

The Seattle Chapter
of the
Japanese American
Citizens League

www.jaclseattle.org
email@jaclseattle.org

**86TH ANNUAL
INSTALLATION BANQUET**



changing faces



Contact May Namba for mor information

**\$75/person RSVP by Jan 25th
\$90/person after Jan 25th**

Installation Banquet

Seattle Waterfront Marriott Hotel on February 2, 2008 with reception and Special Scholarship Fundraiser, starting 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:30, with Alan Sugiyama as Master of Ceremony.

Annual Ballots are Out!

Ballots for the 2008 Seattle Chapter JACL Board were recently sent out. We are confident that you will find an incredibly dedicated and energetic group of individuals, ready to lead JACL for the upcoming year.

- President – Dawn Rego
- 2nd Vice President – Doug Honma
- 3rd Vice President – Elaine Akagi
- Treasurer – Jeffrey Hattori
- Corresponding Secretary – May Namba
- Historian – Akemi Matsumoto
- PNW Delegate – Kyle Funakoshi

Directors

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Shea Aoki | Ken Kurata |
| Nate Caminos | Truc Thanh Nguyen |
| Edward Gingras | Arlene Oki |
| Bob Hasegawa | Sandra Sherman |
| Kiku Hayashi | Elsie Taniguchi |
| Candace Inagi | Kendee Yamaguchi |
| Irene Ishii | |

All-Membership Meeting in Review

Conducting its annual membership meeting, the Seattle JACL began with a social gathering at Nikkei Manner on November 14th. Food was provided by JACL board members Elsie Taniguchi and Kiku Hayashi.

The agenda started with an annual report by President Kyle Funakoshi on the 2007 Seattle JACL programming, followed by a progress report on the JACL strategic plan.

This was followed up by a facilitated discussion by Seattle Board member Truc Nguyen about the three pillars of JACL – Civil Rights, Youth Leadership Development and Community Engagement.

There were varied perspectives on the definition of Civil Rights. Some felt that Civil Rights and Social Justice were virtually the same efforts. Others felt that civil rights referred to specific issues unique to individual rights. Although these definitions spanned the spectrum, there was a strong consensus that Seattle JACL has a great reputation in being one of the leading national organizations on Civil Rights issues, and that it was important to have a clearer definition on how Seattle JACL engages in Civil Rights.

On the subject of youth leadership development, the group felt that there were great efforts happening through Seattle JACL, including: scholarships, support of groups such as the Asian Pacific American Community Leadership Foundation, Nikkei Student Alliance at the University of Washington, and a new outreach program for High School youth. The group felt that there needed to be a greater emphasis in connecting youth to the older generation of Japanese Americans.

Finally, the group felt that the efforts of the 2007 JACL around Community Engagement seemed to focus mostly on booths at festivals and community banquets. Generally, people felt that it was important for Seattle JACL to have more clearly defined goals with these types of engagement opportunities, and to expand its definition of community beyond what was traditionally defined as Japanese American.

At the end of the meeting, the membership left with a renewed sense of understanding and commitment to continue to expand the organization.



President's Message

by Kyle Funakoshi, President

Rainy October evenings at the Bush Garden Restaurant in Seattle are an Asian American community norm, and the October evening in 2004 was no different. The smoky haze and faint smell of cigarette smoke mixes the buzz of patrons enjoying happy hour food and drinks.

The room is adorned with twinkle lights strung across the traditional Japanese bamboo architecture with the retrospective 1970's charm. Several people and community activists call this their second office and their second home. Anyone who has been involved with Seattle JACL in a substantial way knows that much of the organization's business gets done over Red Stripe beers and karaoke.

Several friends, whom I considered mentors, were having conversations about the future of JACL. I had often heard them talking about how much time and energy it takes to be a leader within the organization. Amidst the clatter of the evening, these same individuals were attempting to convince me to run for President elect of the Seattle JACL.

I reflected on the progressive history of the Seattle Chapter, how the reparation movement started with us, how several of the activists in JACL started the No-On-200 campaign, and how the organization stood up for Arab Americans after 9-11. As I deliberated, I imagined Shigeko Uno sitting at a table with her scotch, talking with a young Uncle Bob about her reflections on the community.

I thought of how several young community leaders, such as Tatsuo Nakata, who worked with the JACL for several years. It was between Uncle Bob's Karaoke version of "Over the Rainbow", or Tatsuo's version of "I Just Called to Say I Love You" that I was decidedly honored to take on the reigns of this great organization.

Today, I am writing this retrospective from Bush Garden once again. Although the smoky haze is gone, and many of the familiar faces were not in the room, their ghosts haunt the seats and their memory is preserved in the work our organization does. Although there are statues and buildings dedicated to people in the past, it's the resilience of the Seattle JACL that is the testament to their greatness.

Their names echo with the organization, though I'm positive that they would agree that the heart and soul of the organization was not them, but with the community. Throughout this past year, we've gotten reacquainted with our old friends, picked up new members, and several people have financially contributed towards the sustainability of our organization. Thanks to your membership and contributions, the organizations heart continues to beat strong.

The hands and breath of the community come from the numerous volunteers for the organization. I was lucky enough to serve with around 25 of the finest volunteer board that I've seen, and several volunteers on the subcommittees. These individuals have worked through great personal strife, some suffering from health conditions, others losing loved ones, and

several others are simply battling the pressures of day to day life. Despite these difficulties, people continued to give to the organization to accomplish the over 100 programs that Seattle JACL took part in this past year. These volunteers are the reason that all of us can sleep better at night, knowing there are people who are looking out for the best interests of ourselves, kids and grandkids.

Seattle JACL has accomplished a lot this past year. Whether it be launching an outreach project with high school/college youth, putting together the JACL Cookbook, being at the table for a number of civil rights issues, putting together a great Past President / Scholarship Luncheon, lectures around civil rights initiatives, launching partnerships with other organizations, and continuing to support the numerous activities happening in the Japanese American and Asian American community, we were able to bring the organization ever forward.

Though we continue to have a solid organization, our future rests in our ability to clearly articulate what we stand for. We continue to rest on the principles of: Civil Rights, Community Engagement and Youth Leadership Development. However, these pillars leave a wide breadth for interpretation and opinion. For the past three years, the Seattle JACL and Pacific Northwest District have been leading a movement to survey the community, and to define our organizational principles. To be a great organization, we must all continue to support this strategic planning process through our words, money and action.

On a final note, I want to thank everyone for the wonderful experience of being elected to the Seattle JACL as president. This has been a fantastic year, and I am both honored and happy to have been a part of this group.

Thank you once again for all your continued support. If you want to find me, I'll continue to be at Bush Garden along with all the other activist in the organization, so come by and visit, and have a Happy New Year!

Annual Report

JACL Executive Board Meetings: 1/16; 2/12 ;3/5; 4/2; 5/7; 6/4; 7/2; 8/6; 9/10; 10/1; 11/5; 12/9.

JACL Board Meetings: 2/21; 3/21; 4/18; 5/23; 6/20; 7/18; 8/15; 9/19; 10/17; 11/14; 12/12.

Consulate General Roundtables: 2/10; 6/2; 9/22.

Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Meetings: 1/18; 3/8; 4/18; 8/16; 9/27.

JACL Pacific Northwest District Meeting: 2/3; 5/5; 7/27; 10/27.



See "President" on page 3

President, continued from page 2

Community Banquets & Gatherings

Jan 10 - Shogatsu Celebration Luncheon at the Japanese Consulate General's House
 Feb 10 - Organization for Chinese Americans Banquet
 Feb 28 - Center for Career Alternatives Annual Dinner
 Mar 18 - Wing Luke Asian Museum Auction
 Mar 30 - Diversity Makes a Difference Dinner
 Apr 2 - Reception with Senator Daniel Inoye
 Apr 20 - Sakura Festival Dinner with Consulate General
 Apr 27 - IDHA Banquet
 May 8 - FEOP Celebration Banquet
 May 16 - International Examiner Banquet
 May 18 - Women of Color Empowered Luncheon
 May 19 - ICHA Banquet
 May 28 - Nisei Vet's Memorial Day Ceremony / Lunch following with Hiro Nakamura and Consulate General Tanaka
 Aug 8 - Rotary Meeting / Norm Mineta
 Aug 14 - Dinner with H.E. Masakazu Sekiguchi, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs for Japan
 Aug 18 - Shigeko Uno's Funeral
 Sept 6 - InterIm Dinner
 Sept 15 - ACRS Dinner
 Sept 21 - Women of Color Empowered Luncheon
 Oct - Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Dinner
 Oct - NW Asian Weekly Gala Dinner
 Dec - NW Asian Weekly Top Contributor Dinner

JACL Lead Programs

Jan 20 - JACL New-Board Orientation
 Jan 20 - JACL Board Retreat
 Jan 25 - A Conversation with Lt. Ehren Watada
 Jan 25 - Chinatown/International Districts Next Top Karaoke Idol Competition
 Feb 3 - Seattle JACL Installation Banquet
 Apr 28 - JACL Past President's Scholarship Luncheon
 Jul 26 - 28 - JACL Bi-District Conference
 Aug 25 - Aki Kurose Middle School Cleanup
 Oct - Dec - JACL Cookbook
 Nov - Annual JACL Meeting

JACL Co-Sponsored Programs

Jan 15 - MLK March
 Jan 27 - JACL Sponsors the Northwest Asian American Film Festival movie: on Activism.
 Feb 20 - Day of Remembrance South Seattle Community College
 Feb 20 - Day of Remembrance University of Washington Activities
 Apr 21 - 22 - Sakura Festival Booth
 May 7 - "Cold Tofu" Bellevue performance
 May 21 - JACL Sponsored Screening of "Slaying the Dragon" South Seattle Community College
 May 26 - Japanese American Community Queen Ms. Tomodachi Award

May 21 - Screening of "Slaying the Dragon" South Seattle Community College
 Jun 22 - 24 - Co Sponsored Minidoka Pilgrimage
 Jun 30 - Co Sponsored "American Pastime" Film Screening
 Jul 14 - 15 - International District Street Fair
 Jul 26 - Tatsuo Nakata Memorial
 Aug 8 - Hiroshima to Hope
 Aug 16 - Higher Education Executive Administrator Roundtable

JACL Advocacy

Mar 3 - MLK Logo Celebration
 Mar 12 - King County Council Meeting regarding MLK Logo
 Mar 29 - Port of Seattle
 Apr 12 - Statewide initiative on supporting Minority Owned Businesses
 Apr 23 - Nikkei Student Alliance Networking Night
 Jun 26 - Rally for the Constitution - Support for Habeous Corpus rights
 Sept 24 - Press Conference opposing anti-immigration group

Meeting with Community Leaders

Feb 21 - InterIm Executive Director Elaine Ko
 Mar 28 - JACL District Rep. Karen Yoshitomi
 Mar 20 - OCA President, Victor King
 Apr 15 - Interim Bob Santos and Elaine Ko
 Apr 19 - Japanese Community and Cultural Center Bill Tashima
 Apr 24 - UW Tacoma Japanese Language Center Memorial Mike Wark
 May 1 - JET Alumni Association Ryan Hart
 May 2 - Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation Dawn Rego
 May 3 - Seattle Works Ed Prince
 May 11 - State Senator Steve Hobbs
 Sept 26 - Japanese Community and Cultural Center Kip Tokuda

Programs Currently Being Worked On

- JACL Silent Auction
- Internalized Racism Workshop
- JACL Cookbook
- High School/College Outreach Program

Mission Statement: The Seattle Chapter JAACL 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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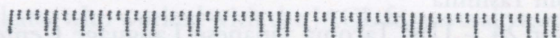
Article and Event Submission: Board members should submit materials to the editor by the Friday after the monthly board meeting. Calendar items emphasize chapter or community events not likely to be covered by community newspapers or by other newsletters.

Seattle Chapter JAACL 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

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



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