

Cherry Kinoshita receives Jefferson Award

Cherry Kinoshita, former Seattle JACL President, is the recipient of a 2004 Jefferson Award. The Jefferson Award program was founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Sen. Robert Taft Jr. to honor the special dedication, sacrifices and significant accomplishments of individuals in service to the American people. Cherry was recognized for her instrumental leadership in the drive to obtain a presidential apology and monetary redress for Nikkei interned during World War II.



Cherry Kinoshita

Former Seattle JACL President, Chuck Kato, accepted the award on behalf of Cherry at a moving CityClub luncheon at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel. Chuck recited Cherry's desire to credit the work of the many others in the Seattle redress effort such as Bob Sato, Henry Miyatake, Shosuke Sasaki, Ken Nakano, Chuck Kato, Wayne Kimura, Chizu Omori, Sam Shoji, Tomio Moriguchi, Massie Tomita and many more. As Chuck asked Cherry to stand to be recognized, Cherry received the sole standing ovation of the afternoon.

Former Governor Mike Lowry nominated Cherry for this award. Former Supreme Court Justice Charles Z. Smith, Chuck Kato, May Namba, Henry Miyatake and others sent in letters to second the nomination. Over thirty-five JACLers, former Redress Committee members, and the Kinoshita family and friends were on hand to witness the presentation.

Bruce Yamashita program

The Seattle Chapter JACL is co-sponsoring a program that will feature a talk by Bruce Yamashita and show a film on Mr. Yamashita by Steve Okino. The program will be held at the University of Washington, HUB Auditorium on April 26. The program starts at 7 PM with a reception and concludes with a book signing.

Bruce Yamashita suffered constant institutional racial and ethnic harassment during his training at the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School. Two days before graduation, Mr. Yamashita and three other minority candidates were wrongfully kicked out. Rather than submit to this injustice, Mr. Yamashita chose to speak out and fight for what he believed was right. The result of Mr. Yamashita's struggle became a catalyst for statutory and procedural reform to prohibit discrimination in the Marine Corps. As the Secretary of the Navy observed, "...a vindication of not only Capt. Yamashita, but a vindication of the process of democracy."

2004 Minidoka Pilgrimage 1

Sixty-two years ago, almost 13,000 people of Japanese-ancestry, many of whom were American citizens, were removed from their homes and sent to a desolate internment camp near Twin Falls, Idaho. That was Minidoka. Since 2001, a National Monument has been designated with grounds covering 73 acres along the North Side Canal and near the entrance to Minidoka.

The Seattle Chapter JACL, the Nisei Veterans Committee, the Wing Luke Asian Museum and the Friends of Minidoka invite former internees, their families and friends, and other interested persons to attend the 2004 Minidoka Pilgrimage from June 25 though 27.

The Minidoka Pilgrimage will begin with a bus ride departing near Seattle, which symbolizes the historic journey from Camp Harmony at the Puyallup Fair Grounds to Twin Falls, Idaho. The bus ride will include videos and discussions about life before the internment, the evacuation, and camp life.

Once in Twin Falls, participants will have two chances to visit the grounds of the National Monument. On Saturday, there will be guided tours of what remains of the former site and an actual barrack. On Sunday, a memorial service will be held at the National Monument to honor internees.

Registration will close on May 1. The registration fee includes lunch and dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday. Also included are the guided tours, exhibits, presentations, and a Saturday night story telling session. Registration is \$195 including the bus ride to and from Seattle. The bus ride includes lunch and snacks on the way to Twin Falls and dinner and snacks on the way back to Seattle. For those not taking the bus, the registration fee is \$75. Participants need to make their own lodging arrangements. Rooms have been reserved at the Red Lion, Ameritel, and Motel 6 in Twin Falls.

For more information, please contact Gloria Shigeno at [redacted] or Alan Momohara at [redacted]

A part of the JACL

by Elaine Akagi, 3rd Vice President

The duties of the Seattle JACL 3rd Vice President include youth, scholarship and education, three areas dear to my heart. As a public school teacher for the past 30+ years, I'm fully invested in our youth, while education and scholarships are a means for our youth to advance.

Our youth group, Kaizen, involves high school and college age young people. Because this is such a transient age group, leadership in this group is always liquid. The current leadership, Steven Peralta and Doug Honma, is made up of college graduates, pursuing their respective

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President's Message

by Bill Tashima, President

May 29, 2004. 10,000 Asian Americans meet at the Tacoma Dome. The first time, *Asian Pacific American Community Summit: Celebrating Unity and Civic Involvement*, is an unparalleled success.

This is the hope of a wide ranging coalition of Asian American/Pacific Islander associations, groups, and organization throughout Washington. For the past several years, the Asian Pacific Islander Coalitions (APIC) has organized an Asian Pacific American Legislative Day to bring busloads of APIs to Olympia to lobby their representatives on health, immigrant rights, education, and civil and human rights issues.

This year APIC hopes to bring the politicians to us. On Saturday, May 29, the Tacoma Dome will host a dynamic program of workshops, entertainment, speakers, organizational booths, commercial booths and more; all aimed at boosting API visibility. Already, each major candidate for Governor has agreed to appear.

The Seattle JACL will join the other Puget Sound area JACL chapters (Lake Washington, White River Valley, Puyallup Valley, and Olympia) in hosting a booth at the summit. Please make plans to attend. We are aiming for 10,000 participants. The event is free. Doors open at 9 AM. For more information, visit www.apasummit.org or leave a message on the Seattle Chapter phone at (206) 622-4098.

Nisel Veterans Committee (NVC) Installation

I had the honor of attending the 59th Annual NVC Installation Banquet. The event was well organized and very enjoyable. The NVC legacy is so important to our community and it is good to see so many people working to keep this legacy going. Congratulations to incoming NVC Commander, Dale Kaku. Also congratulations to the winners of this year's NVC's various scholarships: Daniel Nishimura, Shawna Okamoto, Mariko Toyoji, Adrienne Matsudaira, and Carrie Okura.

East Current Concert

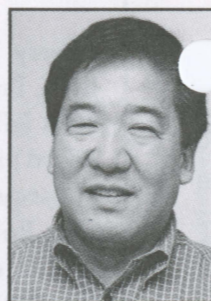
Members of the Board and friends attended the East Current concert at Benaroya Hall. The concert featured Mieko Miyazaki on the Koto and Dozan Fujiwara on the Shakuhachi. The program ran the range from traditional Japanese songs of the Taisho era to modern western songs such as Amazing Grace and Summer Time. We were in awe at the beauty of the concert, the showmanship of the performers, and versatility of such seemingly simple instruments like the Koto and Shakuhachi. The Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival Committee hosted the event and it was the perfect introduction for this year's festival at the Seattle Center.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the members of our community who go out to schools and groups to tell their stories of the Nikkei WWII evacuation and internment. It is so important to keep this message personal. The stories have great meaning coming from those who have experienced these events. Some people who recently gave talks were Miyoko Kaneta, Kaz Ishimitsu, May Namba, and Mako Nakagawa. I apologize because I know there are many more who I did not mention. The Seattle JACL gets periodic requests for speakers. If you would like to volunteer to visit a school or organization, please contact Reiko Akagi at [redacted] or leave a message on our office phone [redacted].

A special acknowledgment to the folks who honored Cherry Kinoshita and her recent acceptance of the Jefferson Award by sending in a donation to the Seattle JACL. We are all very proud to see Cherry win this award that she so richly deserves.

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Announcements

Thank You

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in honor of Cherry Kinoshita

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May Namba

Nisei Veterans Committee

Nami Nakamura

(Denami Design Rubber Stamps)

Bill Tashima

Jay Tepker (Tsukineko)

Events Calendar

Apr. 16-18 - Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival with exhibits, performances and demonstrations; Seattle Center House, Fisher Pavilion, all day, FREE. Contact: (206) 723-2003.

Apr. 26 - Program with talk by Bruce Yamashita and a film on Mr. Yamashita by Steve Okino; University of Washington, HUB Auditorium, 7 PM.

May 1 - deadline to register for the Minidoka Pilgrimage to be held on June 25-27; Contact: Gloria Shigeno, [redacted] or Alan Momohara, [redacted]

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The donations to our chapter will sustain our programs, including some which began under Cherry's tenure as Seattle Chapter President.

Welcome to our newest Board member, Karen Cunningham. Karen is married to David Cunningham and has two beautiful daughters, Katie and Kristen. Karen volunteered to take the minutes for the Board (Thanks!). Did I mention that Karen is my sister?

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careers. They've led the group through a number of social and learning activities over the past two years. Last year's Leadership Retreat, held at the University of Washington, attracted young people from Lake Washington, Seattle and Portland. The group learned leadership skills, which could be put to use immediately. We gained two wonderful young board members from the weekend activities, Kenji McCullough and Tad Mitsui. Plans are in the works to present a similar retreat this summer. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information.

Our chapter offers three scholarships annually. The Tamesa and Tazuma scholarships goes to deserving young students for undergraduate and graduate studies. The Aki Kurose scholarship is awarded to a young student from a Seattle Public School, who shows interest in peace and science. These scholarships will be awarded in May of this year. Committee

members, May Namba, Alan Yabui, Ann Fujii Lindwall, Kiku Hayashi, Bill Tashima, and Ruthann Kurose have served on the committee for a number of years.

This year, an additional undertaking of the committee is overseeing the chapter competition for the Min Yasui Oratorical Contest, a national JACL competition. The chapter representative(s) will compete against representatives from other district chapters on April 3, 2004. The winner of the district competition will be rewarded with a trip to Honolulu, Hawaii to compete in the national contest.

The Seattle chapter has presented a number of workshops for classroom teachers, bringing the story of the Japanese American Internment to a more personal level. Many teachers and students have very little knowledge of the events of this often-overlooked chapter in American history. Yet, there is a very current link to today's events. The experiences of the Issei and Nisei in 1942 are paralleled by the experiences of today's Somali, Arab and Muslim communities. It's more relevant today than ever before, and we try to get the word out.

In addition to sponsoring workshops, we are often asked for speakers by classroom teachers. The personal stories of those who experienced the internment gives life to history. We're always on the lookout for people who are willing to speak to classes about their relocation experiences. If you're willing to do this, please let me know. We'd love to add you to our short Speaker's Bureau list.

That in a nutshell is what the job of 3rd Vice President entails. It's an interesting and exciting part of the Seattle JACL.

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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 [redacted] 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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