

## Minidoka Pilgrimage 2007

Join us for this year's Minidoka Pilgrimage  
June 22-24, 2007!

The intent of the Pilgrimage is to honor the generations of Japanese in America who suffered under institutionalized racist laws, to deliver the message of "never again" and to preserve the legacy of those of Japanese descent during one of the darkest chapters in our country's history. It offers a chance to revisit the place and the memories amidst family, friends, supporters and National Park Service officials.

Chartered buses will depart early Friday morning, June 22 from Seattle. Seating is limited so please register as soon as possible. For those participants who will meet

See "Pilgrimage" on page 3

## Martin Luther King County Logo Unveiled



### King County

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s remarkable legacy is about to take another extraordinary turn. King County is set to become the first government to adopt the image of the Nobel Laureate and civil rights leader. The upcoming vote by the King County Council will mark the end of a 20 year effort to change the county's namesake from a slave-owning 19th century US vice president to that of a champion of justice and equality.

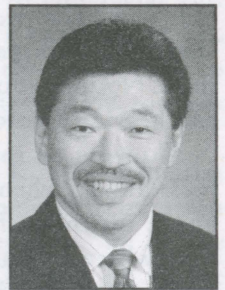
An image of Dr. King will replace the gold crown that has been the County's logo since the 1960's. King County has worked nearly a year with the community, employees and an artist to create an original graphic image of Dr. King. The logo was unveiled at a community event March 11, 2007 and was approved by the King County Council on March 12.

Seattle JACL produced the following statement in public testimony: On behalf of the Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), we are proud to support the adoption of the Martin Luther King County Logo.

King County has a nationwide reputation of bringing forth national leaders in Civil Rights initiatives, and has been steadfast in representing the philosophy that Dr. King held close to his heart.

See "King" on page 3

## Board Profile: Bob Hasegawa



Bob Hasegawa was a Teamster for over 32 years and is a longtime labor and social justice activist from Seattle. Bob was the principle executive officer of the largest Teamsters trucking workers union in the Pacific Northwest (Local 174) for nearly a decade, and is a leader in the national Teamsters pro-union democracy reform movement, TDU (Teamsters for a Democratic Union).

Bob has long sought to build bridges between social justice organizations, particularly those serving the API community. He serves on the national Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA) Executive Board as well as on the APALA Seattle Chapter Executive Board. He graduated from Antioch University with areas of concentration in Labor Relations and Organizational and Social Change.

He is currently a member of the Operating Engineers Union and is a heavy equipment operator. He is also the Washington State representative for the 11th district.

## Scholarship and Past President's Luncheon

On April 28, the Seattle chapter will honor this year's JACL scholarship recipients and show appreciation to all of our past presidents of the Seattle chapter at a luncheon. The luncheon will be held at Hiroshi's Restaurant, 2501 Eastlake Ave. E. from noon until 2 PM. The cost of lunch will be \$20.

If you are interested in attending, please send your name and phone number along with a check made payable to Seattle JACL, to Elaine Akagi (Seattle, WA 98178). Seating is limited, so please get your reservations in early. Deadline for making reservations is April 23.

The scholarship recipients will be selected after a formal interview on April 21, thus an announcement of who they are cannot be made at this time. Having scholarship recipients together with past presidents will highlight the history of JACL through the many past presidents who have led the chapter through countless challenges, and the future of our chapter with young, capable students.

*Join us for an afternoon of meeting and greeting old and new friends.*



## President's Message

by Kyle Funakoshi, President

### Sakura Blossoms Wafting

One of my favorite things about this time of year is watching cherry blossom petals wafting to the ground like flakes of snow. Nothing is more Japanese than seeing the pink flowers and hearing a koto plucking the "Sakura" song.

Growing up in Colorado, I had never seen a real sakura blossom...so when I moved to Fukuoka, Japan in 1996, it's one of the things I looked forward to. I imagined an elegant time where I would sit with my friends and have a picnic, drink green tea and eat rice cakes, taking in the spiritual moment.

You can imagine my surprise at Ohori Cohen when I saw throngs of people laying out blue tarps, drinking beer and laughing at the top of their lungs. In one instance, a streaker ran past me with his friends chasing after him.

This was just one of a million surprises in my exploration of Japanese culture in Japan, and attempting to reclaim my cultural roots.

In my search for cultural identity, I learned to play the taiko drums and to make sounds from the shakuhachi flute (though not very well), and tried to do kendo.

I experienced a different type of spiritual revelation under the cherry trees in Japan: the Japanese culture that I so desperately searched for was very different than the actual culture. My view of Japan was an exoticized dream. Though this dream's roots are uniquely Japanese, grounded in a rich tradition and heritage...Japanese culture today underwent complex and intricate changes and is a lot different than what my grandparents experienced.

At the end of my journey to explore my cultural roots, I stood outside Japan's smallest castle (Kitsuki-Jo). My mother's family lineage could be directly traced to that castle. As I stood there, reminiscing about my journey to reclaim Japanese culture, I felt empty...even after learning all those wonderful Japanese traditions.

Japanese culture evolved...and so has Japanese American culture. Part of a common Japanese American experience is that we've held onto the most tangible elements of culture...the things that we can feel, see, taste, hear and touch. From what I've observed, it's a common trait in many Asian American cultures.

However, I learned that Japanese American culture is much more complex than watching sakura blooms wafting. Though the blooms may be a small piece of what it means to be Japanese American, we have a rich history in the United States, grounded in struggle, victory, community and love.

The wonderful thing about the Seattle JACL is that we are about exploring all aspects of Japanese American culture. In this exploration, we find our humanity, and ability to be a part of a larger community of civic-minded individuals.

JACL Seattle's core mission is centered on this philosophy, and manifests itself in Civil Rights, Youth Leadership and Community Engagement.

Over the next few months, the Seattle Board will be exploring what this means, and the next few e-newsletters will focus on those three topics. If you're interested in attending these discussions, please let us know at [jacleaseattle@yahoo.com](mailto:jacleaseattle@yahoo.com).


### Recent Events

- 2/28 - Center for Career Alternatives Dinner
- 3/5 - JACL Officers Meeting
- 3/8 - Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Meeting
- 3/11 - MLK Logo Celebration
- 3/12 - King County Council Meeting on MLK Logo
- 3/14 - JACL Bi-District Planning Meeting
- 3/18 - Wing Luke Asian Museum Auction
- 3/20 - Meeting with OCA President, Victor King
- 3/21 - JACL Board Meeting
- 3/22 - JACL Fundraising Planning Meeting
- 3/28 - Meeting with Karen Yoshitomi (District Rep)
- 3/29 - Meeting with Port of Seattle University
- 3/30 - Diversity Makes a Difference Dinner



**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 JACL office at (206) 622-4098 or email Joy Shigaki at \_\_\_\_\_

## Pilgrimage, continued from page 1

the group in Twin Falls, free local bus transportation in will be provided between the Minidoka Monument and other Pilgrimage activities.



Four Cots, Minidoka Barrack.

During this three-day event, participants will visit the grounds of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, tour an original barrack, and have the opportunity to talk, laugh and share memories with family and friends.

### Registration

Registration form available in both Abode PDF and Microsoft Word document formats:  
[http://www.minidoka.org/2007\\_pilgrimage.htm](http://www.minidoka.org/2007_pilgrimage.htm)

Seattle Pilgrimage Package with bus from Seattle: \$200 (Senior 75 years & older: \$150)

Twin Falls Pilgrimage Package arriving via own transportation: \$85 (Senior 75 years & older: \$75)

All fees include Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, and Sunday lunch. Bus registration includes additional Friday lunch, Sunday dinner as well as water and snacks on the bus.

For more information, please contact Jane at [minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net](mailto:minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net) or Gloria at \_\_\_\_\_

### Civil Rights Symposium II: Powers of the President in Wartime

For those flying or driving, and able to take a few extra days, consider attending the Civil Liberties in Wartime Symposium at the College of Southern Idaho. This year's theme will be Presidential Powers during Wartime and will be held through Wednesday, June 20, 2007 - Friday, June 22, 2007.

Newsletter Available On-line: [www.jacleaseattle.org](http://www.jacleaseattle.org)

## King, continued from page 1

Dr. King once coined the phrase, "Beloved Community" to represent the ideals of building a nurturing, culturally-competent society that works together to end racial and socioeconomic disparity. King County's adoption of Dr. King's image represents our community's hard work to reach those ideals, and our continued dedication towards this dream.

Seattle JACL is one of many groups in King County who contributed towards building the nationwide reputation of a beloved community. In 1927, we were one of the founding chapters of the National JACL, making us the oldest nationwide Asian American civil rights organization. We hosted the first JACL National Convention, and lead the movement to bring reparation for Japanese Americans who were in Internment Camps during World War II.

We are proud to continue to work towards the ideals of our county's namesake. This new symbol is an iconic representation of moving away from the divine right of Kings - to the divine rights of the people. We are proud that our leaders, in their wisdom, have moved to make this day a reality.

**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.

**Seattle Chapter Newsletter:** Published a week after the third Wednesday of each month by the Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League. Address: PO Box 18558, Seattle, Washington, 98118. Phone: (206) 622-4098

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Editor and Newsletter Design: Ryan Minato

**Contributors:** Bylined articles represent the views of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of Seattle Chapter JACL or the National JACL. The entire contents are copyrighted by Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter. No part of this publication may be printed without prior consent.

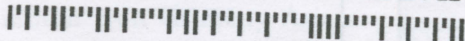
**Article and Event Submission:** Board members should submit materials to the editor [redacted] by the Friday after the monthly board meeting. Calendar items emphasize chapter or community events not likely to be covered by community newspapers or by other newsletters.

Seattle Chapter JACL website: [www.jaclseattle.org](http://www.jaclseattle.org)  
E-mail address: [email@jaclseattle.org](mailto:email@jaclseattle.org)

2007 Officers and Board Members

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

- |                    |              |                     |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Devon Abdallah     | Kiku Hayashi | Arlene Oki          |
| Shea Aoki          | Irene Ishii  | Mori Kurose Rothman |
| Nate Caminos       | Ken Kurata   | Joy Shigaki         |
| Edward Gingras III | Mark Mitsui  | Elsie Taniguchi     |
| Bob Hasegawa       | Truc Nguyen  | Kendee Yamaguchi    |

  
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