140
Spouse	\$40
Lifetime	\$1,000-\$2,000
Student/Youth (up to 25 years of age)	\$20
Boosters (Seattle JACL only)	
Regular	\$20
Seniors	\$15

Questions should be directed to May Namba,
Seattle, WA 98117

OPTIC: Choose one to credit for membership
 Jeff's team
 Janice's team

Seattle Chapter JACL Membership application

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE (indicate whether day or eves/weekend): _____
TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: _____
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Please return to:
May Namba, Membership chair
Seattle, WA 98117

Thank you for your support!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Scholarships, continued from page 1

divided among about four scholarships. The postmark deadline is 5 p.m. on April 15th. Last year we awarded scholarships to six students from about double that number of applications, so the odds are quite good!

Regarding the national scholarships, about 40 awards totaling \$65,000 are awarded. The formal deadline has already passed, but we can squeeze in a few more applications if we receive completed materials by March 18th.

Applications for both programs can be obtained by leaving your name, address, and telephone number on my machine at [redacted]. Be sure to specify which program you are interested in, and if the national program, your anticipated educational level in the fall (college freshman, undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts.)

Applications for the local program are also available as a MS Word attachment at rringzrus@aol.com. Three advantages of this approach are speed, the opportunity to fill out and return the applicant portion by e-mail, and ease of distribution of it among scholarship committee members. Either way, we look forward to receiving your inquiries.

OFFICERS

President
Janice Yee

President-elect
Sharon Sobie

First Vice-President
Cal Takagi

Second Vice-President
Arlene Oki

Third Vice-President
Christine Shigaki

Fourth Vice President
Kazzie Katayama

Corresponding Secretary
Victoria Yuki

Recording Secretary
Elaine Akagi

Historian
Shea Aoki

Board Delegate
Jeffrey Hattori

BOARD

Randy Aoyama
Jill Beppu
Mark Fukeda
Ayako Hurd
Ray Ishii
Chuck Kato
Eileen Kato
Frank Kiuchi
Michael Latimer
Akemi Matsumoto
Ken Nakano
May Namba
Kyle Okada
Joseph Rogel
Sam Shoji
Linda Tanouye
Kip Tokuda
Vicki Toyohara
Louis Watanabe
David Yamaguchi

The Seattle Chapter JACL newsletter is published the 2nd Thursday of each month by the Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. Send items for inclusion by the 1st Thursday of the month to: JACL Newsletter, c/o Bob Shimabukuro, 6621 S. Bangor St., Seattle, WA 98178 or shimaito@foxinternet.net

Japanese American Citizens League
Seattle Chapter
P.O. Box 18558
Seattle, WA 98118-0558

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit # 9180

M

|||||
Karen Yoshitomi
671 S JACKSON ST
JACL REGIONAL OFFICE
SEATTLE, WA 98104-2927

