



SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2013/2014

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SEATTLE CHAPTER OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

President's Corner by 2012-2013 President Heidi Park



This year was quite a whirlwind: my first opportunity to take on a leadership position. After serving as your president, I'm truly proud to say I am a part of such a prestigious civil rights organization.

Thank you for letting me be a part of this amazing community. Here's a look back at my year.

I started off on the heels of our beloved Elaine Akagi's passing. I had always looked to Elaine for her leadership and expertise when it came to civil rights issues, along with Past President Bill Tashima. It was the same year that I had worked for Congressman Jim McDermott and the same year he would be honored with the President's Award at the National Convention here in Seattle.

Thanks to my experience working for Congressman McDermott, I became more involved with JACL's National Convention and also played a larger but informal role as a JACL board member. That was when I knew I wanted to be a more central part of JACL. This is where I truly felt accepted as a member of the larger API community.

As the year went on, I had to learn quickly and ask a lot of questions of Bill. I can only imagine how amusing it must have been for him, our board, and our community to see me come into a leadership position. There were many opportunities to learn and grow. I found friends of all different ages, backgrounds; from different fields and with diverse experiences.

One of the many highlights of my time as president included the time I spent at the JACL/OCA Leadership Summit. I met so many different people from across the

country who share my same values. It truly is an amazing thing to be so involved in an organization that spans nationwide. I always was proud of Seattle for being the rabble-rouser chapter; but I learned that we weren't alone. We have many partners.

Personally, learning how to be president during a re-election year for my boss, Mayor Mike McGinn, and a new job in his administration was very intense and challenging. However, I wouldn't trade my intense year for anything because it was also extremely rewarding and fun.

I also want to say that I worked with all my heart because I truly believe in the people, the community, and my mentors, who took a chance on me. One of many of the amazing people I had the privilege of meeting was the late Kip Tokuda. He was there for me when I needed advice or someone to talk to. When I told him I was going to work for Mayor McGinn, volunteer on his campaign, and be president of JACL, he encouraged me but also cautioned me to pace myself. I think he knew I was never one for moderation.

Who knew that some Korean adoptee kid from the plains of Minnesota would become a chapter president of the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the nation? Right? Thanks to people like Elaine, Kip, and many of my mentors and friends who I love and respect, I will always endeavor to give back to this community: a home that I've always wanted to have.

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Upcoming events

JACL Notebook

What our members
are up to

... and Much More!



2013
Seattle Chapter Board

- President,**
Heidi Park
- President-Elect,**
Toshiko Hasegawa
- 1st VP (Operations),**
Ken Kurata
- 2nd VP (Civil Rights),**
Arlene Oki
- 3rd VP (Education),**
Ann Fujii Lindwall
- 4th VP (Special Events),**
Mary Ann Midori Goto
- Recording Secretary,**
Paul Tashima
- Corresponding Secretary,**
May Namba
- Treasurer,**
BiHoa Caldwell
- Historian,**
Ryan Catabay
- Board Delegate,**
Bill Tashima
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Sheldon Arakaki
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Bob Hasegawa
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Kiku Hayashi
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Umeko Motoyoshi
Gabrielle Nomura
Patrick Oishi
Cara Peterson
Sharon Tomiko Santos
June Sekiguchi
Elsie Taniguchi
Kaila Yoshitomi



Happy New Year from the Seattle JACL

Board members at the annual Bonnenkai dinner at the Four Seas restaurant on December 10, 2013. Front, from left: Ann Fujii Lindwall, Kiku Hayashi, Bob Hasegawa, Elsie Taniguchi, RedWolf Pope, Sheldon Arakaki, Toshiko Hasegawa, Heidi Park, May Namba, Ryan Catabay. Back from left: Bill Tashima, Audrey Utz guest, Thomas Hoshino, Marcine Anderson, Ken Kurata and Paul Tashima.

Mayoral, city council candidates address API community

The Seattle JACL cosponsored the API Candidates Forum at the ACRS gymnasium on October 11, 2013. Working with several other APA organizations, the JACL worked to introduce mayoral and city council candidates to the public. Additionally, these candidates shared their views on the local issues affecting Seattle's APA community, from public transportation cutbacks to police reform. During this two-hour event, more than 200 voters listened to debates between mayoral candidates, incumbent Mike McGinn and Ed Murray; Seattle City Council Position #2 candidates Richard Conlin and Kshama Sawant; and Seattle City Council Position #8 candidates Mike O'Brien and Albert Shen. While the tone differed between each pair of candidates, attendees

learned about each candidate and his or her plans for Seattle. JACL plans on helping to provide similar events in the future.



You're invited to the 92nd Annual JACL banquet

92nd Annual JACL banquet

The Seattle JACL board members cordially invite you to save the date for our 92nd annual banquet! With the theme Legacy, we pay tribute to our past and celebrate the present, honoring our history, experience and heritage. We have a lively program that demonstrates a shared history throughout time. During the event, we will honor Marsha Aizumi with our Civil Rights award, Frank Irigon with the Community Achievement award and Aki Sogabe with our Sam Shoji Unsung Hero award. Help bring in the spring season with live entertainment, friends, family and community.

When: 6-9 p.m., March 21, 2014, the first day of Spring!

Where: Champion Ballroom 914 E. Jefferson St. Seattle, WA 98122

MLK Jr March and Rally—Rise up! Restore the Dream!

The Seattle JACL will again join Rise Up! Restore the Dream!, the 32nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Rally and March, on Monday, January 20, 2014. Starting at Garfield High School, the schedule includes workshops from 9:30 -11 a.m., a rally in the gym at 11 a.m., and the march begins at 12:30 p.m. Following the march, Metro buses will take participants back to Garfield where lunch will be provided free of charge.

Get involved! The subcommittees for the MLK Celebration Committee have begun to hold meetings to plan a special salute to Dr. King. The subcommittees are: food, workshop, program, logistics, hip-hop show, outreach, volunteer coordination, and media. Contact us at mlkseattle@gmail.com if you want to serve on a subcommittee.

Seattle has one of the largest annual Martin Luther King Day Celebrations in the U.S. We honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for his work toward racial equality and economic justice for all people, for his commitment to nonviolence, and for his stand against war and militarism.

"The problem of racism, the problem of economic exploitation, and the problem of war are all tied together. These are the triple evils that are inter-related." - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Between the ages of 18-25? You can travel to Japan through the Kakehashi Project

The Kakehashi Project is an exciting program underwritten by the Government of Japan to bring 2,300 Americans to experience Japan. The Japanese government is reserving 100 slots specifically for Japanese Americans who will be selected with the assistance of the JACL National staff. While details are still being worked out, a participant must be between the ages of 18-25 when applying or when participating. Groups will go in sessions. Each session have around 25 participants and last 10 days. The Japanese Government will underwrite the cost from the point of departure to Japan, including transportation, lodging and food, to the point of return to the United States. The participant will pay transportation and, if needed, lodging/food from their home to the point of departure and from their point of return from Japan to their home. Each session will be different according to the ages and interests of the participants. When feasible, a work project in the Tohoku region will be included. Japanese language skills are not required. The JACL sessions are tentatively being planned for March, June, August and October of 2014. Look for more information in the coming weeks at www.jacl.org or email japanprogram@jacl.org.

Students: apply for 2014 scholarships

Current and incoming college students are invited to apply for one of Seattle JACL's six scholarships. They include: Aki Kurose Scholarship, Cherry and Mas Kinoshita Scholarship, Elaine Akagi Scholarship, Bunshiro Tazuma Scholarship, Minoru Tamesa Scholarship and Dr. Susumu Shimokon Scholarship. Each scholarship is \$2,000, except for the Shimokon Scholarship, which is \$5,000 for students going into the medical field. The deadline for applications is Saturday, March 1, 2014. Please go to jaclseattle.org to see last year's application (this year's will be similar). If you have any questions, please contact net.

JACL Notebook: where we've been this fall and winter

Gaining new leadership at the Pacific Northwest District meeting

The Seattle chapter hosted the final 2013 Pacific Northwest District Council meeting on October 5, 2013 at the Nisei Vets Hall. The primary new business agenda item was electing a slate of district officers for the 2013-2015 biennium.

The new officers are:

- Governor Sheldon Arakaki (Seattle)
- Vice-Governor for Chapter Development Bill Tashima (Seattle)
- Vice-Governor for Membership Susan Leedham (Portland)

- Secretary Hisami Yoshida (Olympia)
- Treasurer Chip Larouche (Portland)
- Historian Eileen Yamada-Lamphere (Puyallup Valley)

District appointments to national JACL entities to date include:

- Nicole Gaddie (Seattle) to the National Youth/Student Council
- Gabrielle Nomura (Seattle) to the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board
- Stan Shikuma (Seattle) to the Education Committee
- Setsy Larouche (Portland) to the US-Japan Relations Committee

The Spokane chapter will host the first district council meeting of 2014 on March 15.



Representing the Pacific Northwest at the annual National JACL Gala Awards Dinner, "A Salute to Champions," on October 10, 2013 at the Washington D.C. Capital Hilton were District Governor Sheldon Arakaki (Seattle), National Youth/Student Council Chair Mariko Newton (Portland), District Vice-Governor Setsy Larouche (Portland) and National VP for Planning and Development Chip Larouche (Portland). This year, JACL celebrated and recognized individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to promoting diversity in their respective field or industry. The "Salute to Champions" Awards were presented to National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, AARP VP Daphne Kwok, and Toyota. The JACL also recognized the leadership of Congressman Mike Honda with the JACL Congressional Award and Southwest Airlines with the JACL Corporate Partner Award.

Celebrating Annual Elaine Akagi Day

Friends and family of the late Elaine Akagi gathered at the JCCCW to remember and celebrate her life on December 7, 2013. At Elaine's memorial ceremony a year ago, Mayor Mike McGinn officially declared December 8 as the annual Elaine Akagi Day.

Saying aloha to friends at the Nisei Veterans Luau

JACL was proud to sponsor a table at the September Nisei Veterans Committee Luau at the Pavilion Event Center in Renton. The event included live Hawaiian dance entertainment, a luau-style buffet, silent auction, dessert dash, and a raffle drawing. All proceeds will go to help support and maintain the Nisei Veterans Committee Hall, the Museum, Memorial Wall and the large number of NVC Foundation educational and community programs.

Picking up healthy habits at the Living Well Health Fair

XBOX or Jazzercise, innovative smoothies or green bean goma-ae, healthy eating or managing stress? The Second Annual Living Well Health Fair offered all of those options and then some! Presented by Nikkei Concerns and Seattle JACL, the event has grown by leaps and bounds with something for everyone. Guests discovered healthy options, from delicious food samples to environmental alternatives, that inspired them to pursue simple changes and ideas for healthier living. Thank you to all of the speakers, cooking demonstrators, exhibitors, donors, and sponsors, as well as the many volunteers who brought this event to life!

Supporting the efforts of Companis volunteer group

The Seattle JACL was proud to co-sponsor the 20th Anniversary Dinner of Companis at the Seattle Waterfront Marriott Hotel on November

7, 2013. Companis is a volunteer group that matches its volunteer professional expertise to community nonprofit needs. This year, Companis honored longtime Seattle JACLers and tireless advisers and friends, former Washington Supreme Court Justice Charles Z Smith and his wife, Eleanor M. Smith.

Voting for board of directors - important information!

The ballot for nominees for next year's JACL Board of Directors, which was mailed to all members, erroneously included Karen Yoshitomi, Jeffrey Hattori and Nate Caminos. Because Karen is director of the Pacific Northwest District office which serves chapters in Portland, Puyallup, Olympia and Anchorage, she cannot be affiliated with one chapter. Also, unfortunately, Jeffrey Hattori and Nate Caminos cannot join us this year. We apologize for any confusion.

Raising money for Philippine typhoon relief

The Seattle JACL urges all members and friends to join Nikkei Concerns' efforts to collect money for the Visaya Relief Fund. All funds collected will go the Philippine Red Cross. You can drop off donations at the reception desks of Seattle Keiro or Nikkei Manor. You can also donate online at www.nikkeiconcerns.org. The Nikkei Community Network may also coordinate Nikkei Community giving and the Seattle JACL urges support for that effort as well.

Welcoming the Japanese Consul General

The Seattle JACL joined 23 other partnering organizations from the Nikkei Community Network (NCN) in welcoming Seattle's newest Japanese Consul General, Masahiro Omura. The event was held at the Nisei Vets Hall. This event allowed the Consul General to mingle and talk with the participants in a fun, relaxed environment. *Omura-sama, Yokoso!*



Meeting Japanese Consul General Omura.

High school, college students attend JACL youth summit

by Nicole Gaddie

On November 16, 2013, the JACL National Youth Council welcomed 11 high-school and college students to Seattle University for a summit centered on "creating change, locally and globally."

As the Pacific Northwest Youth Rep., I was honored to plan a day filled with extraordinary guest speakers including Carol Kobuke Nelson from the Washington State Department of Revenue, Seattle JACL president Heidi Park and Velma Veloria, the first Asian American woman to be elected to the Washington State Legislature. State Senator Bob Hasegawa also made an appearance.

Participants discussed their ideas of an "ideal community" and brainstormed ways to build coalitions and advocate in their respective schools and organizations.

Overall, the event was a great success and the participants finished their day by enjoying lunch at Boom Noodle, a Japanese restaurant in Capitol Hill.

Thank you to the Seattle JACL chapter, Sheldon Arakaki, Mariko Newton and all others involved in making Seattle's first JACL youth summit a success!

Puyallup Fair Memorial

In August 1983, through the efforts of the Washington State Legislature, the Puyallup Fair, Northwest JACL members and other local Nikkei people, a George Tsutakawa sculpture was dedicated at the Puyallup Fairgrounds to remember the dark days of "Camp Harmony" which served as a temporary detention center for Japanese Americans prior to transfer to the Minidoka concentration camp. The Puyallup Fair has initiated discussion with the Tsutakawa family, the Seattle and Puyallup Valley JACL about a possible move for the sculpture to an area with higher visibility. We will relay more details as discussions progress.

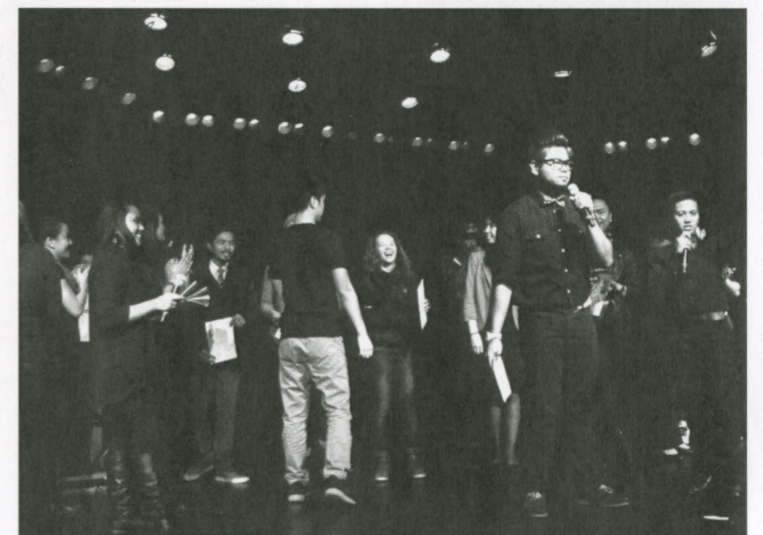


George Tsutakawa's sculpture on the Puyallup Fairgrounds.

What our members are up to

Former board member honored as Woman Leader in New Ventures

Kendee Yamaguchi was honored at Northwest Asian Weekly's September 20th Women of Color Empowered lunch. The theme of this lunch was "Women Leaders in New Ventures." Yamaguchi, an assistant attorney general, had recently taken a new position as Director of Policy, Legislative Affairs and External Relations for the Washington State Office of the Attorney General Bob Ferguson. In this position, she was a member of Ferguson's senior leadership team. Yamaguchi is a former executive director of the Washington State Commission of Asian Pacific American Affairs. Kiku Hayashi, JACL board member, was co-chair for the luncheon. Shortly after the lunch, Yamaguchi was appointed assistant director for local government and infrastructure for the Washington State Department of Commerce.



RISE: Opening the Consciousness of the (dis)Empowered

On December 4, 2013, the Filipino American History & Culture class at the University of Washington held the first annual showcase, RISE: Open-

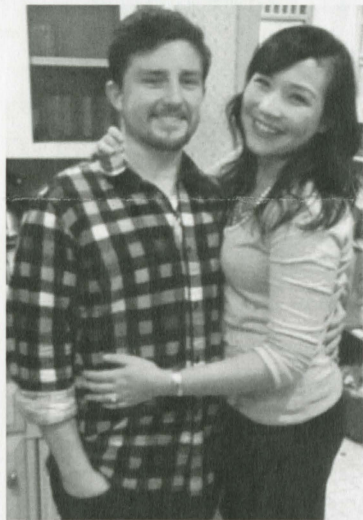
ing the Consciousness of the (dis)Empowered. Kaila Yoshitomi, Seattle board member, was part of the marketing team and helped put together the script for the showcase. This was an empowering experience where resistance to oppression and resilience was expressed through dance, song and rap. Hopefully, this will continue as a platform for more Asian American youth to share the power that they gained through classes like this.

A recent postcard from a JACL board member in Colombia

"... We were in the Andes at altitudes between 10,000 and 12,000 feet. The roads were narrow and slippery, and the dropoffs were steep and scary at times. It rained quite hard each day, usually in the afternoon. We had one landslide behind us one morning and one in front of us later in the afternoon. We ended up crossing the slide to get to our lodge in the afternoon. Fortunately, there is a lot of road work going on in the mountains and a bulldozer liberated the construction and delivery trucks in pretty short order. We've been on the Caribbean coast for several days and are in the highlands above Santa Marta. We'll be three days in the coastal mountains before heading for Bogotá and home. It's been a great trip." - BiHoa Caldwell

Gabrielle Kazuko Nomura to wed Casey Grant Gainer

Gabrielle Nomura, Seattle board member and newsletter editor, will wed her sweetheart of five years, Casey Gainer on August, 16, 2014. Casey is a trombonist and emcee for Northwest blues/hip-hop group, The Bad Tenants. Gabrielle is a dancer, as well as Media Relations Manager for Seattle Opera. The two met while working as editors of the college newspaper at Western Washington University. The last half-a-decade together has brought them artistic collaborations; new friends and family members, and many adventures in the Pacific

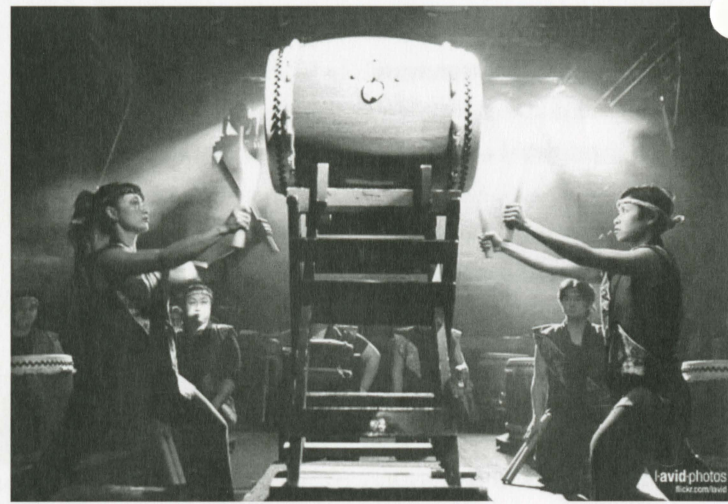


Northwest, Alaska and Hawaii. Gabrielle appreciates how Casey always dances with her at the Obon festival, and has adopted the "Japanenglish" vocabulary she grew up using, including *omiyage* and *gohan*. They are currently working on folding 1,000 cranes and look forward to their next chapter as husband and wife (which will hopefully include a couple of hapa babies!).

Telling the WWII incarceration story with dance, taiko and theater

Gabrielle Nomura, dancer/choreographer and JACL board member, is collaborating with Seattle Kokon Taiko to create *Farewell Shikata ga nai*, a piece that will use dance, taiko and theater to tell the story of the Japanese American World War II experience. Gabrielle has had the pleasure of working with several JACL members on this project, including Kaila Yoshitomi, whose poem *Euphemisms that feed on silence* will be featured in the work. Additionally, she's working closely with Stan Shikuma, a per-

former with SKT. Board member Bill Tashima has also provided invaluable advisement and support on the project. The cast includes a variety of Asian American professional dancers and actors.



Seattle Kokon Taiko and Gabrielle Nomura are collaborating on a performance together. Photo by Lavid Photos

Look for the 20-minute piece at the 92nd Annual JACL banquet on March 21, 2014; at Relay Dance Collective's show April 11-13 at Theatre Puget Sound; at the API Heritage Festival on May 4; and at Wing Luke Museum in June. To learn more about this project as it evolves, go to gabriellenomura.com/dance.



Thanks for supporting JACL

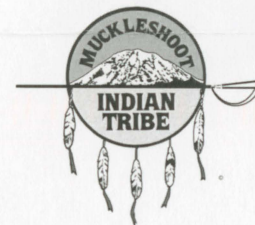
General Fund

- Anonymous (Liberty Mutual Employee Giving and Match) -3 donations
- Anonymous-In Memory of Elaine Reiko Akagi
- Loni Haslam-In Honor of Ken Kurata
- Taryn Imamura (Microsoft Employee Giving and Match)
- Mits & Lilly Kodama
- Elsie Taniguchi
- Bradley Yamauchi (Microsoft Employee Giving and Match)
- Harry Yoshimura

Elaine Reiko Akagi Scholarship Fund

- Anonymous
- The Elaine Akagi Fan Club
- Sharon Uyeda

"Thank you to our generous sponsors, The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and AT&T"



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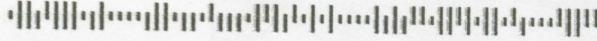
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