

Seattle JACL was recently asked to provide feedback on this resolution that was voted on at a National JACL council meeting.

MOTION: The NCWNP District Council agrees with the Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter and believes that Lt. Watada has not received a fair trial. The NCWNPDC believes that all American citizens have a right to a fair and impartial trial, which includes the right to present evidence in one's defense, to have a trial presided over by an impartial judge and to be protected from double jeopardy. We call on the National Board to take the same position, generate a strong public statement and exercise leadership by engaging in activities including but not limited to: writing letters of support to the two courts hearing the case and directing our National Executive Director to educate other organizations and gather further support.

The Seattle JACL Board weighed in on the Watada issue, and wanted to make the rationale known to the JACL membership.

Originally, when JACL chapters were asked to weigh into the Watada issue, we were asked to be proponents of his beliefs about the War. Though many of our members were divided on their beliefs on the War in Iraq, we examined the issue based on JACL's mission, and the resolution that specifically stated that JACL does not comment on national policy. We determined that the issue itself was beyond the scope of the National JACL charter.

The latest resolution by the NCWNP District calls into question, not Watada's beliefs, but his rights to receive due process by the military code of justice. This

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Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue

The Pacific Citizen is getting ready for its Holiday Issue. This year, as in the past, members have an opportunity to send greetings across the country through the Holiday Issue One Liners. For a mere \$10, individuals and families have the opportunity to let their friends across the country know where they are. There's plenty of warning this year, so I hope many of you will participate.

If you'd like to have a larger sized greeting, a Holiday Issue Project one column by 1-1/2 inch ad helps to support the PC. The minimum for this ad is \$45, but you can choose any amount above \$45.

Please send a check made payable to Seattle JACL to Elaine Akagi (Seattle, WA 98178) before November 1st. Include your name, address and zip code. If you'd like family member's names included, please send those names.

Approximately 60 people gathered at the Best Western Rivers Edge in Tukwila for this year's Bi-District Conference, themed Changing Faces, Transforming Communities. The changing community demographics and its impact on our organization were the reasons the committee felt this theme was important. We heard several times over the weekend that chapters across the country are facing the changes and ideas were shared to help others to make the changes positive.

On Thursday evening, July 26, Elsie Taniguchi, Kaila Yoshitomi and Kelsey Ingram taught the attendees traditional obon dances. The participants learned Tanko Bushi and Soran Bushi, and were ready to join in on the Obon festivities in their respective areas.

Friday morning began with an energetic speech by Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos, on the changing faces in our community and the importance of the conference. Her comments evoked serious discussion and thought on how JACL will be changing in the future. Following the comments of Rep. Santos, the Pacific Northwest District and Intermountain District held meetings.

Lara Yamada, FOX 13 Newscaster, emceed a luncheon focused on following the footsteps of Don Kazama. Featured was Sally Kazama, widow of Don Kazama, who

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Member Corner

We are pleased to note the accomplishments of Dr. Gregory Y. Ogata, one of our own members. Dr. Ogata is the first Japanese American to serve as President of the Seattle-King County Dental Society. An orthodontist for 10 years, he started his own practice, Orthodontics on the Plateau, located in Sammamish, WA. Dr. Ogata is also a Board member for the Washington State Dental Association. He is the proud father of three children and enjoys cooking and Japanese anime films. He is a 1985 political science graduate of Whitman College and earned his dental degree from the University of Washington in 1992. He obtained his MS in Orthodontics from St. Louis University in 1997.

Bentobox Cookbook

The Seattle Chapter JACL has prepared a limited edition cookbook featuring the favorite recipes from members of our community. Proceeds from the cookbook will go to the Chapter and further their work on civil rights, youth leadership, and community engagement.

Order forms can be downloaded on our website: www.jaclseattle.org.

President's Message

by Kyle Funakoshi, President

The Communal Marriage

"Are you nervous?" Almost everyone I know asked that question in the last few weeks. For anyone familiar with weddings, you probably heard that question, or asked that question hundreds of times. I would always answer "no".

Valerie and I lived together for the past 3 years. We know about the best and worst of each other...so there were no surprises to be had. The past year had been a frenzy of planning, writing out invitations, working with caterers, tasting different kinds of cake and getting outfits. The wedding felt more like work than a spiritual moment.

In fact, for a long time, the getting married did not cause me to be nervous, anxious, happy or sad. It was emotionless.

However, my disposition changed in one instant.

Picture a panoramic view of the Puget Sound on an overcast day. Almost every single person in the world that I care about was standing around us. Then, steel drums playing "Here, There and Everywhere" by the Beatles as the bridal party came into view. Then, I saw the most beautiful bride in the world walking down the aisle with her parents.

In that instant, everything changed. Tears of joy streamed down my eyes. During our vows, I was so overwhelmed that I said "She will be a good husband"...rather than "I will be a good husband"...and almost left at the end without kissing the bride.

The reception was just as lovely and spiritual. Valerie and I spend our next week on the honeymoon, talking about how perfect the wedding was.

It wasn't till I got back that we realized how imperfect things actually were.

It turns out that the caterers arrived 45 minutes late, creating major issues in setting up table decorations. We also forgot to create a plan to disseminate the cake, so our friends were in a mad scramble to get them to the guests. There was an argument between the sound people and the caterers.

Valerie and I, however, remained happily oblivious to these issues during the wedding. The reason why we were content was not only the relationship that we had built...but the community around us that took care of those issues when they popped up.

Our wedding was yet another example of community in action. Akemi Matsumoto, JACL's 4th VP, did all the flower arrangements. Two of my friends from ACRS and the UW Alumni Association ran the logistics for the wedding. Valerie's cousins took our wedding pictures. Volunteers came from all aspects of our lives...family, community, work, friends...Valerie and I remained happily oblivious to issues because community, in the background, worked to make things perfect for us.

In life, I believe that we all are called to receive benefit from the work of community, like Valerie and I did, as well as be the people working to make life a little more perfect.

JACL, like many community organizations, strives to make life more perfect for everyone. One of my hopes is that in our community, we continue to instill the value of being gracious receivers, and gracious participants.

Speaking of weddings, Valerie and I have set up a wedding registry, requesting donations for the JACL office through Target. Though we are certainly not expecting people to do this, we greatly appreciate these things for the JACL Office.

Also, throughout the next few months, you will have several opportunities to participate in "community". In the month of November, we will have two very special programs:

- 1) A community workshop to explore how racism has affected our relationship with the community...called "Internalized Racism" Workshops.
- 2) JACL Membership Meeting that everyone is invited to.

Please be on the lookout for the next JACL Newsletter for more details. Also, stay on the lookout for the JACL BentoBox cookbook, organized by our very talented board member Kendee Yamaguchi.

Thank you once again for your involvement and commitment to JACL!

Recent Memberships

Individual

Teri Eguchi
Art Gorai
Jill Hashimoto
Dean Koga
Melanie Mihara
Masaru Odoi
Kenji Okuda
Peggy Saito
Jerry Shigaki
Ruth T Shimano
Gail Takahashi
Tama Tokuda

Couples/Family

Debbie & Henry Izumizaki

Student/Youth

Nicholas Tashiro

Booster

Travis Doty
Ryan Hart

Senior Booster

Shuko Hara

JACL Board Nominations

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2007-2008 Seattle JACL Board. Please submit nominations by email to jaclseattle@yahoo.com.



Newsletter Available On-line: www.jaclseattle.org

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question of fairness is most certainly within the caveat of JACL's mission. When JACL is asked to weigh in on whether the civil rights of any American citizen is violated, it is up to us to take a leadership position and be an advocate against such actions.

That being said, the Seattle JACL felt this particular resolution speculates on the fairness of the trial without sufficient information. The Seattle JACL proposed a counter amendment to this resolution by requesting that JACL commission an investigation as to whether Watada's civil rights have been violated. We were, through the district, outvoted for the amendment.

However, nationally, JACL took a similar amendment into consideration and nationally, JACL passed the amendment with all districts except for the Pacific Northwest voting to accept the amendment. Seattle JACL will continue to advocate for the rights of Ehren Watada to receive proper due process for his trial.

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spoke about her husband's struggles in the fight for equality for all. Chapters were offered the opportunity to recognize their members who led the way in their respective chapters. Those honorees were: Reiko Callner (Olympia), Bob Endo (Pocatello-Blackfoot), Arlene Oki (Seattle), Joy Shigaki (Seattle), Yvonne Kinoshita Ward (White River Valley), and Denny Yasuhara (Spokane).

Since many of our National JACL board was present, a session was held so members could ask questions of our officers. President Larry Oda; Vice President of General Operations Sheldon Arakaki; Vice President of Planning and Development Carol Kawamoto; Secretary-Treasurer Mark Kobayashi; and National Executive Director Floyd Mori gave short reports of the current status of their responsibilities, then answered questions from the audience.

Workshops on Immigration, Self Defense, Identity and the PNW Strategic Plan were held on Saturday. The workshops were well attended, and most people felt the topics were relevant and timely.

The Saturday night banquet featured Naomi Ishisaka, Editor of Colors NW Magazine. Being a person of mixed heritage herself, she gave input and statistics on how the changing demographics shape our communities. Emcee for the evening was Nate Caminos, Seattle chapter board member and on the staff of Sen. Maria Cantwell.

A Sunday wrap up meeting provide feedback on the importance of the weekend topics and meetings. All felt the weekend was relevant and would help move JACL forward.

Committee members were: Elaine Akagi, May Namba, Doug Honma, Kyle Funakoshi, Ann Fujii-Lindwall, Elsie Taniguchi, Dawn Rego, Bill Tashima, Rose Nohara, Peter Yamamura, Chris Batalon and Karen Yoshitomi.

Senior Bowlers Wanted

The Shibuya Seniors Bowling League is looking for new members to join our bowling league. You don't have to be an expert bowler. The league has all levels of bowlers using a handicap system so that everyone has a chance to win. We have lost some of our members from last year due to injuries and age so we are trying to fill our twelve teams comprising of four bowlers each for this year's league. The league plays at Imperial lanes in Seattle on Tuesdays starting on September 4, 2007. We have team and individual prizes which are awarded at the end of the tournament. If you are interested in joining, please contact Mits Okazaki at _____ or email him at _____

Shibuya Seniors Bowling League

Place: Imperial Lanes

Start: September 4, 2007

Time: 1 PM

Renew that Membership

Please consider taking the time to renew your lapsed Seattle JACL membership. Your membership provides the means to achieve our common goals.

Membership Form

Individual \$67, Youth & Student \$30, Couple & Family \$115, Chapter Booster \$20, Senior Chapter Booster \$15.

Membership Category: _____

Renewal 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 [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 Re
- 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

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|
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