

JACL Bentobox Cookbook

The Japanese American Citizens League – Seattle Chapter is preparing a limited edition cookbook featuring favorite recipes from members of our community. Our cookbook will be bound and will contain recipe category dividers, a table of contents, and an index.

We invite you to submit your favorite recipes so you can be represented in our memorable collection. Your name will be printed with each of your recipes.

All proceeds from the cookbook will go to the local chapter to continue their work on civil rights, youth leadership, and community engagement. Your help in contributing recipes will ensure that our cookbook will be a success.

See "Cookbook" on page 3

Board Member Corner: Irene Ishii

Irene Ishii is a Seattle native, having graduated from both the University of Washington and Seattle University School of Law. She is currently working at T-Mobile and will soon begin her career as an attorney.

Before graduating from the University of Washington with her B.A. in Sociology and minor in Society and Justice, she studied abroad at Soka University in Tokyo, Japan, where she received her Certificate in Japanese.

While at Seattle University School of Law, Irene served as co-President and later Advisor for the Asian Pacific Islander Law Students Association and served as a member on the Dispute Resolution Board. She played an active role in bringing to the Law School the Regional Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition, a competition designed to showcase the oral advocacy and writing skills of Asian Pacific Americans.

She is active in the Soka Gakkai International – USA, a non-profit Buddhist association dedicated to peace, culture, and education. In the SGI-USA, she has led the planning for conferences, large festivals, meetings, and involvement in community events, as well as working with teenagers in the performing arts.

She was also selected to participate in the API Community Leadership Foundation's 2007 Community Leadership Program and is the JACL Seattle Chapter fundraising chair.

Her hobbies include competing in dragon boat racing, turbo kickboxing, knitting, playing with her niece, and riding motorcycles.



International District Street Fair

Date: Saturday, July 14, 2007 - Sunday, July 15, 2007
Time: 11 am – 8 pm (Saturday), 11 am – 6 pm (Sunday)
Location: International District, Hing Hay Park area

Summer is heating up and so are the activities in our community. The International District Street Fair is around the corner, and we hope to see you there. We invite you to enjoy the festivities and to stop by our JACL table. As a fundraiser, we will be selling Aki Sogabe cards, as well as having a fun game for all ages. While at our booth, come learn about Bento Box, our chapter's limited edition cookbook, and what Seattle JACL is currently involved in. If nothing else, come meet some of your wonderful Board Members and share your thoughts with us. We look forward to seeing you, and thank you for your support.

For additional information, please contact: Irene Ishii () or call the Seattle chapter JACL Office if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

Bi-District Conference

The Pacific Northwest District Council and Intermountain District Councils meet biennially in odd number years. Chapters in the Puget Sound region are hosting this year's conference, July 26 through 29 at the Best Western River's Edge in Tukwila. We invite all members to join us, whether for the entire conference or for parts of the weekend. It is an opportunity to meet JACL members from other states, as well as meet national officers. The cost for registration is \$130 and includes meetings, workshops, 2 lunches and a dinner. Early registration must be postmarked by July 12th. After this date, the registration fee increases to \$160.

Noteworthy events during the conference:

Recognition luncheon – honoring JACLers following in the footsteps of Don Kazama, a civil rights leader that was a pioneer in his activism. Lara Yamada of FOX TV will be emcee.

Awards dinner – National JACL awards will be presented at this dinner. Keynote speaker will be Naomi Ishisaka, editor of Colors NW Magazine.

Workshops on everything from immigration, civil rights and social justice, multicultural issues, to sumie and martial arts will be topics. There is something for everyone! The IDC will be showing "American Pastimes" a movie

See "Conference" on page 3

Newsletter Available On-line: www.jaclseattle.org

President's Message

by Kyle Funakoshi, President

Hiro the Hero

Although I don't have much time to watch TV, I've been very diligent about catching one of my favorite TV shows... "Heroes". The show isn't necessarily cutting edge drama, but there is one shining new Japanese icon - "Hiro Nakamura".

For those who haven't watched the show, allow me to recap. Hiro Nakamura is a Japanese salaryman who dreamed of being something more, and always believed that he had a superpower. One day, in his cubicle in Japan, he concentrated on a clock, and found that he had the power to reverse and stop time. From that day forward, Nakamura believed that his skills were meant for a greater purpose...to save the world.

As a child of the 1980's, there weren't very many Asian heroes in the media to look up to. I enjoy seeing this change in media, and to witness a "cool" Asian role model. However, it's one thing to have a fictional hero...and yet another to have real life Super - Hiro's.

Last week, I had lunch with Hiro Nishimura, former commander of the Nisei Vet's in the 70's. Although I didn't ask Mr. Nishimura if he had superpowers, he is certainly a hero in his own right. Hiro served in the Military Intelligence Services (MIS) during/after World War II. He was one of several Japanese Americans who served in the armed forces from the internment campus, and helped to change the public perception of the Japanese American community. It is very inspiring to talk with him and hear his stories.

In my mind, what characterizes these true heroes is their ability to state their principles, and despite the difficulties, continue to strive for the community.

Within the Japanese American community, there are several people from several generations that stood up for the community. Their names echo in the annals of our history: The much decorated 442nd, 101st Airborne and MIS and the "No No" boys. Names like Gorden Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu, Richard Aoki, Yuri Kochiyama, Sam Shoji, Don Kazama, Tatsuo Nakata and Ehren Watada.

These heroes did not have any extraordinary superpowers, but use their brains and moxie...something within the scope and capabilities of each and every one of us.

Each generation of heroes has given our community many privileges and power. As said by Ben Parker in the Spiderman movie, "With great power, comes great responsibility."

I submit that all of us have a responsibility to use this power, to contribute to humanity, and to be the Hiro's and heroes for this generation.

Recent Activities

- 5/1 - Meeting with JET Alumni Association
- 5/2 - Meeting with ACLF
- 5/3 - Meeting with Ed Prince - Seattle Works
- 5/7 - JACL Sponsored "Cold Tofu" Bellevue performance
- 5/7 - JACL Exec Board Meeting
- 5/8 - FEOP Celebration Banquet

5/11 - Meeting with Senator Steve Hobbs

5/16 - International Examiner Banquet

5/18 - Women of Color Empowered Banquet

5/19 - ICHA Banquet

5/21 - JACL Sponsored Screening of "Slaying the Dragon"

5/23 - JACL Board Meeting

5/26 - Japanese American Community Queen Ms. Tomodachi Award

5/28 - Nisei Vet's Memorial Day Ceremony/Lunch following with Hiro Nakamura and Consulate General Tanaka

Perspective on CASA Latina

Over the past three months, many people have asked Seattle JACL members about our perspectives of CASA Latina and the residents of the area.

After weighing our opinions and having dialogue among many individuals, we recently sent this letter to different community agents to encourage resolution.

The board feels that it is important to share this perspective with you, our members, to explain the direction of our carefully weighed observations.

To whom this may concern:

Over the past month and a half, Seattle JACL leaders and members have been asked to provide our perspective around the challenges surrounding the dispute between CASA Latina, and the residents, businesses and community agencies surrounding 17th and Jackson.

JACL has a long-standing history of supporting immigration rights, as we see their plight reflected in our history. We have spent time listening, researching and sharing perspectives with one another around the issue. We would like to humbly share our perspective, in the hope to encourage a positive resolution for all.

JACL sees both CASA Latina and the 17th & Jackson neighborhood as a part of our community, and strongly encourage open dialogue to create positive resolutions for all who are involved. We are willing to participate and encourage people to come to the table in dialogue, advocating and encouraging all parties to work towards creative ways to bring solutions around safety, traffic impact and property values which concern all parties involved.

We also encourage all parties to admonish rhetoric around "illegal immigrants", "undocumented workers", or any type of discrimination against anyone, we see our own painful history reflected in this anti-immigration sentiment.

We urge full participation in mediation sponsored by the city. Through the lens of our common history, CASA Latina and the residents around 17th and Jackson can find a solution



See "President" on page 3

President, continued from page 2

together which brings mutual benefits to all parties.

Thank you for your continued efforts and passion around advocating for your community, and for allowing us to share our perspectives.

Screening of American Pastime

Densho will present a special screening of *American Pastime*, a new feature film at the Majestic Bay Theatre on Saturday, June 30, at 8:45 AM. This powerful film tells the story of Japanese American families who cope with the stress of wartime detention by turning to baseball, a source of strength, honor, and pride. Director Desmond Nakano will introduce the film, and producers David Skinner, Kerry Nakagawa, and Tom Gorai will take questions. Seattle JACL is co-sponsoring this event and welcomes all members to attend. Admission is free but space is limited, so reserve your seat early.

Conference, continued from page 1

about baseball in the camps. Many IDC members play roles in this film that was shot in Utah. You might even meet some of the "stars" of this film. This will be shown on Friday night.

For further information, please contact Elaine Akagi,

2007 Bi-District Conference Registration:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

District: Pacific Northwest Chapter: Seattle

Early Registration (Received by July 10th) - \$130 _____

Registration \$160 _____

Youth Registration (23 years and under) \$50 _____

Ala Carte Items:

Thursday Welcome Mixer \$25 _____

Friday Recognition Lunch \$35 _____

Saturday Networking Lunch \$20 _____

Saturday Banquet \$45 _____

Saturday Workshop & Lunch Only \$45 _____

Grand Total : _____

Make checks payable to JACL Bi-District Conference
Kindly mail registrations and payments to:
JACL Bi-District Conference, C/O May Namba
2324 NW 94th Street, Seattle, WA 98117

Cookbook, continued from page 1

We anticipate a great demand for our cookbooks. You can order one or more copies for yourself and your family at this time to be assured of receiving them. Order forms and recipe collection sheets can be downloaded online at www.jaclseattle.org.

We also encourage you to contribute your recipes online by visiting www.typensave.com. Our group login is bentobox and our contributor password is 86hug. You may also submit your recipes with the recipe form below to JACL Seattle, PO Box 18558 Seattle, Washington 98118.

Please submit your recipes online no later than August 1, 2007. Cookbook expected availability in the first weeks of November 2007. Questions: _____

Bentobox Recipe Collection Sheet

Category: _____

Recipe title: _____

Submitted by: _____

Ingredients: (use abbreviations: pt. qt. pkg. env. c. tsp. T. oz. lb. gal. doz. sm. med. lg.)

Directions: _____

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

June 2007, Volume 44, Issue 6

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
E-mail address: email@jaclseattle.org

2007 Officers and Board Members

- President Kyle Funakoshi
- President-Elect *To be identified*
- 1st Vice-President..... Dawn Reg
- 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 | David Iyall | Joy Shigaki |
| Edward Gringas III | Ken Kurata | Elsie Taniguchi |
| Bob Hasegawa | Mark Mitsui | Kendee Yamaguchi |
| | Truc Nguyen | |

Seattle, WA 98104-2927

671 S Jackson St

KAREN YOSHITOMI



Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit # 9180

Japanese American Citizens League
Seattle Chapter
P.O. Box 18558
Seattle, WA 98118-0558