

## Annual Scholarship Dinner

The Seattle chapter will recognize and award three scholarships to outstanding and worthy students on Wednesday, May 11 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Seattle. The potluck dinner has been an annual event where the Aki Kurose, Bunshiro Tazuma and Minoru Tamesa Scholarships have been awarded. Each year, we introduce rising young stars who show promise and enthusiasm for their futures. This year is no different.

The winner of the Aki Kurose Scholarship is Kelsy Getz, a senior at Ballard High School, who will be attending the University of Washington in the fall.

The winner of the Bunshiro Tazuma Scholarship is Amy Hashiguchi, a graduate student in social work at the University of Washington.

The winner of the Minoru Tamesa Scholarship is Kelly Yamada, a senior at Franklin High School and will also be attending the University of Washington in the fall.

Please join us. Scholarship recipients, their parents and school officials will be present at the dinner. Special guests are former scholarship recipients who will speak on their experiences since receiving the scholarship. We will also have the families of Aki Kurose and Bunshiro Tazuma present. The dinner will begin at 6 PM. St. Peter's Church is at 1610 S King St. in Seattle.

## Minidoka Pilgrimage

This year, on June 24-26, former internees, families, and friends will make a pilgrimage from Seattle and Portland to the historic Minidoka site in Idaho.

The intent of the pilgrimage is to honor the Issei, who suffered under institutionalized racist laws, to deliver the message of "Never Again," and to pass on the legacy to anyone who will listen. The Minidoka Pilgrimage Committee, Japanese America Citizens League, Nisei Veterans Committee, and the Friends of Minidoka have organized this three day event.

During the Pilgrimage, participants will be provided with a schedule of events, including a guided tour of the National Monument, a visit to a historic barrack, a Living Voices performance of Within the Silence, barbeque with local Idaho residents, and visits to other local area attractions. On Sunday, a memorial service will be held at the National Monument to honor internees. There will be plenty of opportunities to share memories and stories with fellow participants.

Please consider participating in the pilgrimage as a way to bring your family together and pass on the Japanese American legacy. For more information and to register, please contact Gloria Shigeno at [redacted]

or [redacted] t. [redacted]

## Internment Workshop at Lakeside School

On Monday, April 18, the Education Committee of the Seattle Japanese American Citizens League launched a new chapter in its mission to share the story about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. The committee has been involved in telling the history of the immigration of Japanese Americans and how this history led to the mass incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese descent in ten American concentration camps in desolate parts of our country after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

See "Workshop" on page 3

## Racial Harassment at WSU

Pullman, WA – In late January, a group of white males repeatedly harassed three Asian American females by making lude gestures, described by the victims as "Chinky Eyes" and monkey-like dances.

WSU Police Officers were able to identify the perpetrators. Upon investigation, the WSU Police Department deemed that no criminal action had taken place, and that the male students were "very apologetic and did not mean to alarm anyone." The issue was forwarded to the University Conduct Board for review. The conduct officer met with the students, decided that their actions did not constitute harassment, and no sanctions were given.

Two of the perpetrators are players on the WSU basketball team. The coach of the team publicly defended their actions as immature pranks.

Before the disciplinary hearings, WSU students lead a protest march to the WSU President's office, demanding that the administration enforce a "no-tolerance policy" on harassment. The students also protested the history of racist incidents at WSU, and the non-actions of the administration to create policies to address these issues.

One of the student victims, Nina Kim, has been very public about her continued disappointment towards WSU's non-actions. She is continually harassed by other students at WSU about the incident.

Many civil rights organizations at the local and national level (including JACL) have expressed their disappointment, and met with WSU to demand changes to their policies. The Washington State legislature, and the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA) have condemned WSU's non-actions.

Individuals have been encouraged to write emails of protest to the WSU President's office. If you would like to support this email writing campaign, please do so at: [redacted]

## President's Message

by Joy Shigaki, President

The Seattle Chapter has a history of effective advocacy and lobbying around critical civil rights, public policy, and legislative issues. This month, I've outlined several issues that deserve our attention as well as collective action. Your voice matters! Please take five minutes out of your day to respond to these issues as a JACL member or as a concerned citizen. This is what change and democracy demands and requires.

Also, consider joining our Strategic Planning Process. Our hope is that we work intentionally to ensure that the future of JACL is vibrant, relevant, and meaningful.

### WSU - Harassment of API Students

Three Asian American females were harassed on the Washington State University (WSU) campus. Since that time, the school found the situation did not constitute harassment and no sanctions were given. (See related article.) We feel this issue has been swept under the carpet and the students are not being supported.

It is essential that a number of things happen to address institutional racism, increase diversity on campus, and make it a safe learning environment for all students. 1) A zero tolerance policy be implemented and enforced in regards to harassment and discrimination; 2) The Multicultural Student Center funding should be preserved and promoted; 3) A public apology should be made to the students; and 4) Comprehensive Anti-Racism training to all faculty and administrators.

There are a number of actions you can take:

- Contact President V. Lane Rawlins at ( ) or by email at ( ) or write to PO Box 641048, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-1048 vocalizing your concern.

- Write or call the WSU Board of Regents vocalizing your concern with the case and demanding zero tolerance of harassment cases. Visit the web site [www.regents.wsu.edu](http://www.regents.wsu.edu) or write to the Washington State University Board of Regents, P.O. Box 641048, Pullman, WA 99164-1048 or email

- Write your State Legislators to support a resolution for a public hearing on race/diversity issues on the Washington State University campus. This is in process!

- Pass on to your contact list to call for action!

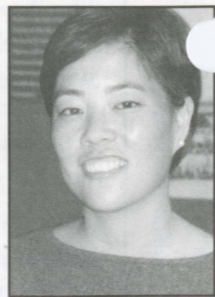
### Federal Issues

There is pressing Federal legislation that is pending in Congress that we would like to keep you apprised of.

**REAL ID Act:** This Act would allow government officials to demand written "corroboration," such as police reports or other official documents, of asylum claims. People fleeing persecution in the Sudan or China could be asked for government-issued evidence of that very persecution. This provision has been opposed by Gun Owners of America, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, the Episcopal Church, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and others.

The REAL ID Act is included in the House Emergency Supplemental Bill. The Senate version of the Supplemental Bill did not include the REAL ID Act. A conference committee will decide whether or not to include the REAL ID Act in the Emergency Supplemental Bill. Senator Patty Murray will most likely sit on conference committee. Let the Senator know that you oppose the REAL ID Act by visiting [http://ga1.org/campaign/real\\_id](http://ga1.org/campaign/real_id) or calling (206) 553-5545.

See "President" on page 3



## Announcements

### Events Calendar 2005

**May 11** – Seattle Chapter Scholarship Potluck with short Board meeting to follow; St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 1610 King St., 5:30 PM; Contact: (206) 622-4098.

**May 12** – JACL Banquet Committee Meeting; JACL Office, 316 Maynard Ave., 6 PM; Contact: (206) 622-4098.

**May 16** – Civil Rights Committee; JACL Office, 316 Maynard Ave., 6 PM; Contact: (206) 622-4098 or Doug Honma, ( )

**May 17** – JACL PR/ Marketing Committee, lay out the publicity plan for our chapter; JACL Office, 316 Maynard Ave., 6 PM; Contact: (206) 622-4098.

**May 18** – International Examiner Dinner and Community Voice Awards; Jumbo Restaurant, 4208 Rainier Ave. S, 5:30 - 8:30 PM, tickets \$50 or \$60 (JACL will have a table); Contact: Examiner, (206) 624-3925.

**May 18** – Public Workshop for Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial; Nisei Veterans Hall, 1212 S King St., 7 PM; Contact: Anna Tamura, ( )

**May 24** – JACL Strategic Planning Meeting; JACL Office, 316 Maynard Ave., 6 PM; Contact: (206) 622-4098.

**May 24** – Private screening of *Only the Brave* film, sponsored in part by the Seattle JACL; Majestic Bay Theatres, 2044 NW Market Street, Ballard, 6:30 and 9 PM.

**Jun. 3** – Hate Free Zone Luncheon; Washington State Convention Center, noon, \$60.

**Jun. 24-26** – Minidoka Pilgrimage; Contact: Gloria Shigeno, ( )

**Jul. 22-23** – NAPAWF Leadership Institute and Membership Gathering; UW Women's Center, Seattle; Contact: Rebecca Chan, ( ), [www.napawf.org](http://www.napawf.org).

**Aug. 14** – Save the date and help plan! Family friendly and intergenerational summer picnic with the JACL; Lower Woodland near Green Lake; Contact: ( ) or Bill Tashima, ( )

## President, continued from page 2

**SAFE Act:** The PATRIOT Act allows the widespread use of intrusive "sneak and peek" search warrants, in which government agents can break into a home and take information without notifying the home's owner; can get a list of the books you have obtained from your local bookstore and require your bookseller to keep this hidden from you; can keep a file on which churches you attend and the medications you use.

The SAFE Act (S 737/HR 1526) would begin to fix this problem by limiting the use of "sneak and peek" searches for three specific purposes. It would ensure that the targets of these "sneak and peek" searches were notified of their occurrence within 21 days unless a court approves extensions. Urge your U.S. Senators and Congressman to support the SAFE Act. Email or call Senator Murray (206) 553-5545, Senator Maria Cantwell (206) 220-6400, and your district Congressman including Congressman McDermott (206) 553-7170! You can send email at [http://ga1.org/campaign/real\\_id](http://ga1.org/campaign/real_id).

### JACL Strategic Planning Process Begins

Please join us! On May 25, we will be having our first Strategic Planning Meeting. This is critical as we begin to look towards the future of JACL while honoring the rich legacy and history: *What will it look like in five years? Who is our customer base? What do people want this organization to do? How will it function? What will its focus be?* The strategic plan will apply to the entire Pacific Northwest District, which includes the Seattle Chapter. It will be at 6 PM in the JACL Office, 316 Maynard Avenue S.

### Special Thanks

I'm always impressed by all the work that gets done by the board and community members. The commitment is really amazing!

Thanks to Elaine Akagi, Kazzie Katayama, May Namba, Alan Yabui, Karen Yoshitomi, Eri Sherman, and Mako Nakagawa who participated in a full day workshop *Democracy in American, Then and Now* for forty Lakeside Upper and Middle School students. See article for additional details.

Also, thanks to those who staffed the JACL booths at the Cherry Blossom Festival. Special thanks to Mariko Sata for attending the planning meetings and to Kiku Hayashi who set up the crafts for kids. Thanks to Elaine Akagi, Shea Aoki, the Cunningham Family, Kyle Funakoshi, Doug Honma, Kazzie Katayama, Mori Kurose, Tatsuo Nakata, May Namba, Binah Palmer, Akiko Sakurai, Eri Sherman, Bill Tashima, and Alan and Carol Yabui.

Lastly, many thanks to Kazzie Katayama and Bradley Nakagawa for hosting a special workshop *The New Medicare Plan - How will it affect you?* with another workshop to be offered over the summer.

Thank you for your on-going support! - Joy Shigaki

## Workshop, continued from page 1

Most of the workshops dealing with this topic have been for educators, because these are the people who can reach and teach our future leaders, however a workshop to work directly with young students at Lakeside School in North Seattle was a first. The staff and forty selected students at Lakeside spent the day learning and discussing the events leading to and following Executive Order 9066. This edict signed by President Roosevelt, ordering anyone living within 200 miles of the Pacific coast having 1/16th or more Japanese blood be rounded up and detained. Nearly 70,000 were American citizens, born and raised in the United States. Today, Arabs/Muslims are facing the same racial prejudice that we experienced sixty years ago.

The purpose of educating our younger generations is so the lessons learned are not forgotten and that history doesn't repeat itself. The workshop at Lakeside School was well received and the students enthusiastic. In summing up their day, the students made plans to share the information they learned, continue to advocate for all people regardless of race, color, or religion, and make efforts to build a better future for this country. One of the young people, a young man named Spencer Brooks, wrote this poem to sum up the workshop.

*Continue meaningful education  
Spread the truth throughout the nation  
Reach up to the stars above  
Show happiness and kindness  
Spread our love  
Through darkness and light  
We gotta' stay tight  
Together we can win this,  
If together we fight  
Speak up for the truth  
Don't hide in shame  
You are you! There is no blame  
Our race is human  
We are the same.*

The workshop was a total success! The facilitators and panelists all felt the experience was exceptional. We hope we are able to do future workshops for students in the area.

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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 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 Joy Shigaki prior to the meeting.

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**Article and Event Submission:** Board members should submit materials to the editor 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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