

Immigration has been the focus of our JACL Civil Rights Committee this summer and with the possibility of an anti-immigrant ballot initiative getting on the November ballot, we worked with From Hate to Hope, the statewide coalition that formed to fight the initiative, to spread the word about its negative effects. The initiative did not get enough signatures to qualify for the ballot. However, anti-immigrant sentiment keeps returning, so the next steps are to gear up for similar future threats that are sure to arise.

Part of those next steps include educating ourselves about immigrant experiences and connecting them to our own histories. JACL Seattle Chapter President Doug Honma was in Bellingham this August for an immigrants' rights community hearing, organized in response to congressional subcommittee hearings on the "problems" of immigration. The community hearing in Bellingham was an opportunity for community members to share their experiences and perspectives.

There was also the Western States Center social justice conference in Portland, where immigrants rights advocates met and shared strategies for grassroots mobilizing. Through these and more local activities, JACL continues to be part of the network of organizations that are standing up for immigrants and civil rights.

The Civil Rights Committee is going ahead with its forum on Racism and the Immigration Debate. The forum will be in early to mid October, at a location to be determined. Panelists will give background on the immigration process, anti-immigrant legislative trends from across the state and country, and the role of white nationalist groups in the immigration debate. Through this lens, the forum hopes to delve deeper into the issue of what it means to be American. Stay tuned for more details!

Meet Mark Mitsui, newest member of the Seattle Chapter JACL

Mark was born in Seattle, but moved to Issaquah when he was in the first grade. After graduating from Issaquah High School, he earned his undergraduate degree in physical education from Western Washington University and later a graduate degree in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Washington.

Mark began his career promoting wellness in community colleges, Overlake Hospital Medical Center, the Seattle Athletic Club, and the Washington Conditioning Club. Early interest in this field of work was sparked by his parents, Tami and Sam Mitsui, who

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In June of this year, delegates to the JACL National Council session elected the officers to serve the 2006-2008 biennium. Among the newly elected officers is Sheldon Arakaki, current president of the Lake Washington chapter. Sheldon's new position of Vice President for General Operations is a very important one. Should the president be unable to serve out his term, the VP for General Operations will fill the position.

Sheldon's involvement in JACL began just three years ago. Almost immediately after joining, he was added to the Lake Washington board. He was a participant in the 2005 OCA/JACL Leadership Conference and has quickly moved into leadership roles at the district and national levels. He currently serves as the district council secretary and represents the PNW on the Pacific Citizen Advisory Board.

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JACL Benefit for Members

There are now two new benefits for members of National JACL who are age 65 or younger and not on Medicare. The Protective Tru-Script Discount Prescription Drug Program and the Protective or SmartHealth Dental Discount Program.

Both of these programs were developed by a Chicago JACL member, Cary Wong, and designed to provide our members with discounts for many of their prescription drugs and dental services. They will also provide revenue to National JACL to help with programming, with a portion of the income from the benefit plans going back to the organization.

These discount price programs are different from other JACL insurance programs:

- There are no restrictions on income level, health conditions, no reimbursements, and you do not need a medical test to qualify.
- You can join one of the discount program or both discount programs.
- There are no restrictions other than holding a National JACL membership (this does not apply to booster members of the chapter).
- These benefits cover all members in all states.
- You may join or drop out at any time. For example, if you join and realize that the plan doesn't save you money, you can drop out, and if you decide a few months later that it was a worthwhile plan, you could join again.

If you have more questions, please access the JACL website at www.jacl.org. Please check out these programs as they may really save you a lot of money.

Intersections - Contemporary Works by Japanese American artists

The Gallery. Bainbridge Arts, Crafts & Education
151 Winslow Way East, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
October 6 - 31, 2006

An exhibition by Bainbridge Arts and Crafts in support of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Internment Memorial. Exhibition opening: Friday, October 6, 6 - 8 PM. Lecture: Mira Nakashima, Saturday, October 7, 7 PM at the Bainbridge Public Library. Gallery Demo: Fumiko Kimura, Sumi painting, Sunday, October 8, 1 - 4 PM.

Artists: Mark Horiuchi, Michi Itami, Elizabeth Jameson, Louise Kikuchi, Fumiko Kimura, Gregory Kono, Tina Koyama, Fumi Matsumoto, Hibiki Miyazaki, Shinichi Miyazaki, Emily Hanako Momohara, Mira Nakashima, Michiko Olson, Reid Ozaki, Seiko Atsuta Purdue, Norie Sato, Roger Shimomura, Aki Sogabe, Teresa Tamura, Gerard Tsutakawa, and Patti Warashina.

This landmark exhibition is made possible by generous support from Bainbridge Island families. For more information go to: www.bacart.org. Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10 AM - 6 PM, Sunday 11 AM - 5 PM.

AIISF Seeks Information on Japanese Immigrants at Angel Island

The Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF) has contracted Asian American historians Judy Yung and Erika Lee to research and write a narrative history of Pacific immigration at Angel Island from 1910 to 1940. The book will encompass the rich diversity of experiences of immigrants from around the world, including people from China, Japan, India, the Philippines, Korea, Russia, Portugal, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Central and South America.

Two-thirds of the 400,000 immigrants who passed through the Angel Island Immigration Station were Chinese or Japanese. While much is known about the experiences of Chinese immigrants at Angel Island because of their long detention there and the poems they carved into the barrack walls, little has been written about the Japanese experience at Angel Island.

Should anyone in the Japanese American community have any leads, information, documents, writings, stories, oral histories, and photographs relating to the Angel Island experience, please contact AIISF or the authors directly. Anyone interested in helping with funds for the research project or with the research itself—going through Japanese language newspapers, reading immigration files at the National Archives, conducting oral history interviews, and translating Japanese documents and writings—is also encouraged to contact AIISF or the authors.

AIISF was founded in 1983 to preserve the historic immigration station and promote education about the role of Pacific immigration in US history. The authors plan to complete the book in 2010, when the new immigration

museum will open. Contact AIISF: P.O. Box 29237, San Francisco, CA 94129-0237; (415) 561-2160; info@aaisf.org.

Judy Yung is Professor Emerita of American Studies at University of California, Santa Cruz. She is the co-author of *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants at Angel Island*, as well as numerous books and articles on Chinese American history and women. She can be reached at: judyjung@sbcglobal.net.

Erika Lee is Associate Professor of History at the University of Minnesota. She is the author of *At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration during the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943* as well as numerous articles on immigration. She can be reached at erikalee@tc.umn.edu.

National Executive Director John Tateishi Resigns

John Tateishi, National Executive Director of the JAACL, announced his resignation from the post in late June of this year. He has served since 1999 as the National Director. John indicated that he would continue serving until a replacement is named and will help the organization transition into a new National Director. Sheldon Arakaki, Lake Washington Chapter President, will help to lead this process as the newly elected National Vice President for General Operations.

John had tenure as the National Director at a time when the economy began its downturn and the stock market crash had a major negative impact on the organization's cash flow and financial integrity. In spite of the financial crisis under John's direction the National organization thrived and continued its fight for civil rights. John has served as an able spokesman during 9/11 when the JAACL was the first organization to remind our country to resist the panic caused by terrorist acts and not to repeat the mistakes of 1942 where, during World War II, 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated. Additionally, John has been a firm voice for the community and has continued to give JAACL public visibility in recent years.

John's passion and commitment to the work and mission of JAACL has been inspiring. He will be missed!

Aki Sogabe: Japanese Farmers at the Pike Place Market

Japanese Farmers at the Pike Place Market is a five-card set for \$10, plus a \$3 delivery fee. The Seattle Chapter has printed these commemorative reproductions of the Market mural for chapter fundraising.



To purchase this set, please contact the JAACL office at

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are wellness and conditioning experts and long distance runners. From 1981 to 2001, Mark held various positions in the field of wellness and fitness in both the private sector and community colleges. In 1998, he was listed in *The Seattle Times* as one of the Movers and Shapers in Fitness.

In 2001, he became Director of Student Success and Retention Services at North Seattle Community College. Later, as Assistant Dean at Green River Community College, he developed a model pilot telephone and email message program to improve recruitment and retention of students. The effort was adopted by other student services departments. He also organized a Diversity Council to celebrate the various heritage months and to help promote leadership among students.

Today, he is the busy Vice President for Student Services at South Seattle Community College, a job that leads and directs a multitude of programs in addition to strategic planning, budgeting, personnel, team building, staff development, and space allocations. He has been nominated two times for the Seattle Community College Board of Trustees Lifelong Learning Award and was honored by his peers at Renton Technical College with an Outstanding Faculty Award in 1994.

His decision to join the JAACL was based largely on the fact that he liked the work of its Civil Rights Committee. He also was interested in working with other APIs on issues related to the access of students of color to higher education. He believes more work needs to be done to address the disparity in graduation rates for students of color.

He is quick to point out that his mother has been a source of inspiration and that he tries his best to follow in her footsteps. He remembers that she spent many hours speaking about the internment experience of Japanese Americans in classrooms in the Issaquah School District. His uncle, James Mitsui, is a renowned poet whose memorable work has focused on a family history of immigration, assimilation and World War II experiences in relocation camps.

Mark has spoken about the subject at faculty events, student conferences, and classes in the Community College system. He often pairs documentaries about the camps with panelists who can provide personal stories about their experiences. He is also working to include stories about the Japanese American internment in curriculum offerings at schools in the community college system.

Mark and his wife Melanie live in Burien and have two daughters, Hailey, 18 and Emma, 12.

Newsletter Available On-line: www.jaclseattle.org

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Born in Seattle, but raised in Hawaii, Sheldon attended the University of Denver as an undergrad student in business. He returned to Hawaii and taught at his alma mater, Iolani, for a short time. He then went on to graduate school at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri where he received an MBA. He returned to the Seattle area to work for Andersen Consulting/Accenture and volunteered as an English Language Learner conversation facilitator for adult literacy programs in Seattle and the Eastside. He also spent ten years on the board of Washington Literacy serving in a variety of officer positions in this United Way agency.

Sheldon views his VP position as a new challenge. Among his duties will be to facilitate the hiring of several new staff positions, including the new National Executive Director. He has already begun with advertisements for an assistant for the Business Manager, Clyde Izumi and the opening at the Pacific Southwest district office for a Regional Director.

Sheldon has a busy road ahead of him, but he is up for the challenge with great enthusiasm. Keep your eyes open for more about Sheldon and his position in the Pacific Citizen.

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.

Please make checks payable to JAACL and remit to:
Seattle Chapter Membership Chair
P.O. Box 18558
Seattle, WA 98118

Information

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 Doug Honma prior to the meeting.

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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.

Seattle Chapter JACL website: www.jaclseattle.org
E-mail address: email@jaclseattle.org

2006 Officers and Board Members

- President Doug Honma ([redacted])
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- 3rd Vice-President Elaine Akagi ([redacted])
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