

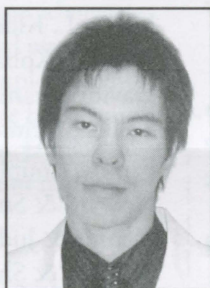
Truc Nguyen is the Lead trainer for the Minority Executive Directors Coalition (MEDC) of King County. She/he has experience in presenting on topics such as oppression (racism and homophobia, among others), domestic violence, personal safety, and physical self defense training.



Truc has worked with the Seattle Public Schools Health Education Board as a facilitator for a support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth of color at a local High School. Truc works with the Asian and Pacific Islander Women & Family Safety Center to organize against domestic violence in the Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women project.

Truc is also a self-defense instructor for Home Alive, and spends "free-time" to work on projects with other community folks to address issues in the queer and people of color community and once in a while uses performance art for social change.

Edward J. Gingras III was born on November 18th, 1986, receiving his grandfather's and father's name, a day that happened to be his father's birthday. He still continues to be the best birthday gift given to his father. Mostly educated by his mother, he was born in a small town in Okinawa Japan, and spent fourteen years of his life in various locations within the small island. Other places he lived include Sapporo, a city in Hokkaido Japan, Dale City Virginia, and the most current location, Seattle Washington.



Living in these locations allowed the experience of partaking in Japanese and American culture, and also the Japanese-American culture. Attending Japanese elementary schools in different prefectures allowed him to understand the difference of people even within Japan, which also applies to the difference between people in the United States in the different regions, and also Americans that live in Japan, especially in the unique case of Okinawa where the two cultures have the strongest mixture.

High school participation in the National Honor Society and Student Council provided valuable leadership experience, and the Model United Nations event allowed him to gain a more global view on significant political issues at the time, which are still

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API Legislative Day on Feb. 13 was a huge success. Thousands of members from the Asian/Pacific Islander community descended on the state capitol to advocate for more resources and fairness in state policies. JACL former president Doug Honma was part of the opening ceremony on the Capitol steps, delivering greetings in Japanese. As the legislative session reaches some key deadlines for bills to get out of committee, JACL will continue to monitor civil rights and community issues, and collaborate with allies.

In other civil rights news, the two issues the Civil Rights Committee worked on last year are back again!

Anti-immigrant initiative

You may recall that last year an initiative was filed to require proof of identity and immigration status of every applicant for any non-federal public benefit. The initiative would also make it a misdemeanor not to report immigration violations. The initiative did not gather enough signatures to qualify for the November 2006 ballot.

Last year, JACL was part of a statewide coalition that did public education on the proposed initiative. This year we intend to do the same. The proposed initiative

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Beyond Finances 101 Fiscal Literacy

Free Workshops with Light Lunch Provided

March 17, 2007 from 12:30 to 4 PM

Bellevue Paragon Hotel, 818 - 112th Avenue NE

(425) 455-1515

Using a generous grant from State Farm Insurance Company, the Organization of Chinese Americans, Seattle JACL, NAAAP and Bellevue Community College has organized this in-depth workshop. Seattle JACL hopes to provide a series of educational and relevant workshops for our general membership this year.

Three simultaneous workshops will be presented:
Get Smart with your Money - For those who need to know how to manage their money and credit;
Creating Wealth - For those who have the basics and want to build assets;
Maximizing Tax Advantages - Look at 2006 and 2007 tax law changes and how to plan your tax strategy.

To register go to <http://getstarted.bellevuecollege.edu/FinancialEd>.

President's Message

by Kyle Funakoshi, President

The Rice Phenomenon & JACL

I'm going to admit something that will probably get me kicked out of JACL and most other Asian American groups.

I'm not a big rice fan.

The problem came when I was 4 years old, and my mother would not let me leave the table without eating every kernel of rice. I secretly threw mushed up balls of rice to my dog that seemed to love it. (Many of my friends would argue that the dog was more Asian than me.)

When I turned 18, I left the confines of my oppressive rice eating environment to go to college. Dorm food was great...for about two weeks. It's then that I noticed that something was missing from my diet. Sure enough, after going to a potluck sponsored by the Asian American Student Association...I had a bite of rice, and that was all it took to make me feel at home.

Since then, I've been introduced to the term cultural nutrients. We typically think of food as being nutrients for our bodies. Cultural "nutrients" are good for our souls and come in many forms, particularly through being around people who share common experiences and beliefs.

I joined JACL because it's a potent cultural nutrient.

Seattle JACL is a multicultural, multigenerational group - dedicated to civil rights, youth leadership and community engagement. The Seattle JACL community has a proven track record of success advocating around these initiatives.

Your JACL membership is an extension of these beliefs, and supports the work that JACL does.

We hope that you will take time to renew your membership, and that you will convince others who are like-minded to join. It's because of people like you that JACL can continue to provide cultural nutrients to the Seattle Community. We also hope that you would consider contributing to JACL, whether through volunteerism or monetary donations.

Finally, don't forget to take advantage of your membership! Please come to one of the many functions that we have throughout the year (many of which are listed in this newsletter). I'll bring the rice!

Thank you so much for your membership and dedication to the Seattle JACL.

Activities

- 2/3 - JACL PNW District Meeting
- 2/3 - Seattle JACL Installation Banquet
- 2/10 - Japanese American Community Leaders Gathering (Sponsored by Consulate General)
- 2/10 - Organization for Chinese Americans Banquet
- 2/12 - Seattle JACL Executive Board Meeting
- 2/19 - Day of Remembrance in Olympia

- 2/20 - Day of Remembrance South Seattle Community College
- 2/20 - Day of Remembrance University of Washington Activities
- 2/21 - Meeting with InterIm Director Elaine Ko
- 2/21 - Seattle JACL Board Meeting
- 2/28 - Center for Career Alternatives Annual Dinner

Recent Memberships

Regular/Individual

Vicki Asakura
Shunji Asari
Marion Critney
Marcia K. Fujimoto
Florence M. Fujita
Fred I. Hasegawa
Frank T. Hori
N. Lorraine Hoshibata
Fran Kato
Nancy L. Kloster
Megumi Kobayashi
David Koyama
Smith Morimoto

Family/Couple

Howard & Sumiko Minato
Dennis & Judy Nomura
William & Shizuka Sata
Tosh Uyeji & Family

Student/Youth

Eric Guttorp
Emiko Hastings
Isaac Thomas
Kei Yonker

Donations

Mary and Raymond Gruenewald: \$50
Sharon Tomiko Santos: \$100
Nadine and Dennis Shiroma:
\$200 in memory of Tatsuo Nakata
Doreen Cato: \$50 in honor of Nadine Shiroma
League of Women Voters of Seattle:
\$100 in honor of Nadine Shiroma
Suj'n Chon: \$50
Stella Chao: \$500 in honor of Tomio Moriguchi
Chieko Umino: \$20
Ruth Becke: \$20
Harold Taniguchi: \$200
Bruce and Joanne Harrell: \$200
Linda Ishii



Board, continued from page 1

unsolved today, such as third world country conflicts and the continuing effects of war years after the actual war has ended.

College life for him is like a fountain of experience and opportunity. The very first class he took was Asian American Studies, taught by Professor Kashima, which introduced him to the Japanese American Culture, specifically during WWII and internment camps, but also allowed him to learn about the history of the Seattle International District, and visit key locations and events, such as the Toronagashi, a commemorative event for the Hiroshima Bombing.

The first actual association he joined was the JSA, Japanese Student Association. This allowed him to interact with the Japanese community in Seattle and gain experience in planning for events with hundreds of people. He also joined the Nikkei Student Association, providing direct access to the Japanese American Community, a lot of volunteering options including the ACLU and JACL, which is his first huge step to being a community participant as an adult.

Rights, continued from page 1

unfairly targets immigrants, creating a cumbersome identity-proving process for citizens and immigrants alike, and essentially adds the role of immigration official to any public employee who provides a public service. Immigrant right groups are beginning to strategize a method for defeating this initiative. JACL will continue to be a part of the dialogue and will educate our members about this terrible initiative.

Anti-discrimination repeal

Last year the state legislature passed the Anti-Discrimination Bill, which makes it against the law to discriminate based on sexual orientation in our state. An initiative was filed that tried to repeal the bill almost as soon as the governor signed it, but did not get enough signatures to qualify for the November 2006 ballot. Again, the same initiative has been filed for 2007!

JACL believes discrimination in any form is wrong, and endorsed last year's statewide campaign to defeat a repeal of the Anti-Discrimination Bill. We will reconnect with allies from the campaign to determine how we can also help defeat this initiative.

At the deadline for this newsletter article, both of these initiatives were facing title and language challenges. Once these challenges are resolved in court, they can start to gather signatures and we can start to mobilize for its defeat.

Stay tuned for ongoing civil rights updates and new ways to get involved!

Newsletter Available On-line: www.jaclseattle.org

Executive Order 9066: Day of Remembrance Event

One hundred and nineteen people gathered to preview Shannon Gee and Frank Abe's documentary work-in-progress, "In Search of No No Boy" shown in Smith Hall on February 20th at the University of Washington. The film investigates the life and times of Seattle native John Okada, author of the first novel by a Japanese American and the voice for a Nisei generation struggling to find its place after returning to the world from the trauma of forced incarceration. Revealed in the documentary are the false distinctions between loyalty and disloyalty that were encouraged by the government, as captured by the story of one Nisei draft resister returning to Seattle.

Little has been known of John Okada's personal life. After his passing, his grieving widow destroyed his papers, family photographs, and the manuscript of a second, unpublished novel - just months before his rediscovery by a new generation of Asian American writers.

The event was co-sponsored by the University of Washington Ethnic Studies Department, the Seattle and Lake Washington Japanese American Citizens League and the Nikkei Student Association.

Membership Form

Individual \$67, Youth & Student \$30, Couple & Family \$115, 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 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 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 Kyle Funakoshi 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.

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

2007 Officers and Board Members

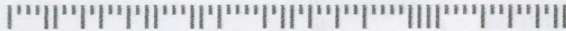
- President Kyle Funakoshi
- President-Elect *To be identified*
- 1st Vice-President..... Dawn Rego
- 2nd Vice-President..... Binah Palmer
- 3rd Vice-President..... Elaine Akagi
- 4th Vice-President..... Akemi Matsumoto
- Treasurer Jeffrey Hattori
- Corresponding Secretary May Namba
- Recording Secretary..... *To be identified*
- Historian..... Kazzie Katayama
- PNWDC Board Delegate..... Doug Honma

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|
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| Shea Aoki | Irene Ishii | Mori Kurose Rothman |
| Nate Caminos | David Iyall | Joy Shigaki |
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