

Min Yasui Oratorical Contest

Attention all youth with a flair for public speaking! This is your opportunity to showcase those skills and possibly win a trip to Hawaii. Do I have your attention yet?

The Seattle Chapter JACL is seeking a young person from our chapter to represent us at the Pacific Northwest District Council competition on April 3rd. Candidates must be ages 16 through an undergraduate in high school to compete. The topic this year is: With the increasing number of reported hate crimes in the APA community, what is the challenge facing JACL youth in dealing with these kinds of vicious crimes?

While addressing this topic, the speech must be restricted to 3 - 5 minutes in length. Speeches will be judged on the following:

1. Delivery and presentation
2. Completeness and relevance to the topic
3. Analysis and logic

There are two stages to the competition. First, chapter representatives will compete with representatives of other chapters within the Pacific Northwest District. This competition will take place on Saturday, April 3rd in Dupont, WA. The second stage after winning at the district level will be to compete at the National Contest on Friday, August 13th in Honolulu, HI. Travel and hotel accommodations for the trip to Hawaii will be the prize for winning at the district competition. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Elaine Akagi, (206) for further information.

JACL Rubber Stamping and Paper Arts Workshop

Learn how to make 3 x 5 cards with rubber stamps and paper folding techniques. This is a self-paced workshop for all skill levels, including beginners. Fee includes all project materials, refreshments and door prizes. (Note: instructor is not a sales representative.) Pre-registration is required. Mail your check for \$5 to JACL - Seattle Chapter, P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, WA 98228-0558, by February 23. Please include your phone number.



Kimi Hayashi, c. 1928.

Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S King St., Seattle, Saturday, February 28, starting at 9:30 AM with sign-in and refreshments, ending at noon, \$5. Contact: Kiku Hayashi, email@jaclseattle.org.

Civil Rights Committee in 2004

The Civil Rights Committee is off and running! This year's inspiration and energy is derived in large part from the exceptional work performed by last year's committee. We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Joy Shigaki; she is a stalwart, articulate and exceedingly humorous leader. Thanks Joy!

The Committee's retreat was the kick-off for this year's agenda and goals. The four priorities for this year will be: 1) elections and non-partisan political mobilization, 2) increased awareness, participation, and response by APIs to racism and unequal access, 3) building coalitions with communities of color and civil rights organizations, and 4) continuing our activism in September 11th related issues.

One of this year's top priorities relates to elections and non-partisan political mobilization, including participating in caucuses, voter registration, equal access to ballots, civil rights issues related to the presidential elections, and legislative issues at the city, county, and state levels.

In our first Civil Rights Committee meeting in January, we discussed voting. The right to vote is considered by many to be our most valuable right. Our system is founded on the principle of "consent of the governed" and the first test of a healthy democracy is assessing voter turnout, as well as voter demographics. Predictably, exercising the right to vote is tempered by a multitude of factors, including economic status, amount of education, gender, age, race and ethnicity. Among the voting age citizen population, 60% voted in the 2000 elections. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, among white American citizens, 62% voted in the 2000 elections, compared with 57% for African American citizens, 43% for API American citizens, and 45% for Hispanic American citizens. Clearly, race and ethnicity are a contributing factor to who votes and who is elected, and this is why our committee will be addressing this issue.

Another priority is continuing to be an advocate for civil rights, particularly as APIs. In our retreat, it was noted that APIs are often stereotyped as quiet and polite, and that it is critical for APIs to take a stand and speak out against prejudice and racism. This is what JACL does best, and we wish to renew our energy for advocating equality and justice for all. Thus, we intend to be aware of prejudice in media, institutionalized racism and apathy, and civil rights issues related to APIs, including API youth and Hapas.

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Newsletter Available On-line: www.jaclseattle.org

President's Message

by Bill Tashima, President

Oshogatsu/Day of Remembrance

I look forward to every January to celebrate Oshogatsu or Japanese New Year. Growing up in Ohio, I can still remember my mom explaining how the house had to be clean before New Year's and how all the bills had to be paid. On New Year's, we always gathered with family friends and basically ate Japanese food all day. We didn't call it Oshogatsu back then, but I remember how much I enjoyed this tradition every year.

Well, somewhere along the way, I lost the tradition of the clean house and the bills paid, but I assure you that I have kept up the tradition of gathering with friends and eating Japanese food all day. As I get older, I've learn there is significance to specific foods like mochi, kamaboko, kuromame, and soba in terms of luck, prosperity, or respect for your parents. Another food, sliced oranges, represents the chrysanthemum, symbol of the Emperor. I have no idea about gobo, kazenoko, or the little sugar fish...but still I eat them.

My point is that we celebrate the day and I think we still keep the traditions, but, if you're like me, we miss part of the meaning and that's okay. I find satisfaction in the continuity

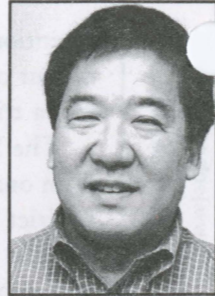
in doing what my parents did, what their parents did, and, in fact, what Japanese people all around the world are still doing.

Contrast Oshogatsu with days that have lost all meaning. Again, growing up I remember celebrating Abraham Lincoln's Birthday and George Washington's Birthday. These days had significance because we celebrated a specific person.

Somewhere along the way, someone decided that we should have only one day to honor all the Presidents. However, the real effect was the opposite. In honoring all Presidents, we end up honoring no Presidents. Basically, President's Day is a day off from work (if you're a gov't worker like me) with a lot of sales.

I hope you see where I am going here and that's to focus on February 19th, the Day of Remembrance, the anniversary of Executive Order 9066. Unlike Oshogatsu and President's Day, this is a date that we need to keep and that we need to know why we keep it. Executive Order 9066 authorizing the

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evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans is the defining event for all nikkei. But even more important than the historical aspects of this date, is the fact that E.O. 9066 is the ultimate statement of how fragile our civil rights are and the need for all citizens to be constantly vigilant to protect these rights.

This year the Seattle Chapter JACL will co-sponsor a Day of Remembrance event with the University of Washington (UW) on February 19 in the Ethnic Cultural Center Theater at 7:30 PM. We hope that any member who chooses will join us. However, whether you go to the event or not, I hope that everyone will take some time to think about February 19, to think about E.O. 9066, and to pass your thoughts on to another person. If you were an internee, pass on your stories to the younger generation. If you were not an internee, log on to the Densho Project website (www.densho.org) to learn of the personal histories from JA internees. Watch Snow Falling on Cedars and as you get to the recreation of where nikkei are walking to Eagle Dale Harbor, close your eyes and imagine Arab-American and Muslims being herded up.

We don't need to wonder why we eat gobo on New Year's Day. We do need to remember what happened on February 19th.

Mari Masuda Lecture

In keeping with tradition, the Chapter Board did not meet in January. Instead Board members were urged to attend a lecture at UW by Mari Masuda, noted Professor of Law at Georgetown University. Prof. Masuda delivered a powerful address in defense of public schools, particularly K-12, and a related subtopic, civil rights and public schools. Ms. Masuda impressed Board Members with her articulate, passionate presentation.

Acknowledgments

A big thank you to Sallie Yamada for her recent contribution of \$1,000 to the Seattle JACL Endowment Fund. Thanks to Sallie and the many other visionaries who have contributed to our endowment fund, providing the Seattle Chapter JACL with a source of income for future programs.

I want to acknowledge the Seattle JACL members who joined in the recent MLK Jr. Rally and March. This includes Akemi Matsumoto, Ruthann Kurose, Karen and Katie Cunningham, Frank Kiuchi, Tadd Mitsui, Hiroko Spees, Arlene Oki, Devon Abdullah, and Ryan Chin. Mako Nakagawa, past Seattle JACL President, was a panelist in one of the workshops concerning constitutional and civil rights abuses in the war on terror.

Finally, I thank the Installation Banquet Committee and the co-chairs, Ann Fujii-Lindwall and Marcine Anderson, for another successful event. Year after year, this committee puts in long hours. This is our chapter's principal fundraiser and we are indebted to the committee for their hard efforts.

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Building coalitions and responding to September 11th related issues are goals that we are carrying over from last year. It is essential to collaborate with similar organizations and communities of color. In addition, September 11th continues to affect civil rights for all Americans, in particular Arab and Muslim Americans. The legality of certain sections in the USA Patriot Act continues to be discussed and debated, as does various other federal executive actions. The JACL has a role in these discussions.

The Civil Rights Committee always welcomes new members. This year the committee co-chairs are Howard Martin and Anna Tamura. Our next meeting is on February 26th at 6 PM in the JACL office, 316 Maynard Ave., room 111. We invite anyone interested to join us. You can participate at your level of comfort, for example, be on the ongoing committee, help out on a single invite or just come out and join in the discussion. You can contact the Civil Rights Committee at: shigaki@juno.com, annatamura@hotmail.com, or howmartin@msn.com.

For a complete analysis of voting and registration in the election of 2000, go to the U.S. Census Bureau's report at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p20-542.pdf>.

Announcements

Thank You

Generous donors:

Endowment Fund

Sallie Yamada

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Tama Murotani in memory of Henry Dady

Bill Tashima in memory of Henry Dady

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JAE Awards

Newsletter sponsored in part by these generous donors:

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Events Calendar

Feb. 18 – Center for Career Alternatives dinner and program entitled "Opening Doors, Making Dreams Come True" with reception and silent auction; Sheraton Hotel, 1400 6th Ave., 5 PM, \$70. Contact: (206) 322-9080 or (425) 252-6400.

Feb. 19 – Day of Remembrance Program to commemorate the anniversary of Executive Order 9066, focusing on the internment of Aleut Americans from the Pribilofs and other Aleutian islands; Ethnic Cultural Center Theater, Brooklyn Ave. and NE 40th, Seattle, 7:30 - 9 PM. Contact: Bill Tashima, [redacted]

Feb. 28 – JACL Rubber Stamping and Paper Arts Workshop; Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S King St., Seattle, 9:30 AM- noon, \$5. RSVP with \$5 fee to JACL – Seattle Chapter, P.O. Box 18558, Seattle 98228-0558, by February 23; Please include your phone number. Contact: Kiku Hayashi, [redacted] email@jaclseattle.org.

Feb. 21 – Second Annual Joint Summit on "Asian Pacific Islander Leadership in the 21st Century" hosted by LEAP, ACLF, and

EDI; Bellevue Community College Cafeteria, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, 8 AM - 4:30 PM, \$25. Contact: Starr Macdonald, [redacted] or Grant Sunoo, [redacted].

Feb. 21 – Mochi Madness with samples of mochi and class on making mochi; Class fee is \$6 for Adults, \$4 for Children, includes museum admission; Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 - 7th Ave. S, Seattle, 10 AM. RSVP: Vivian, [redacted].

Feb. 26 – JACL Civil Rights Committee meeting; JACL office, 316 Maynard Ave., room 111, 6 PM. Contact: [redacted]

Mar. 9 – The Seattle Manong Generation Panel Discussion with "Uncle" Bob Santos, Filipino American Historical Societies' Dorothy Cordova, The Alvarado Project, Albert Acena and Dolores Sibonga; Northwest Asian American Theatre, 409 7th Avenue S, Seattle, 6 PM. Contact: (206) 340-1445.

Membership Form

Individual \$62, Youth & Student \$26, Couple & Family \$110, Chapter Booster \$20, Senior Chapter Booster \$15.

Membership Category: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Day/Evening: _____

E-mail: _____

Yes, receive chapter newsletter notice by e-mail.

Yes, list my information in the Japanese American Community Directory

Please make checks payable to JACL and remit to:

Seattle Chapter Membership Chair

P.O. Box 18558

Seattle, WA 98118

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 Bill Tashima prior to the meeting. All are welcome.

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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.

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E-mail address: email@jaclseattle.org

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