

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Event

Civil Liberties Violated: 1942 and Today

In honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the Seattle Japanese American Citizens League will be hosting a community forum on **Saturday, May 17 from 1 - 4 PM at the New Holly Gathering Hall** (located at 7054 - 32 Ave. S). Hear stories from local Japanese Americans on their experiences during World War II as well as recent accounts from local Arab American and Muslim American community members. This is an opportunity to better understand civil rights and civil liberties violations from yesterday and today as we work to protect and preserve them for all of us.

Participants will engage in table discussions, discuss how we can all be proactive during this time of eroding civil liberties, and get connected to community resources. Registration begins at 12:30 PM. Free parking, admission, and refreshments offered.

Please RSVP by contacting Joy Shigaki at [redacted] or by email at <jaclevent@yahoo.com>.

Sponsors include Arab American Community Coalition, Hate Free Zone of Washington, King County Civil Rights Commission, the Organization for Chinese Americans - Seattle Chapter, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington. Supporters include Commission on Racial Justice - Church Council of Greater Seattle, Coalition to Undo Racism Everywhere, University Friends Meeting, and State Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos (D), 37th District.

Long Term Care Workshop

Join us for an informal workshop on long term health care on Wednesday, June 4 at 6 PM at the Seattle JACL Office (316 Maynard Ave. S). Come learn about your options and the importance of planning ahead. Presenting will be a representative from GE Financial, a National JACL affiliate. To reserve your space, call Kazzie Katayama, [redacted].

Awarding our Scholars

Seattle JACL cordially invites you to meet our deserving scholarship recipients at the annual scholarship potluck dinner. The Aki Kurose, Tazuma, and Tamesa scholarships will be awarded on May 21 at Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church, 3001 - 24th Ave. S, Seattle, 6 PM. Proceeds from our Installation Banquet raffle were donated to these scholarships.

Seattle JACL will hold its May Board Meeting immediately after the potluck. For further information please contact the Seattle JACL office, (206) 622-4098.

Minidoka Pilgrimage

by Emily Hanako Momohara

The Seattle Chapter JACL is proud to present the upcoming 2003 Minidoka Pilgrimage, June 27-29! It has been many years since a pilgrimage has taken place, and I am thrilled to announce our exciting itinerary. Many camps have pilgrimages, and it is our turn to revisit this part of our Japanese American history, honor our families who lived at Minidoka, and teach our children about internment and how it has affected our lives.

Contrary to what many of us have heard, Minidoka still has areas to visit with authentic remains of the original camp. There is a large garden where the Honor Roll once stood, a lava rock guard station/waiting area, root cellar, swimming hole, and more.

The Pilgrimage will offer a variety of activities. Participants will tour Minidoka and a Minidoka barrack, and hear guest speakers. One highlight will be a commemorative ceremony at the former Honor Roll location. The Pilgrimage will have two departure locations by charter bus: Seattle and Portland. See below for the Seattle departure general itinerary.

Friday, June 27th:

Depart Seattle at 6 AM and join the Portland group in Ontario, Oregon. In Ontario, visit *The Four Rivers Cultural Center* and view their exhibit on internment. Afterward, travel to Twin Falls, arriving at 7 PM. Optional evening activities available after hotel check-in.

Saturday, June 28th:

Travel to Minidoka, where we will be welcomed by Neil King the Superintendent and have guided tours by our own Anna Tamura, Ron James the President of the Friends of Minidoka and myself. After lunch, visit the Jerome Historical Society IFARM to view a refurbished barrack with original cots and potbelly stove. Then international artist Roger Shimomura will share a slide show of his Minidoka Diary Series. In the evening, enjoy the JACL Awards Dinner. At 9 PM, share stories of camp, poems and thoughts about our journey.

Sunday, June 29th:

In the morning, we will board the buses wearing our family internment numbers or numbers of those who lived at Minidoka. The ceremony will be quiet and simple. After, head to lunch and hear how Minidoka became a National Monument from Dan Sakura, former Clinton aide, who was instrumental in Minidoka's Presidential Designation. Following lunch, we depart for Seattle.

Thank you to our cosponsors: the newly formed Friends of Minidoka and a Portland-based hapa group, Halvsie. Also, thank you to supporters: the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center and Inter-Mountain District JACL. For more information, contact Emily Hanako Momohara: [redacted]

President's Message

by Tatsuo M.W. Nakata, President

Throughout the month of May, the many and often unrecognized contributions and history of Asian Pacific Americans are celebrated and proudly shared as a part of Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month.

On May 17, the event, "Civil Liberties Violated: 1942 and Today," will look at the stories of Nikkei during World War II and the relevance today. This event is in partnership with several other sponsoring organizations. A special thank you goes to VP for Civil Rights, Joy Shigaki and the coalition members of the planning subcommittee, Kim Nguyen, Devon Abdallah, Rebecca Choi, Emily Momohara, Nori Catabay, Kush Bumbrah, Doug Honma, and Anna Tamura for organizing what will be a powerful and very timely forum.

During this past month of April, Wing Luke opened its exhibit "Asian Pacific Americans in Sports," which I had the distinct privilege of attending. This exhibit follows the idea of recognizing our stories as Asian Pacific Americans and the relevance of history to today. Seattle JACL had the tremendous opportunity to sponsor this exhibit, which displays the stories of athletes from the Asian Pacific American community – from the past all the way to the present.

Also during April, Seattle JACL hosted a membership discussion forum, where we heard what the USA Patriot Act and the currently proposed USA Patriot Act II means to Americans. The USA Patriot Act is a 300+ page bill signed into law by Congress days after September 11, 2001. As we all recall, this was a time of shock and uncertainty for many and fears of other terrorist attacks were sweeping the nation.

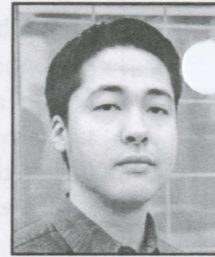
The USA Patriot Act has many concerning policies: our own government now has the ability to compile substantial information about you from third parties – this includes your medical records, financial records, library records, internet

usage, bookstore purchases, travel information and any other activity that leaves a record; third parties turning over your information to the government are prohibited from telling you what has occurred; your telephone may now be tapped without probable cause; and yes, even your home can be searched without a warrant and without you knowing.

While the specifics of the USA Patriot Act II are still being drafted, this "sequel" to the first, far-reaching piece of legislation will likely contain measures to establish "Operation TIPS," encouraging your cable installation person, neighbor, or anyone you come in contact with, to call a hotline number to report you on the suspicion of "terrorism." Also included may be measures allowing detainment of citizens and non-citizens alike for any unspecified amount of time and without formal charges. USA Patriot Act II is also likely to contain measures to revoke citizenship from even those born in the United States.

For me personally, this USA Patriot Act membership discussion opened my eyes with specific information on extremely concerning policies that our government has passed. After thinking about all of this information, several questions came to mind, namely: *Do all of these new policies really make us any safer from terrorism?*

JACL National, as well as the Seattle Chapter, has already gone on record raising serious concerns and opposition to many of the measures outlined in the USA Patriot Act. At our most recent Pacific Northwest District Council Meeting, we passed a motion to urge JACL National to actively raise further



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Announcements

Events Calendar

May 15 – Anti-Defamation League Torch of Liberty Awards Dinner, honoring Tomio Moriguchi, Four Seasons Olympic Hotel, 411 University St., Seattle, 5:30 - 9 PM. Contact: Tina Solomon, (206) 467-1111.

May 17 – Ayame Kai Rummage Sale, Seattle Buddhist Church, 1427 S Main St., 9:30 AM – 3 PM. Contact: (425) 827-4930.

May 17 – Civil Liberties Violated: 1942 and Today, presented by Seattle Chapter JACL (in collaboration), New Holly Community Center, 7054 - 32 Ave. S, Registration at 12:30, 1 - 4 PM, FREE. Contact: Joy Shigaki, (206) 467-1111.

May 18 – Nikkei Heritage Association of WA, Stakeholder's Meeting on building a Japanese cultural center, meeting at the Jewish Community Center, 3801 E. Mercer Way, Mercer Island, 2 - 4 PM; Contact: Dee Goto: (206) 467-1111.

May 21 – Seattle Chapter JACL Scholarship Potluck (followed by board meeting), Blaine United Methodist Church, 3001 - 24 Ave. S, 6 PM. Contact: Seattle JACL office, (206) 622-4098.

May 24 – Greater Seattle Japanese Community Queen 43rd Annual Coronation, Carco Theatre, 1717 Maple Valley Highway, Renton, 7 PM. Contact: (206) 324-9316.

May 26 – Nisei Veterans Committee Memorial Day Service 2003, Nisei War Memorial Monument, 1554 - 15 Ave. E, Seattle, 10 - 11 AM. Contact: Stan Shikuma, (206) 467-1111.

Jun. 4 – Long Term Care Workshop, JACL office, 316 Maynard Ave. S, room 111, 6 PM. RSVP or contact: Kazzie Katayama, (206) 467-1111.

Jun. 27-29 – Minidoka Pilgrimage. Contact: Emily Hanako Momohara, (206) 467-1111.

Jun. 30 – Nikkei Concerns 3rd Annual Founders' Golf Tournament, Bear Creek Country Club, 13737 - 202 Ave. NE, Woodinville. Contact: May Leong, (206) 467-1111.

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awareness about Patriot Act I and the potential Patriot Act II, and to call for the revocation of Patriot Act I. Stay tuned for further developments...

Thank you, to those involved in the USA Patriot Act membership discussion event: the hardworking members of the Civil Rights Committee for planning and implementing this tremendously educational forum and engaging our members to actively discuss current civil rights issues; the ACLU for their analysis and presentation of this extensive piece of legislation; and the Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington, for providing insight into how these new laws have been affecting immigrant communities. Be on the lookout for more membership events in the coming months!

Of course, April would not be complete without our chapter's participation in Seattle's annual Cherry Blossom Festival. This year, Seattle JACLers were seen everywhere – even on center stage. Our very own Jeffrey Hattori served as the emcee for Sunday's program. Word on the street has it that Jeffrey will emcee the Seattle JACL 2004 Installation Banquet. If this is the case, the Banquet should be especially lively and fun, as Jeffrey always brings a great deal of charisma and heart to emceeing.

The Cherry Blossom Festival also gave Seattle JACLers the chance to pitch-in and staff the "120,000 Tassel Tapestry." This remarkable quilt depicts the Nikkei World War II experience and story, sponsored by the Nisei Veterans Committee, Japanese Community Service of Seattle, MIS-Seattle, and Seattle JACL. A very special thank you goes to Ken Kurata, Bill Tashima, Anna Tamura, Elaine Akagi, Manaji Suzuki, Arlene Oki, and Elsie "Leilani" Taniguchi for helping out on behalf of Seattle JACL.

Looking ahead to the future, Seattle JACL firmly believes in supporting our community's young people. Our very own chapter member, Maya Yamazaki, serves on the JACL National Board as the National Youth/ Student Council Chair. Maya is truly an example of a young Nikkei who works hard to make a difference for the Nikkei community. Most recently, she has been planning along with the JACL National Youth/ Student Council for the 2003 National Youth/ Student Conference entitled, "A Gateway to Leadership." This year's conference will be taking place in St. Louis, Missouri on June 20-22. I would strongly encourage all members between the ages of 13 and 26 to attend. If you know of someone in this age group, talk with them about not passing up this tremendous opportunity to network with young Nikkei from across the nation and practice hands-on leadership skills. For further information, please contact Maya, <youthchair@jacl.org>.

In closing, April has been a very productive month and future months promise only more activity from your Seattle Chapter JACL. We remain dedicated to civil rights, equality, civic participation, and youth empowerment. We are able to achieve all that we are able to only through your kindness and support, and I thank you for being members, supporters, and friends of Seattle JACL.

Recent Membership

Individual

Maria Batayola
Amy Yoshi Hara
Steve Idemoto
Mako Nakagawa
James Nakamoto
Mitsuo Nakanishi
Karen Sakata
Jeanne Semura
Ruth Shimano
Eddie Suguro
Keith Talbot
Paul Tanaka
Kaz Tanemura
Wm Toshio Yasutake

Couples/Family

Wayne and Joan Isa
Toshio and Akiko Ito
William and Ayako Johnson
Donald Mukai and Vicki Toyohara-Mukai
Daniel and Teresa Murakami
Naomi and Yoshiaki Takemura

Thousand Club

Ken Kurata

Booster

Chiyoko Baba
Marie Coon
Mitsuko Hashiguchi
Gordon Hirabayashi
Ruby Inouye Shu
Yoshi Kanemori
Teruo Koba
Haruko Kobuki
Terry Kurimura
Tomoko Kuwanoe
Aiko Kyono
George Matsuno
Frances Ogino
Mitsuko Osaki
K Catherine Sakura
Kiyo Taki
Alan Yamagiwa

Thousand Club Life

Kenneth Usio

Membership Committee

by Darrell Mihara

For the last several years Bill Tashima has served as membership chair for the Seattle Chapter JACL. During this time Bill has almost single-handedly carried out the responsibilities and duties that go along with this important position. With Bill assuming his new responsibilities as President-elect, I have agreed to follow Bill as membership chair.

In working with Bill during the past several months, I have seen what a big job membership can be. Fortunately, several JACLers have volunteered to assist with membership and serve on the committee. Masako Tamura will be sending out your renewal notices and Vicky Yuki, with backup from May Namba, will process renewals when they are received. Shea Aoki and Doug Honma have also joined the committee and Bill Tashima will stay on to provide his expertise.

The membership committee will work with the board and other committees to develop strategies to recruit new members and retain current membership. We invite anyone who would like to work with us to join our committee. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact me at (206) 467-1111.

Mission Statement: The Seattle Chapter JACL is a non-profit, grassroots civil rights organization dedicated to empowering our local community through high-quality programs and strategic partnerships focusing on activism, education, and youth leadership development. As a chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, we strive to be a leading Asian American advocacy group for civil and human rights while promoting and preserving the values and cultural heritage of Japanese Americans.

Chapter Board Meeting: Our primary means of carrying out our mission is a monthly meeting, held at 6:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month, except August, at the chapter office, 316 Maynard Ave. S., Seattle. Those wishing to make presentations or be added to the meeting agenda should contact President Tatsuo M.W. Nakata prior to the meeting. All are welcome.

Seattle Chapter Newsletter: Published a week after the third Wednesday of each month by the Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League. Address: PO Box 18558, Seattle, Washington, 98118. Phone: (206) 622-4098

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Article and Event Submission: Board members should submit materials to the editor (ryanminato@hotmail.com) by the Friday after the monthly board meeting. Calendar items emphasize chapter or community events not likely to be covered by community newspapers or by other newsletters.

Seattle Chapter JACL website: www.jaclseattle.org

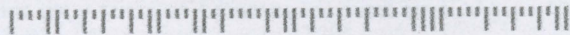
E-mail address: email@jaclseattle.org

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