



SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Fall 2014

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

President's column



By Toshiko Hasegawa

To the members of the JACL Seattle Chapter, Congratulations! Of over 100 chapters in 26 different states, the Seattle Chapter has been awarded by the national organization the George J. Inagaki Chapter of the

Millennium Award in recognition of our "outstanding efforts and participation in social, civic, educational and legislative activities in 2012-2013."

Seattle also received from the National JACL Legacy Fund the amount of \$3,000 which will be used to bring Marsha Aizumi to Seattle in 2015! Marsha travels the country to speak on her book, "Two Spirits, One Heart", which tells the story of one mother's journey towards inner peace and acceptance of her transgender son, Aiden. Marsha was honored at our annual chapter banquet last March as the recipient of our Civil Rights Award, recognized for her advocacy of LGBTQ rights nationwide.

A particularly strong point of pride is our primary sponsorship of a beautiful interpretive dance production choreographed by our own chapter board member, Gabrielle Kazuko Nomura. A collaboration between Relay Dance Collective and Seattle Kokon Taiko, Farewell, "Shikata Ga Nai" tells the story of perseverance through a time of overt racism and wartime hysteria against Japanese Americans. Sound-sampled clips of propaganda from WWII were accompanied by dance and rhythm, performed by a predominantly Asian-American cast.

Nomura's production is a community-building project with a strong social justice statement. Her piece creates

understanding to the cultural implications of the Japanese American WWII experience, and is a prime example of theatrical entertainment used to bring the audience to a place of empathy and cultural awareness.

However, other Seattle productions embraced a very different interpretation of the intersection of culture, theatre and entertainment. Sponsored by The City of Seattle and performed at the Seattle Repertory Theatre, the Seattle Gilbert & Sullivan Society's production "The Mikado" earned itself national attention for it's use of yellow-face and stereotypical imagery.

The Seattle JACL was founded long ago in response to the need of the Japanese community for solidarity and protection in a time when there was no shortage of discriminatory policies. Our membership fortified during WWII, when the reality of zero representation was at it's most dire.

The imagery used in "The Mikado" in the early 1800's were adopted by the American government during WWII and used in mainstream media as propaganda meant to create a negative public sentiment around the Japanese. This dehumanizing imagery was a tool to create a perception of Japanese people, dividing them from the rest of the country. When you are Asian American, the only time these sorts of images are ever used is against you. These images resonate on a very personal level and it is perfectly within our bounds to say it is no longer acceptable in mainstream productions. Enough is enough. This is not just

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a Japanese American issue- too often people of Asian descent are subjected to mean-spirited taunts and impersonations.

JACL Seattle participated in the community-organized protests. When artistic freedom becomes the basis of racial targeting and making a mockery of a culture, it is not only that group's right to name it as offensive, but it is their responsibility to do so. Our goal is to educate, create a space for dialogue and ultimately to foster an American culture where we can celebrate our multiculturalism in a way that is appreciated.

As a result of the protests, people from around the nation were speaking out against "The Mikado". We learned that it has been played over 400 times throughout the country this year alone. The Seattle Repertory Theatre facilitated a community dialogue on Artistic Freedom vs. Artistic Responsibility, which was live-streamed nationally on internet-radio. Over 400 people RSVP'd to attend and the theatre was filled to the brim. I was inspired by the vast public interest to understand the issue.

The conversation itself was so "very Seattle" in the way it passively aggressively circumnavigated around the direct issue of "what is wrong with "The Mikado" "how stereotypes are harmful" and "why yellow-face isn't okay" to a larger conversation about being culturally sensitive while pursuing artistic endeavors, in general. Although it was a good conversation to have, community protesters and the Gilbert & Sullivan society still deserve to have a more direct and targeted conversation. When that talk comes together (sooner than later), we will be sure to post about it online.

JACL is proud of our work monitoring and responding to issues pertaining to civil rights. Pertinent to this role is our effort to raise awareness in the community to things that are going on locally and beyond. If you are a member of the community and are looking for ways to get involved in civil rights-oriented projects or community activities, JACL is happy to offer avenues of participation. Stay informed by following us on Facebook and Twitter @ JACL Seattle. You can also e-mail us directly at info@jaclseattle.org.

Respectfully yours,

Toshiko Hasegawa

President

JACL SEATTLE



Minidoka Pilgrimage 2014

This year there were 180 participants at the 2014 Minidoka Pilgrimage that took place in Twin Falls, Idaho. There were visits to the National Park Service site for a guided tour and the closing ceremony on the last day of the 4-day event, June 26-29.

Most of the participants took the 13-plus hour bus ride from the Bellevue College parking lot to Twin Falls, Idaho, which is how our Issei and Nisei family members traveled in 1942. Along the way, the pilgrims were encouraged to tell their stories.

This year's highlight was the commemoration of the reconstructed guard tower that stood at the entrance to the camp. Other highlights from the pilgrimage were: visiting (inside) the original barrack building and mess hall; the completed fence at the site that runs about one mile in length from the stone entrance buildings along the North Side Canal to the historic swimming hole. There was also significant upgrading to the fire station building. And some of participants visited the new Minidoka collections at the Hagerman Fossil Beds.

In a change from previous pilgrimages, original educational programming was organized and held at the Red Lion Hotel in Twin Falls. In previous years, attendees attended the symposium at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. Another programming change was having a closing

JACL

2014 Seattle Chapter Board

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dinner on Saturday evening, which allowed the pilgrims to head home earlier after the Sunday closing ceremony.

Nikkei Arts News

JACL members help launch Heart Mountain Opera.
JACL board members Mary Ann Goto and Gabrielle Nomura volunteered their time to assist Seattle-based composer and opera singer Sarah Mattox in the creation of "Heart Mountain" the opera, based on the life and journal of Kara Matsushita Kondo, a woman born in the Yakima Valley and interned with her family at Heart Mountain during WWII. Currently, Gabrielle and Mary Ann are trying to assist Sarah to raise the funds needed to put on a workshop--a vital first step in the creation of any new piece. This opera will be done in partnership with Vespertine Opera and Yakima Valley Museum; the ultimate product will be a fully-staged opera that will be performed in a variety of venues across Washington in 2017.

Seattle Opera gives developing "Belongings Project" works
JACL board member Gabrielle Nomura is excited to report that Seattle Opera recently gave an informal workshop performance of its new opera in development (separate of the Heart Mountain opera). The new work, loosely based, in part, on the story of Mary Matsu-Grünewald, was developed through the company's community "Belongings Project" (<http://seattleopera.org/belongings/>). There will be more announced on this performance, which will eventually be performed outside of McCaw Hall, in the coming months.

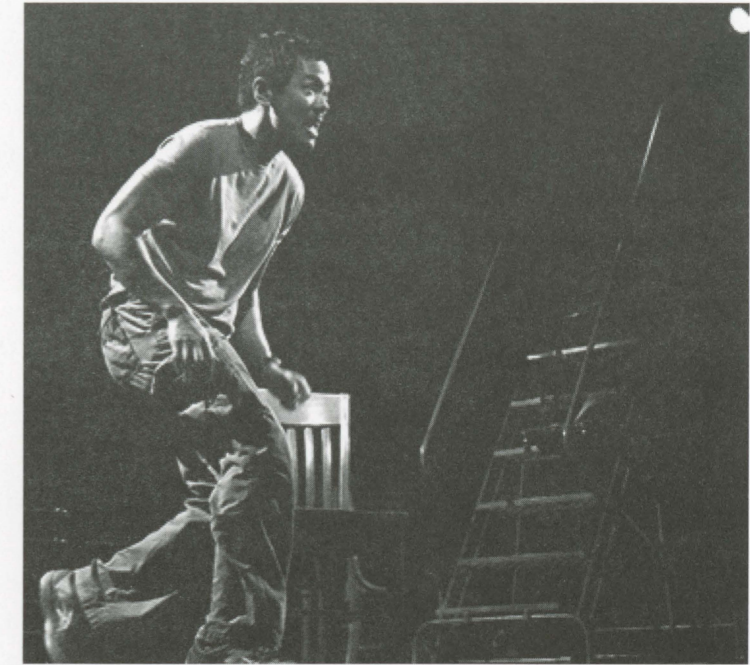
Gabrielle says: "As a member of the Japanese American Citizens League, I've been so pleased with how my employer, Seattle Opera, has truly valued my input as a member of the Nikkei community as this work is being developed. I've had the opportunity to connect Seattle Opera's education department with the Nikkei Community Network, for example.

As a dancer/choreographer who recently completed a spring tour of my own work on the World War II incarceration, I am beyond excited to both be helping Seattle Opera, as well as Sarah Mattox, a former Seattle Opera singer, in the development of two separate performances that will tell the story of our community -- a crucial part of history for all Americans. Considering the universal power of the arts, I urge you to learn more about these productions; while both deal with similar subject matter, they are quite unique and special in their own ways."

To learn more, contact Gabrielle at gabbarina@gmail.com.

"Hold These Truths" at ACT Theatre.

In late July and early August, ACT Theatre staged Jeanne Sakata's



Joel de la Fuente stars in the play about UW student Gordon Hirabayashi, who resisted the incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry during World War II. Photo by Lia Chang

one-man show inspired by the true story of University of Washington student Gordon Hirabayashi. Starring Joel de la Fuente, the piece depicted how Hirabayashi agonized over U.S. government orders to forcibly remove and mass incarcerate all people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast. As he fights to reconcile his country's betrayal with his passionate belief in the U.S. Constitution, Hirabayashi journeys toward a greater understanding of America's triumphs-and a confrontation with its failures.

Kaori Nakamura farewell performance at PNB

Principal dancer Kaori Nakamura gave her farewell performance with Pacific Northwest Ballet after 17 years with Seattle's ballet company. Nakamura, a Gumma, Japan native, was interviewed in Northwest Asian Weekly, as well as The Seattle Times on her accomplishments. Seattle dance lovers will miss seeing her fiery, playful presence on stage and rock-solid technique on the McCaw Hall stage!

Walk for Rice 2014

Again this year Seattle JACL/Team Elaine participated in AACRS's 24th annual Walk for Rice at Seward Park on Saturday, June 28. The team raised just under \$1,800.

Participants were: Brian Ortis, Kelley Ortis, Nora Ortis, David Asamoto, Richard Okabe, Rae Hanashiro, Bill Tashima with Claire, Mary Ann Goto, Bob Hasegawa, Bihoa Caldwell and Ann F. Lindwall.

This year, ACRS raised almost \$200,000 for their food bank, which is the one of the most visited food banks in King County, and the only one in the state that regularly acquires foods to meet Asian Pacific dietary needs.

Evening Magazine's Kim Holcomb emceed the fundraiser. ACRS spokesman Owen Lei said 5,400 people make more than 120,000 visits to the food bank each year. Most are children under 18 years old or seniors.

JACL Teacher Training Workshop at BAM

By Stan Shikuma

On Saturday, August 9, National JACL sponsored a Teacher Training Workshop on Japanese American History and WWII Incarceration at the Bellevue Arts Museum in conjunction with the exhibit *The Art of Gaman*. Eleven teachers and museum docents participated in the daylong event, led by National Education Committee chair Greg Marutani with assistance from NEC members Sandra Grant (Intermountain District) and Stan Shikuma (Pacific NW District) and local members Eileen Yamada-Lamphere and Elsie Taniguchi (Puyallup and Seattle Chapters). The morning session included a panel on the WWII incarceration experience with Lilly Kodama (Bainbridge Island, Manzanar, Minidoka), Yosh Nakagawa (Seattle, Puyallup, Minidoka), Elsie Taniguchi (Fife, Puyallup, Minidoka) and Anna Hasegawa (Long Beach, Santa Anita, Jerome). Each gave a brief description of their experience being forced from their home and incarcerated. Anna also told the story of her husband's family, which split over the "Loyalty Questionnaire" and did not reconcile until attending a Tule Lake Pilgrimage 60 years later.

The afternoon session ended with a panel on local resources with Gloria Shigeno, Lilly Kodama, Allen Nakamoto, Eileen Yamada-Lamphere and Stan Shikuma giving information on:

- Minidoka National Historic Site/Minidoka Pilgrimage
- Bainbridge Island JA Community/Bainbridge Island JA Exclusion Memorial/Bainbridge Island Historical Museum
- Nisei Veterans Committee/NVC Foundation/NVC Hall/JA Memorial Wall
- Puyallup Fairgrounds/"Camp Harmony" Committee
- Tule Lake Unit of Valor in the Pacific National Monument/Tule Lake Pilgrimage

Information was also provided on other local resources for teachers: Densho, JCCCW, Panama Hotel, and Strawberry Days (a

book on the history and demise of the Japanese American community in Bellevue).

A big thank you goes to Eileen and Elsie for setting up a marvelous information booth with poster boards, educational materials and multiple handouts for participants. Gloria, Lilly, Allen and Stan also brought items to share. Karen Yoshitomi, Pacific NW District Office staff, also offered support and insight on the Redress Movement. We want to thank the Bellevue Arts Museum for hosting the workshop and give a special thanks to Eileen Herbert, BAM Education Director, for coordinating all the logistics and attending to all our needs.

This Teacher Training Workshop was one in a series held around the country in Albuquerque, NM; Bellevue, WA; Merced, CA; Houston, TX; and Minneapolis, MN. Funding for the workshops was provided through the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant program administered through the National Park Service.

The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps, 1942 - 1946 will be on display at BAM until October 12, 2014. See more at: http://www.bellevuearts.org/exhibitions/current/art_of_gaman/index.html#sthash.opvg8Mh0.dpuf

The Art of Enduring the Seemingly Unbearable with Patience and Dignity

Now through October 12, see the arts and crafts made in Japanese American concentration camps from 1942-1946 at the Bellevue Arts Museum (BAM). Show your JACL membership card or AARP card and receive a discount off the \$10 admission.

To get the most of this 120 plus objects exhibit, read each one's story and note the materials used. From a water color of the Tule Lake WRA Project (the camp) painted on the back sides of two taped together E.O. 9066 notices to a pair of scissors made from scrap metal to woodwork of fine detail to a Jimmy Mirikitani watercolor, this is our community's expression of gaman through its resourcefulness and spirit.

The Stranger says it best in their review, "Every flared accent on a table, every curvature and inlay in a scrap-made jewelry box was a blaze of spirit—and a noble middle finger to their jailers. Dozens of those righteous middle fingers are on display ..."

As an additional bonus and incentive to see this exhibit, the BAM has First Fridays, when admission is free to the museum. And also on September 5, the First Friday Talks featured Wendy

Maruyama, the artist of the large-scale sculpture "Executive Order 9066: The Tag Project" installation also at the BAM. Wendy told about the inspiration for the project and how this was put together with hundreds of volunteers. If you were on a Minidoka Pilgrimage, you probably noticed a few of these hundreds of volunteers working on the tags after the day's activities. This presentation is Free for BAM members, \$5 for non-members.

Seattle well represented at JACL National Convention



Seattle Chapter attendees (with supporters) awarded the George Inagaki Chapter Award.

From all accounts, members and youth sponsored by the Seattle Chapter enjoyed the recent 45th national JACL convention in San Jose, California. Imagine flying to an airport named after one of our own! It was very special to fly into Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport named after the former U.S. Congressman, Secretary of the Departments of Commerce and Transportation and the first Asian American to be elected Mayor of a major American city. Seattle Chapter officers and board members who attended the convention were: President Toshiko Hasegawa; Governor of the Pacific NW District Sheldon Arakaki; President-elect Paul Tashima; Bill Tashima; Elsie Taniguchi; and Arlene Oki. Stan Shikuma, chair of the local Power of Words Committee attended the convention as a member of the National Education Committee.

The 10th largest city in the U.S. has a large Japanese American community and one of three remaining historic Japantowns in the country. Many JACLers were delighted to participate in the annual Bon Odori and street fair. Adding to "fun" events was a memorable concert by "Hiroshima" and "Valley of the Heart," a staged reading about the World War II interaction of a Japanese American and Chicano family.

Though the plenary sessions started early in the morning and were quite long, it was a good opportunity for newer members to learn about the organization and its place in Japanese America. It was the first for many to participate in rather formal proceedings with a strict adherence to Roberts Rule procedures.

Running concurrently to the plenary sessions of the convention was the Youth/ Student Council. It was a privilege to sponsor the following youth who represented the Seattle Chapter: Alex Luke, Sarah Baker, Nick Nakao, and Hannah Fumiko Russ. Nicole Gaddie, our youth rep. to the National Youth/Student Council was elected for a two-year term as Chair of the Council.

Delegates attended many workshops including one featuring Seattle Chapter honoree Marsha Aizumi who led discussions on actions to support families of API lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) youth.

Marsha also received the JA of the Biennium award along with famed civil rights attorney, Korematsu legal team leader and co-founder of the Asian Law Caucus Dale Minami, and San Jose Taiko masters Roy and PJ Hirabayashi.

It was a great year for the Seattle Chapter. We were honored to receive the George Inagaki Chapter Award for outstanding efforts for social, civic, educational, environmental and legislative activities. Kudos to Bill Tashima who developed the 70 page application! We also received a Legacy Fund grant to develop an API support group for LGBT youth and their families.

Resolutions which honored former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, Mitsue Endo, and Min Yasui and another which stated the JACL's opposition to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling to allow companies such as Hobby Lobby to be exempt from providing birth control to its employees based on the company's personal and religious beliefs were approved by delegates and proxies from 110 chapters.

Votes for members of the National Board are cast by delegates every two years. The following officers were elected to the JACL National Board:

President: David Lin

Vice President General Operations: unfilled – appointment to be made

Vice President Public Affairs: Jeff Moy

Vice President Planning & Development: Chip Larouche

Vice President Membership: Toshi Abe

Secretary/Treasurer: Matt Farrells

Youth/Student Council Chair: Nicole Gaddie

Youth/Student Council Rep: Michele Yamashiro

The convention ended with hugs and smiles. A successful gathering. We are already looking forward to the 2015 National JACL Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Youth Impression of JACL National Convention

by Sarah Baker, 2014 National Convention Awardee

As a brand new member of the JACL, going to the National Convention was absolutely astounding. Having sat in on a board meeting as a non-member, I was able to get a small sample of what the JACL does and stands for. The National Convention gave me the whole picture, and what a large picture it truly is!

There were many highlights from my trip, ranging from the convention itself, to spending time with new friends and the JACL family. Seeing true democracy in action, as well as seeing what the JACL does not only on a community level, but on a national one, was a real learning experience. Witnessing all of the different delegates from across the country come together to work as one unit to figure out how we will apply ourselves through the next year gave me hope for our future as Americans; we can create change and better the lives of others. I am so inspired by the work that everyone does, and I am extremely proud of our chapter. I hope to become deeply involved in future endeavors! Additionally, I was really impressed by the youth delegates; I met some very professional young people who want to-and will-make a difference in the world.

I want to thank Toshiko so much for the opportunity to go and witness what we really do. I hope to attend next year as a delegate!

Youth Impression of JACL National Convention

by James Alex Luke, 2014 National Convention Awardee

I first learned about the JACL during my last semester of college, when I took a class on Asian immigrants in American society. I learned that Nisei decided, in a 1930 JACL convention located in Seattle, to tackle racial prejudice by becoming the first Asian American organization to actively study and partake in the US political system. I also learned about the JACL's role during WWII and the civil rights movement, but the class didn't cover much of the JACL's history from over the last couple decades. So when I found out that about the scholarship opportunity to attend this year's national convention, I was curious to find out how the organization operates today. To be honest, I also applied because I can't afford to travel within the foreseeable future.

At the convention, I was inspired by the involvement and com-

mitment shown by many of the members, speakers, and leaders I came into contact with. I attended a handful of speeches and workshops that reinforced the values of social justice and empathy into my mind. And when there weren't any meetings going on, I had a great time with fellow convention attendees, but mostly with Seattle chapter members. Don't tell the others, but I think we had the most fun.

Looking back, the national convention was one of the best times of my life. From it I've gained a better perspective, new friends, and wonderful memories. I'm very thankful for having the opportunity to attend. I no longer live in Seattle, but look forward to continue participating in the Hollywood chapter of the JACL.

NVC Memorial Day Service



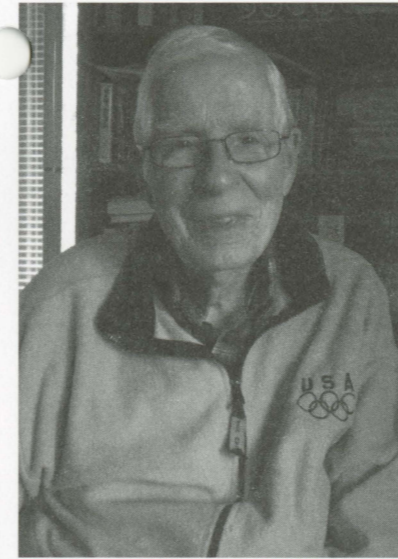
Wreath presentation by Timmy Oishi, son of Board Member Patrick Oishi; Representative Jim McDermott; President Elect Paul Tashima; and NVC's Frank Shinoda.

This year's Nisei Veterans Committee Memorial Day service took place at Lake View Cemetery on May 26th. Each year, local organizations lay wreaths at the base of the Nisei War Memorial Monument to honor all Japanese American soldiers, including the 64 Nikkei soldiers who fell in combat. Guest speaker Major General Kenneth Dahl from the Joint Base Lewis-McChord reminded the audience to honor the fallen not only through quiet contemplation, but also by enjoying time with family and friends.

JACL Seattle Says Good-Bye to a Pacific Citizen

“Whenever I saw Hugh, I immediately would smile. It was always good see this wonderful, decent, thoughtful and knowledgeable man of integrity. Hugh was always respectful and listened to others before speaking, and when he spoke, Hugh always offered practical and reasoned insight. We all would

be much better off if we all could be more like Hugh Burleson.” – Bill Tashima



Hugh Burleson

Drafted out of U.C. Berkeley in the closing months of World War II, Hugh is trained as an infantryman for the invasion of Imperial Japan, but the war ends and he is sent to Occupied Japan where he meets and falls in love with Kimie in Yokohama. This tour of duty is the start of his love of all things Japanese.

His respect, admiration and support for the JACL came as a result of the organization's collective immigration reform efforts in helping to pass the Walter-McCarran Act of 1952. This Act allowed Hugh to bring Kimie and her daughter to the United States ending a three year struggle with Occupation regulations and immigration laws which said “No.”

The GI Bill enables Hugh to earn his Masters in Asian Studies at U.C. Berkeley and he begins his career as a Foreign Service Officer in the US Information Agency serving in many posts throughout Asia including Saigon in 1975. The accumulated and variety of experiences helped form his perspective as a Pacific Citizen with a life-long mission to promote cross-cultural trans-Pacific understanding.

“He was devoted to fostering Japan-U.S. relations through the JACL and the sister city program. I will really, really miss him and going to the conventions will not be the same without his presence.” – Arlene Oki

Hugh, a Thousand Club Lifetime member, was one the few charter Millennium Club members who continued renewing year after year. He was president of the Lake Washington chapter and a Seattle chapter board member among his many roles at the chapter level. He was a fixture at many conventions attending as a chapter delegate and as the district rep to the Resolutions Committee. His service on that committee also included a term as chair at the 2004 Honolulu convention. He served at the district level in a variety of

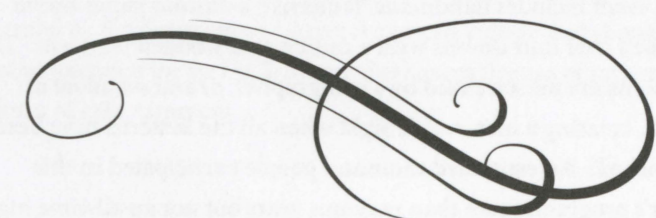
roles from Pacific Citizen Editorial Board representative to Vice-Governor. The district recognized his contributions by awarding JACL's Silver Pin for his years of service.

“I will always be grateful to Hugh for his support at the Honolulu convention when the Seattle Resolution reiterating support for same sex marriage was ruled redundant by the Resolutions Committee. Hugh worked out a parliamentary procedure for me that allowed him to read into the record all the past actions of JACL to support marriage equality thereby obviating the need for any resolution. *Kashikoi!*” – Bill Tashima

“I always appreciated his thoughts during board meetings and talking to him about attending my first convention as President in DC last year.” – Heidi Park

Until the end of last year, Hugh was also president of the Bellevue Sister Cities Association and active in the Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association (ENMA). ENMA is the organizer of Aki Matsuri, the Japanese cultural fall festival currently in its 17th year, which started as the “Japan Week in Bellevue Committee”. And Hugh was one of the founding organizers for this along with the JACL Lake Washington chapter. 2014 Aki Matsuri will return to Bellevue College, September 6th & 7th. For more info: www.enma.org or call 425-861-7865

“Hugh was one of the giants in the Nikkei community who I greatly respected, as did many, many others. With his soft-spoken manner and keen wit, he always had a kind word for everyone and was easy to talk with. Conversations with him were always highly educational for me, due to his vast knowledge of many subjects, especially history. JACL and the community has lost another truly dedicated supporter and honored elder - he will be greatly missed by us all.” – Bill Tashima



Seattle Pride Parade



Representatives from Seattle JACL marched in the 40th Annual Seattle Pride Parade.

Representatives from the Seattle JACL marched with Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) in the 40th annual Seattle Pride Parade. Members held up signs reading “You are loved” translated in several languages, including Japanese, Korean, and Tagalog. This message of inclusivity aligns with Seattle JACL’s mission to provide better services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer members of the Asian/Pacific Islander community. Several outreach events are being planned for the next two years to help bridge the gap between LGBTQ support services and the API community, including speaking events by community figures and private “Family Teas.” If you are interested in helping or attending, please send a note to APIAllies@gmail.com.

From Hiroshima to Hope

JACL once again sponsored From Hiroshima to Hope, the lantern floating ceremony held at Green Lake in Seattle on August 6. This ceremony, based on Buddhist tradition, honors the memory of those who died in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as others who have died a violent death. The event includes handmade ‘lanterns’: a custom paper sleeve slipped over four dowels with a candle on a wooden platform. The lanterns are personalized by a calligrapher, lit and set afloat at dusk, creating a memorable sight when all the lanterns have been launched. An estimated thousand people participated in this year’s program, more than previous years but not an all-time high. The Seattle event is one of the largest outside of Japan. Shirley Shimada, chair of the FHTH Planning Committee, said “we are grateful that we had so many volunteers and sponsors and are looking forward to next year’s program which will be the 70th Anniversary of the atomic bombings.”

Newsletter Article-Proposes Bylaw Changes, Part II

The Chapter Board convened an ad hoc committee to review the Chapter’s current Bylaws. The committee is composed of Marcine Anderson, BiHoa Caldwell, Ann Fujii Lindwall, Toshiko Hasegawa, Ken Kurata, Heidi Park, Bill Tashima, and Paul Tashima. We outlined the next set of proposed changes in the Bylaws below. The changes will be presented at the October 2014 Board meeting. The full text will be available on the Chapter webpage (www.jaclseattle.org) after the October meeting. The Board will vote to adopt the changes at the November 2014 Board meeting.

The gist of the changes are to bring the Chapter Bylaws in line with current or anticipated changes in the National JACL Bylaws and also to streamline the organization as mandated by the current Bylaws. Summary of proposed changes:

- Add “sexual orientation” to the protected statuses for which membership cannot be barred;
- Add “legacy” to list of items the Seattle JACL seeks to preserve;
- Remove “Special membership classification” for non-citizen resident members;
- Change “Booster membership” to “associate membership”;
- Designate Student/Youth member as “age 25 or under”;
- Correct a number of grammatical errors;
- Streamline the number of standing committees; and
- Clarify the current nomination/election procedure.

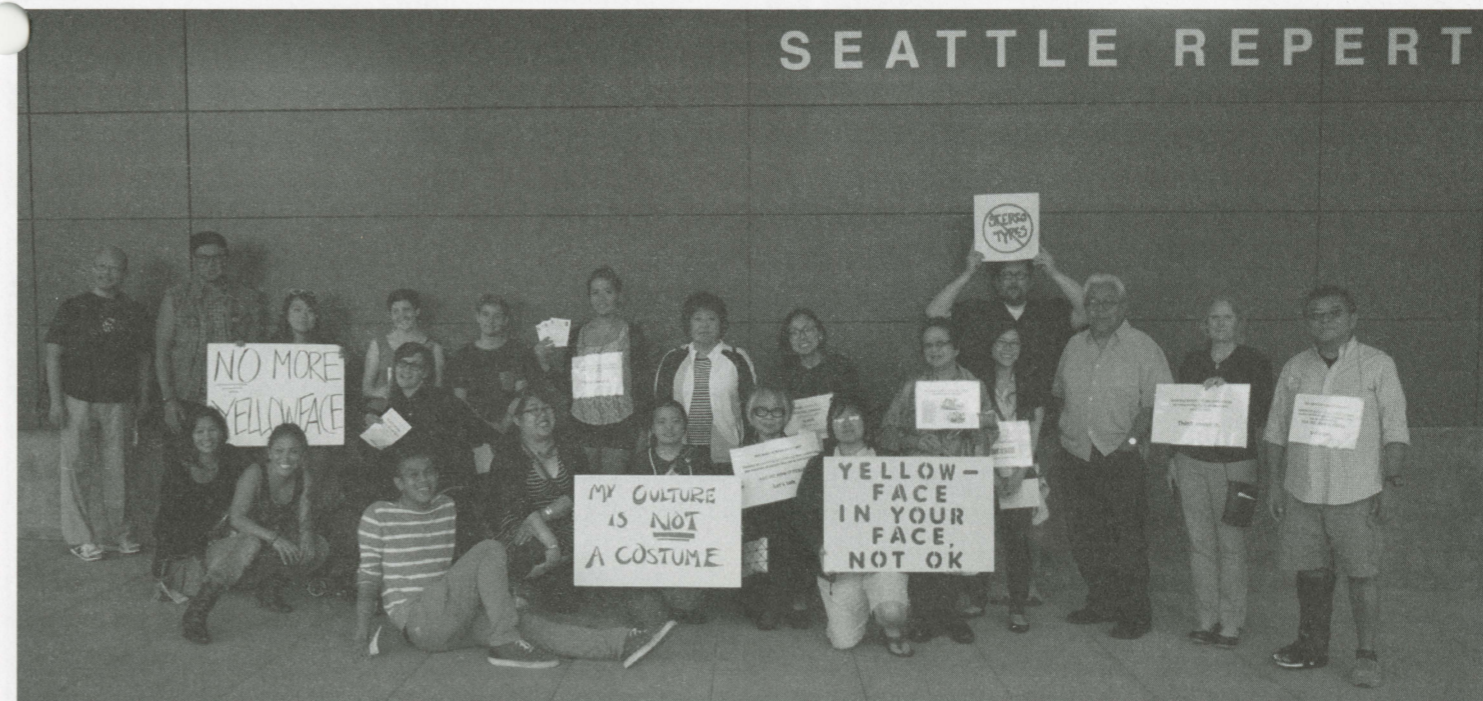
Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Kimochi Room at the Seattle Keiro Nursing Home. Members are invited to the October and November meetings and will be given an opportunity to speak to any of the changes. If you have an opinion and cannot make this meeting, please feel free to email your thoughts to Bill Tashima, interim Bylaw Committee Chair, at

Donations

General Fund

- Anna Kurata-In Honor of Ken Kurata
- Seattle JACL API LGBT PFLAG Programs
- AT&T
- National JACL Legacy Fund

Seattle JACL strives to be a leader in ‘The Mikado’ dialogue Group opposes Seattle Gilbert & Sullivan Society’s production



Several Seattle JACL Board Members along with other members of the community protest ‘The Mikado’ outside Seattle Rep Theatre, July 25th. Photo by Ryan Catabay.

The Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League announced today that, in addition to opposing Seattle Gilbert & Sullivan Society’s recent staging of “The Mikado,” it is committed to being a leader in the robust dialogue surrounding the issue.

“We will work diligently to find opportunities for dialogue with members of Seattle Gilbert Sullivan Society, Seattle’s Asian American organizations, civil rights organizations and Seattle’s arts community,” said Chapter President, Toshiko Hasegawa. “From this situation, there is an opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue. We will bring our honest perspective to the table, sharing our history and experiences, and we look forward to reaching out to community partners to join us. I am confident we can move forward with greater mutual respect and understanding.”

With that said, the Seattle chapter’s official stance can be seen in the statement released earlier in July 2014, by National JACL. The national statement contends that, while “The Mikado” was written in the 1800s, its historical context as British satire no longer resonates with present day reality; in its stead, the audience is presented with comedic hyperbole wrapped in Japanese stereotype.

The group believes that cultural misappropriation has never been, and should never be considered an acceptable art form. The practice of yellow face in 2014 is especially troubling to Puget Sound’s Asian American community, given the history of racism its members have endured.

For example, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied the immigration of Chinese laborers. Executive Order 9066 in 1942 ordered the incarceration of all people of Japanese ancestry. Japanese Americans on Bainbridge Island were the first in the country to be forcibly removed from their homes to be incarcerated in American concentration camps. Well into the 1960’s, Seattle’s Asian Americans were denied access to specific neighborhoods, from purchasing homes, from sitting for the bar exam and were subject to many other exclusionary practices.

Racial stereotypes and exaggerated, negative caricatures of Asians were once used by the U.S. military and mainstream media to divide society and create negative sentiments against Asian Americans. The performance by the Seattle Gilbert & Sullivan Society is a reinforcement of negative stereotypes that have been long been harmful to the perception of Asian American culture and should not be tolerated today. JACL Seattle denounces the use of racism as a form of entertainment.



Seattle JACL and Aki Kurose Middle School supporters join together for the annual 1/2 - day clean-up.



JACL PNW Governor, Sheldon Arakaki, recently installed Puyallup Valley JACL officers: President - Elsie Taniguchi; Vice-Pres - Eileen Lamphere; Secretary - Liz Dunbar; and Treasurer - Dudley Yamane. Sheldon Arakaki and Elsie Taniguchi also serve on the Seattle JACL Board.

The Japanese American Citizens League, the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, was founded in the 1920's to address issues of discrimination targeted specifically at persons of Japanese ancestry residing in the United States. The Seattle Chapter JACL has been unafraid to tackle difficult and, often, controversial issues related to the wartime experience of our community and other civil rights issues. While the JACL's founding mission was focused on protecting the civil rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry, today we are committed to protecting the rights of all segments of the Asian Pacific American community and beyond.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday October 18, 2014

Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church
3001 24th Ave. S • Seattle, WA 98144
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

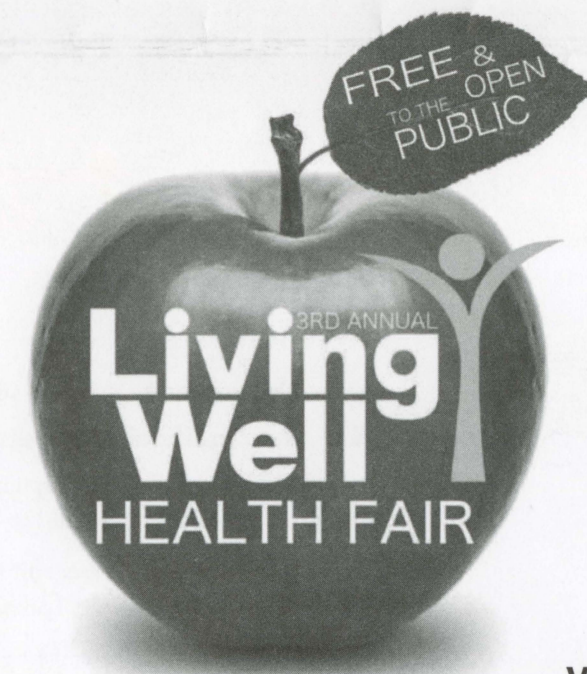
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맛있는 음식과 환경 변화 로서, 가족과 본인의 건강 증진을 배우세요.

從美味食品到環保的替代品，您將學習如何為您和您的家人改善健康與保健。

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