



SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014

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

Remembering Henry Miyatake: A man with the plan

By Bob Shimabukuro

Originally published in The International Examiner

“History demands that the person who gave birth to an idea must be recognized when it reaches maturation.”—Washington Supreme Court Justice Charles Z. Smith, on Henry Miyatake, 1997

A one-liner from the October 3 edition of the Auburn (Washington) Reporter reported under “Deaths: Miyatake, Henry, 85, September 16.

That’s it.

After all he did for the Japanese American community and everyone who was affected by E.O. 9066, which means all of us residing in the United States, he gets a one-liner in the County Register. I shed a few tears over that thought. And then I wrote:

“Great man, restless mind. Died alone, apparently; Maybe he wanted it that way. RIP, Henry.”

I couldn’t think of anything more to write.

Later, I remembered half-promises to him.

“Bob,” Henry said about three-to-four years ago, “you haven’t finished writing about the Internment.”

“Yes, I have,” I said.

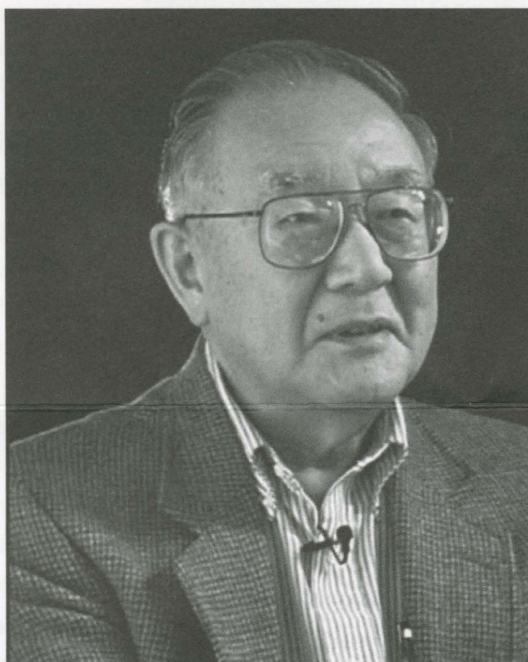
“No you haven’t,” he answered, handing me a book.

“You’ve got to read this. You’ll see what I’m talking about.”

I looked at it. *Day of Deceit: The Truth About FDR and Pearl Harbor*, by Robert D. Stinnett. I thought, “Oh no, not another book about Magic Cables and stuff like that. What’s Henry doing reading this kind of crap?”

He must have read my mind. “Just read it, Bob,” he said. “It’s the real story of United States getting into the war. And why we ended up in the camps.”

“But it’s not my kind of reading,” I said. “It’s all words, numbers, and people’s names. Lots and lots of description. No dialogue. Tough to follow. My mind drifts too much.”



Henry Miyatake was one of the earliest proponents behind the redress movement from the early 70s. Image from a video at Densho Encyclopedia.

Henry made me promise that I’d take a look at the book. I did. And I knew why it consumed him. But after slogging through five-to-six chapters of the book, I was asking myself, do I really want to write anything on this?

I figured out what got Henry’s attention. Stinnett was making the case that President Franklin Roosevelt knew of Japan’s plans to bomb Pearl Harbor, but he wanted to let it happen in order to unite the country into entering the war and, perhaps, even incarcerating us.

But I really didn’t see any reason to pursue a book, let alone finish *Day of Deceit*. Whether we were pawns in FDR’s political battles or the entire country’s scapegoat for the war made no dif-

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ference to me. In the end the President, Supreme Court, Congress, and every U.S. citizen shoulder the responsibility. They all used us for pawns in their game in which people who can be identified by their looks and appearances may be sacrificed without regard to the laws written on the books. No different than what is happening now.

But I just couldn't tell Henry that I wasn't interested. Because he was a very persistent guy. And then I'd end up making a promise I never would keep ... as opposed to only a half-promise. So I avoided giving him his book back. And I've felt bad every time I see this book in my house. It's too late now to give it back.

For those who don't know about Henry's historic achievements, he was the "Man with THE Plan," the Seattle Plan for redress. In November 1979, Congressman Mike Lowry introduced the first redress bill for the 120,000 Japanese Americans who were incarcerated for no reason other than their ancestry under the guise of "military necessity." Henry's plan was the basis for that bill.

Henry did a lot of research, pitched his plan to his friend, Mike Nakata, who talked to his friend Shosuke Sasaki, and all of them started talking to community members and organizations, including national Japanese American Citizens League, and reached out to the remotest parts of the country to gather enough votes in Congress to redress a wrong.

This 20-year organizing campaign, ending in the 1990s when payments of \$20,000 went to individuals who were incarcerated or forcibly evicted from where they were living is one of the most remarkable stories of the 20th century.

I asked some of the younger folks in the community if they had heard about Henry Miyatake who had just died last month. Too many of those I asked did not know who he was. I felt sad once again.

So I can't let this rest. There are a lot more stories about Henry Miyatake. In a month or two or even three, we will have a memorial service for Henry. All of us who knew Henry should get together with those who did not know Henry and what he did for everyone who cares about democracy and everyone who takes it for granted.

We need this, whether we know it or not.

I, along with Tom Ikeda of Densho, Japanese American Citizens League Seattle Chapter, Nisei Veterans Committee and other individuals and organizations will be working on a memorial service for Henry.

Bob Shimabukuro is the author of *Born in Seattle: The Campaign for Japanese American Redress*.



Honoring a redress hero, the late Miyatake

Henry Miyatake, a champion for the Japanese American redress movement, passed away quietly in Federal Way on Sept. 16, but the Seattle community would not let him go without some closure. Seattle JACL was proud to be an organizer of the Henry Miyatake Memorial Celebration on December 6 at NVC Hall. Incoming JACL President and yonsei, Paul Tashima, spoke at the event, and reflected on the significance of community heroes such as the late Miyatake, who have fought for the U.S. Government to officially acknowledge the tragic mistake it made during World War II when Japanese Americans were forcibly removed and incarcerated. Below is Paul's speech from the event.

My name is Paul Tashima and I'm the incoming president of the Seattle JACL, but I'm not here speaking on behalf of the JACL. I was asked to speak as a yonsei and, to my deep regret, someone that never knew Henry Miyatake.

I spent the first 23 years of my life in Ohio, where my grandparents rarely spoke about their wartime experiences, and the only time I felt my Japanese heritage was my fondness for nori and ochazuke. Seven years ago, I moved to Seattle not knowing much about Japanese American history, not knowing much about the 442nd or MIS, the history of Bainbridge Island, the meaning of the Puyallup fairgrounds, the birth of the Seattle redress movement, and not knowing the name Henry Miyatake.

I never knew Henry Miyatake, but I now know of him. I now know that who we are today as a community, and as a nation, is much indebted to people like him, people that consider the rightness of things, the correction of things, and the path that must be tread. We've relied upon his ideas and

Jack

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From left: Seattle JACL President-Elect Paul Tashima, President Toshiko Hasegawa, Board Member Arlene Oki, Board Member/PNW District Governor Sheldon Arakaki and Board Member Bill Tashima attend Henry Miyatake's Memorial Celebration on December 6, 2014 at NVC Hall.

the actions that rippled forth from them.

The redress movement is often cited as righting a wrong, but I think this is only partly correct. I don't believe you can ever truly make right the devastation of 120,000 incarcerations and the indignity of living behind barbed wire. The true recompense of such tragedy cannot be measured by monetary means and cannot be repaid by any government. To me, the redress movement was the formal recognition that harm was done to American citizens, and that while \$1.6 billion cannot make up for these mistakes, it is enough to remind us about the value of our constitution and a reminder to be ever vigilant for such trespasses again. To me, the redress movement was not about righting a wrong: it was about righting our path as a nation so that we may be all the stronger. It was not about fixing our past, but, rather, our future, and for that we can thank Henry Miyatake.

Our community has names: Minoru Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu, Edison Uno, Daniel Inouye – men and women for whom shikatanagai was not enough, who worked tirelessly for a better America. We remember them for their contributions not just to our community, but for all communities without a voice, all people that we could someday feel the iniquity of being the social pariah.

Before I wrote this, I considered the fact that our history, where we have been and what we have fought for, only lives as long as we tell it. As we pass on a better world for the next generation, we must endeavor to tell them how it came to be, upon whose shoulders they stand. Because it is in the telling of our history that we can be grateful for those that paved our way and the future they've given us all. It is my hope that we can do so, that such names may never be lost to time. I did not know Henry Miyatake, but I am sincerely grateful for the path he set before us.

Karen Yoshitomi steps down as Regional Director

After more than 24 years as Pacific Northwest (PNW) Regional Director, Karen Yoshitomi has stepped down from her post and accepted a position as Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington.

JACL's PNW District will celebrate her contributions and accomplishments to our organization at the national, district and chapter level, as well as her mentorship and friendship to a generation of JACLers, at the annual Puyallup Valley chapter mochitsuki and potluck Saturday, December 13, at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple social hall. She will continue as an active member of the Puyallup Valley chapter.

JACL National has decided that filling the development director's position is a higher staffing priority than backfilling the national program/district director's position; however, if a suitable candidate is hired from the Seattle area, that person will use the South Jackson Street district office and continue the national JACL staffing presence in the Pacific Northwest.

If you would like to attend the celebration and share your stories of Karen, please contact Elsie Taniguchi at 1

Keeping up with JACL

By Bill Tashima

Both National JACL and our Seattle chapter pursue a wide range of civil rights advocacy, Japanese American legacy education, youth leadership, and civic engagement programs. In today's fast-paced world of Internet information sharing, it may seem like our members receive less information than in previous years when our chapter had a monthly newsletter and National had a weekly Pacific Citizen newspaper. Not true! We just changed how we let our members know about our activities. Both the Seattle Chapter and JACL National are relying on The Web and social media for spreading the word on current activities. However, we've also retained both our local newsletter and the national Pacific Citizen.

The Seattle Chapter

We continue to publish a membership newsletter four times a year. The main purpose is to report on our recent activities, and provide information on upcoming events planned for the future. We also publish articles on board members, major chapter initiatives and the president's column.

We have moved to social media to more immediately and efficiently spread awareness of our activities to reach both our members and the general public. "Like" us on Facebook to receive our updates; we're listed as "Japanese American Citizens League-Seattle." We post several times a week on chapter activities and

pertinent community information. Please check it out!

National JACL

You can stay in touch with our national organization through The Pacific Citizen (PC), which is now a semi-monthly publication (pacificcitizen.org). The PC focuses on general interest stories, often with a specific theme for an issue. This newspaper, published online and in print, continues to have both regular and guest columnists, and generates stories on overall National JACL programs.

National JACL uses a weekly "JACL Digest" email newsletter. This is sent out at the beginning of the week, and contains highly-informative and pertinent information on issues and events from the previous week. All JACL members should automatically receive the JACL Digest if your email is on file with the national organization. If you are not receiving these updates and would like to, please contact us at info@jaclseattle.org. We will be sure to add you to the distribution list.

Join us at the 93rd Annual JACL Banquet

Mark your calendars: March 21, 2015
at Seattle University

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 21, 2015 for the Annual Seattle JACL Banquet at Seattle University's Champion Ballroom. Next year's theme will focus on the performing and visual arts and how they've been used to create social change.

"Whether it's been through film, a play, a painting, a novel, or musical composition, we have all been through an enlightening experience through the arts and know how transformative it can be," says Banquet Committee Chair, Mary Ann Goto.

Join JACL on the first day of spring as we recognize individuals and organizations in our community who have made a significant impact in the area of social justice.

Give to the Seattle JACL Annual Appeal
Check your mailbox for our letter
Domo Arigato!

JACL membership on the rise

By Sylvie Shiosaki

Hello Seattle JACLers,
This fall has been busy for the membership committee! We are currently working on expanding youth membership. To accomplish this, we have been reaching out to Japanese Student

Associations and other API student organizations at local colleges. We've also been working on standardization of materials to have available at events. You may have seen us at Aki Matsuri or the Living Well Health Fair! At the most recent JACL Pacific Northwest District meeting, we set a goal to reach 1,000 new JACL district members. Help us reach this goal by spreading the word about JACL membership and its benefits. For more information, go to <http://jacl.org/misc/membership.htm>.

Other Upcoming Events Annual Day of Remembrance

By Paul Tashima

The Day of Remembrance is a time for us all to reflect upon the lessons learned from the Japanese American incarceration. It is a time to honor the Nikkei veterans who fought for our country at a time when their families remained behind barbed wire, to recognize the courageous individuals who fought for the rights of all American citizens, and to remember the lives forever changed by a great injustice. It is a day for us to acknowledge the past so that we as a community, and as a nation, can be ever vigilant for such trespasses against other members of our society.

Each year, Seattle JACL organizes a trip to Olympia for members of the community to visit the Washington State Legislature. On this day, both the House of Representatives and Senate run special programs, including the voicing of Day of Remembrance resolutions. A luncheon sponsored by Representative Santos and Senator Hasegawa follows these sessions. This year, Seattle JACL will be working with Densho, the Nisei Veterans Committee, and other organizations to lobby for funding the Kip Tokuda Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. We welcome all interested to join us for next year's Day of Remembrance. Further information for this event will be published early next year on Seattle JACL's Facebook and Twitter sites.

Nikkei Trilogy Screening

When describing the Nikkei Trilogy Screenings, Hideo Makihara likens the three documentaries to a kakehashi, or bridge, between groups. He hopes that by sharing stories of the Japanese and Japanese American experience in late 2014 or sometime next year, groups can begin to discuss, learn from one another, and build bridges extending across age, race, and nationality. Working with the Japan-America Society, Nisei Veterans Committee, Seattle JACL, Seattle International Film Festival, and other organizations, Makihara will be showcasing three distinct movies:

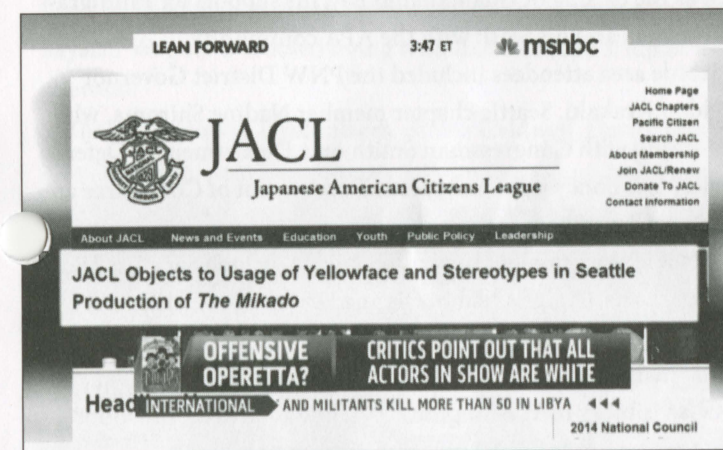
MIS - Human Secret Weapon details the six thousand Nisei who performed secret intelligence work for the US Army's Military

Intelligence Service during World War II. Their stories highlight the complexities faced by Japanese American servicemen fighting military power abroad and racial prejudice at home.

442 - Live with Honor, Die with Dignity explores the story of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated unit of Nisei soldiers. Later becoming one of the most decorated units in the history of the United States, the 442nd fought in the European theater and were awarded eight Presidential Unit Citations and twenty-one Medals of Honor.

Toyo's Camera - Japanese American History During WWII tells the story of Toyo Miyatake, a photographer incarcerated at the Manzanar camp. Although photography equipment was banned at all American concentration camps, Miyatake managed to smuggle a camera lens into the camp, allowing him to document the lives and living conditions of the incarcerated Japanese Americans.

Further information about the showing of these works will be published on the Seattle JACL's Facebook and Twitter as events are planned.



The future of *The Mikado* dialogue

By Toshiko Hasegawa

The Seattle Gilbert & Sullivan Society's production of *The Mikado* earned national attention for its use of yellowface and stereotypical imagery. JACL Seattle was founded in response to the need for solidarity and protection in the Japanese American community at a time when discrimination was rampant. Our membership fortified during World War II when we had little representation or support in society as a whole.

The imagery used in *The Mikado* in the early 1800's was adopted by the American government during WWII and used in mainstream media as propaganda meant to create a negative public sentiment toward the Japanese and people of Japanese descent.

As imagery was a tool to create a skewed 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 used are when they are used 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 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*. Seattle Repertory Theatre facilitated a community dialogue event, "Artistic Freedom vs. Artistic Responsibility," which was live-streamed nationally on Internet-radio. More than 400 people RSVP'd to attend and the theater was filled to the brim. I was inspired by the vast public interest to understand the issue.

The conversation itself was so quintessentially "Seattle" in the way it passively circumnavigated around the direct issue of the problems with *The Mikado*, the ways in which stereotypes are harmful, and the issue that yellowface is totally unacceptable in 2014. Although it's been a productive conversation so far, 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 let you know in advance.

What we've been up to this fall JACL events and projects in our community

Camp Harmony Committee: Planning for the 75th Anniversary of Incarceration



The "Camp Harmony Committee" sponsored by the Puyallup Valley JACL chapter is led by Chairperson Daniel Russ and assisted by Elsie Yotsuuye Taniguchi and Eileen Yamada Lamphere, as well as 12 other members. We are working diligently to prepare for the 75th Anniversary of the World War II Incarceration, which will be acknowledged through a Camp Harmony Reunion in September, 2017. Continual updates are forthcoming in following Newsletters. - Elsie Taniguchi

Pacific Northwest District Meeting

Representatives from the Pacific Northwest District JACL chapters met on Saturday, October 18th in Lacey, Washington. Hosted by the Olympia chapter, the meeting included an overview on district funds, affirmation of the JACL's stance advocating for Net Neutrality, acknowledgment of Karen Yoshitomi's vast contributions to the district, and identification of the need for funding of the Kip Tokuda Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. Also of note, Seattle President Toshiko Hasegawa provided an overview on fundraising practices, Seattle Membership Chair Sylvie Shiosaki detailed ongoing efforts to reach out and engage new members, and Seattle Board Member Sarah Baker accepted the position of District Youth Representative.

UW Nikkei Alumni Association



The UW Nikkei Alumni Association Board from left to right (front row): Don Maekawa, Irene Mano, Ken Sato and Elsie Taniguchi. (Back row): Ned Sato, Sharon Fujita, Sharon Maeda, Harold Taniguchi, Lillian Hayashi, Cho Shimizu, Emi Suzuki, Beth Kawahara, Kanako Kashima. The group recently met to honor five scholarship winners: Emma Mitsui, Sarah Beland, Allison Coombs Philip Ito and Alec Shimizu. Additionally, the UWNAA presented its Distinguished Alumnus Award to Brad Miyake, new City Manager for Bellevue. Mr Miyake also received one of NW Asian Weekly's "Top Diversity Leaders Award" on the same night. He serves as Board Chairman of Blaine Methodist Church. - Elsie Taniguchi

Densho Sushi and Sake Fest

The Seattle JACL was again a community sponsor for Densho's Sushi and Sake Fest held at the Museum of History and Industry on Lake Union on October 1. The chapter was well represented at the event. This fun event raises money for Densho, the nation's premiere online resource on the WWII Japanese American experience. Densho's Executive Director, Tom Ikeda, continues to expand Densho's depth to make it the definitive compendium of this period of our history and legacy. Learn more at densho.org.



JACLers and friends at the Densho Sushi and Sake Fest.

'Salute to Champions' gala in Washington, D.C.

The eighth annual JACL "Salute to Champions" D.C. Gala was held October 9 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. One of the four awards presented this year featured a local tie as Congressman Adam Smith of the 9th Congressional District (Port of Tacoma to South Seattle, Renton, Mercer Island and Bellevue) received the JACL Congressional Award for his continued advocacy to end laws allowing indefinite detention without trial as well as the closing of Guantanamo Bay, his support for immigration reform and his work with the APA community.

Seattle area attendees included the PNW District Governor Sheldon Arakaki, Seattle chapter member Nadine Shiroma, who is working with Congressman Smith on a Department of Defense Hepatitis B policy issue and recent Department of Commerce appointee Albert Shen.

Previous congressional award recipients include Senators Daniel Inouye, Larry Craig of Idaho, Dianne Feinstein of California, Daniel Akaka and Congressman Mike Honda and Eni Faleomavaega.

The "Salute to Champions" D.C. Gala was conceived to raise JACL's visibility in Washington, D.C., and to provide an opportunity to raise funds for the organization.



Congressman Adam Smith (center) with two Seattle JACL members at the Gala in D.C. Nadine Shiroma (left) is author of the successful National JACL action regarding Hepatitis B. Sheldon Arakaki (right) is a Seattle JACL board member and PNWDC Governor.

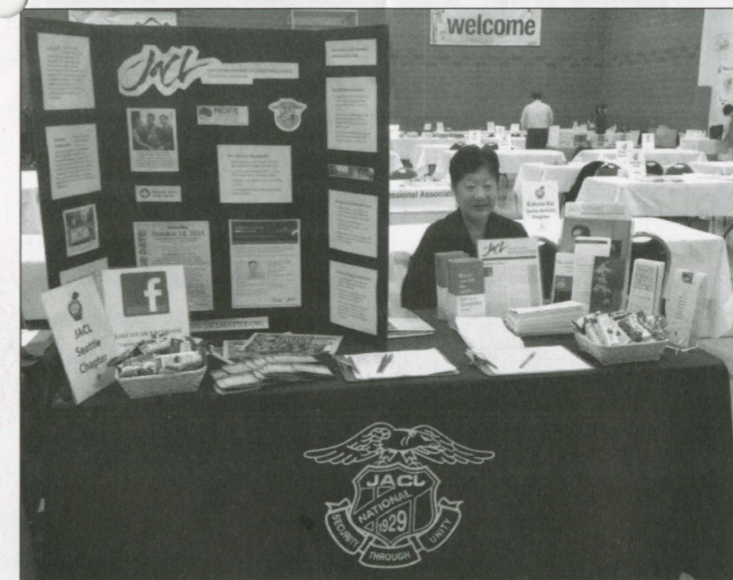
Living Well Health Fair

This year's Living Well Health Fair was the most successful to date with roughly 50 vendors and more than 300 participants on Saturday, October 18 at Blaine United Methodist Church. The annual event, a partnership of JACL and Nikkei Concerns, was originally held at the Bellevue Hyatt in conjunction with the Seattle 2012 National JACL Convention.

The interactive health fair included group dance exercises, a panel discussion, cooking demonstrations, food samples, health screenings, booths from various vendors, tons of door prizes, and free flu vaccination!

During the panel discussion on "Surviving and Thriving after Medical Disease," four remarkable people told their stories about dealing with a medical setback and how they found their way back to living well, both physically and emotionally. Frank Shinoda related how he beat pancreatic cancer. Tom Kometani described the aftermath of a severe stroke and having to relearn all physical functions again. Bella Oishi, a high school student, talked about her middle school head concussion and brain injury. Reiko Kobayashi Wagner discussed living with diabetes type I, lupus, and sclerosis.

Thank you to JACL volunteers, BiHoa Caldwell, Dave Cunningham, Lily Eng, Ann Fujii Lindwall, Kiku Hayashi, Ken Kurata, Arlene Oki, Jeff Saul, and Bill Tashima for making the event possible.



JACL Board member Ann Fujii Lindwall representing the Seattle Chapter at the third annual Living Well Health Fair.

Coming Soon:

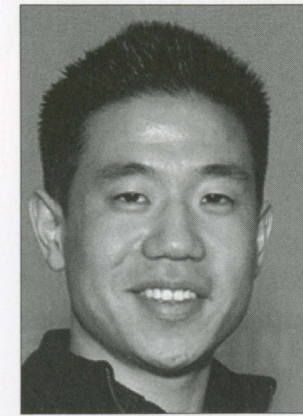
National JACL Scholarships – www.jacl.org
Seattle JACL Scholarships – www.jaclseattle.org

Check it out!

Seattle JACL People

An update on the chapter's members

Congratulations Peter Yamamura



Peter Yamamura was awarded the Magoichi and Shizuko Kato Memorial Scholarship, one of the National JACL scholarships for graduate students. Peter will use his scholarship to support his continuing studies at the University of Washington. The selection committee was impressed by his excellence in dental research, his unselfish provision of comprehensive dental service to the

poor and homeless, and his engagement with JACL, including service as PNW Rep to the National Youth/Student Council. Peter completed his DDS in June and is entering specialty training in endodontics in the fall.

JACL Scholarship Recipients. Where are they now?

The Seattle JACL offers six scholarships each year, totaling \$15,000. The 2015 application process will open in a few months, but we thought we would share some updates on a few past awardees.

- Ciara Asamoto - 2011 Bunshiro Tazuma Awardee.**
Ciara is currently a senior at Western Washington University in Bellingham. She interned as a Research Marine Biologist at the Shannon Point Marine Center in Anacortes this past summer, and also took part in the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates where she studied Tidal Plankton Ecology.
- Katie Cunningham - 2012 Minoru Tamesa Awardee.**
Katie is a junior at Whitworth University in Spokane where she is majoring in English. In January 2014, Katie went to London, England, for her January semester project, "English Culture through the Arts." She is currently interning as a copy editor for Spokane Faith and Values. In January, she will go to Washington, D.C. to intern with the Smithsonian Institution.
- Katelin Kobuke - 2013 Minoru Tamesa Awardee.**
Katelin is a sophomore at UW in Seattle. She is interning as a Field Account Representative with CDW, a leading provider of integrated information technology solutions. Katelin is pursuing a focus in Finance and Information Systems in the Michael G Foster School of Business at UW, and has made Deans List every quarter of college thus far. She has also found time to help the Seattle Chapter board.

● **Ray Parker - 2012 Bunshiro Tazuma Awardee.**

Ray attends Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. He's had a series of technical internships, including a 2013 internship with NASA at the Wallops Flight Facility near Chincoteague, Virginia. In 2014, Ray took an extended internship, first with Bristol-Myer Squibb, and is currently working for Orbital Science Corporation at the Wallops Flight Facility. Ray saw firsthand the recent massive explosion caused by the malfunction on the Antares rocket project that supplies the International Space Station (he had no part in the malfunction).

We hope to award scholarships to other well qualified students in 2015. Please spread the word about our scholarships, and for more information, go to jaclseattle.org.

A Japanese American wedding



Mr. and Mrs. Gainor on their wedding day, August 16, 2014, in Port Orchard, WA. Philip Newton, photo

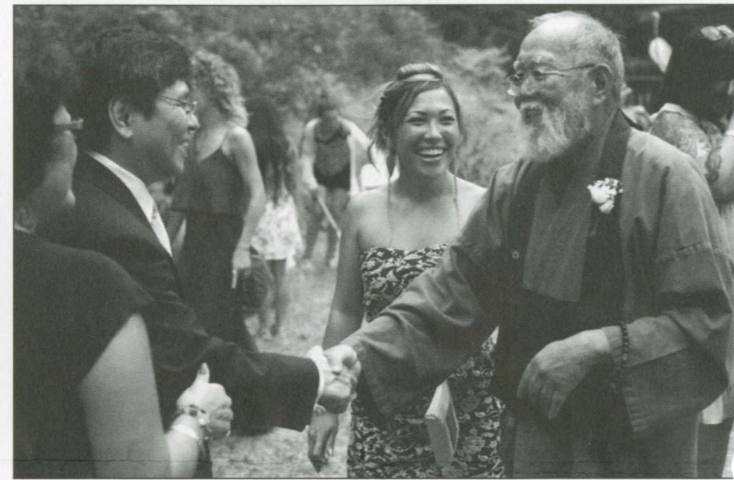
Gabrielle Nomura Gainor, Seattle Chapter board member, married her college sweetheart and boyfriend of more than six years, Casey Gainor on August 16, 2014, on the Kitsap Peninsula. More than 170 guests attended the event, held at Gabrielle's parents' home. Mary Ann Goto, Sheldon Arakaki and Toshiko Hasegawa represented Gabrielle's JACL family.

Guests dined on Southern fare with a Pacific Northwest twist-including a roast pig by Farmstead Meatsmith from Vashon Island, as well as organic and locally-sourced barbeque fixin's from Skillet. Nikkei touches included a Shinto San San Kudo sake ceremony, the honoring of ancestors with incense, a Buddhist reading by Gabrielle's grandfather, John Nomura of Seattle Soto Zen, and a gorgeous display of 1,000 origami cranes folded with the help of

the couple's loved ones. Other highlights of the day included a very special guest: Chito, the mini-horse!

A true multicultural hapa, the bride wore her Irish American grandmother's Spanish mantilla veil, jewelry that belonged to her great-grandmother, as well as her onenju bracelet from her grandfather. She felt especially proud to walk down the aisle with her dad to the "Star Wars" theme song. Her handsome groom was waiting for her under an arbor built by Gabrielle's father for the occasion and decorated with roses, baby's breath, ferns and greenery from the property.

Gabrielle says: "Thank you so much to my friends and colleagues from JACL. I have truly found a family and community here, and your kindness, support and well wishes meant the world to me."



From right: John Nomura, JACL President Toshiko Hasegawa, Sheldon Arakaki and Mary Ann Goto at the Nomura-Gainor wedding. Philip Newton photo

Sarah Baker: New PNW District Youth Rep

By Sarah Baker



I joined JACL in something of a whirlwind -- I went to my first board meeting for the Seattle Chapter in June, and immediately was offered a scholarship to go to National Convention in July. Going to convention was the first thing I did upon becoming a member, and it had a huge impact on me and how I saw JACL as an

organization. Now, I am stepping into the role of Youth Rep for the PNW region and chairing an event for my chapter to be held early next year. Life is a strange and wonderful thing.

I have always been interested in my Japanese heritage and connecting myself to the past. My grandparents met during the Korean War while my grandfather was stationed in Japan with the

Air Force. Originally from North Carolina, he decided it would be best if he and my Obasan moved to Seattle due to the higher Asian population and good schools. This is how my family started their lives in the Pacific Northwest, by completely uprooting themselves to start a new life in a place where they could live comfortably and raise their children.

I remember wearing kimono and going to the Obon Festival as a young child, and listening to my Obasan tell me Japanese folk tales translated into English before bed. I always listened closely to her when she talked to her friends and relatives in Japanese over the phone, wishing I could grasp words that did not sound foreign to me but I simply could not understand. Neither my mother nor her two younger brothers learned Japanese as children, and so I lost out on the opportunity as well.

As an adult it has been my goal to reconnect with the language of my heritage, and I have managed to complete the first two years of college-level Japanese. I am currently working on my Bachelor's Degree in International Business at North Seattle College where I also serve as Student Body President. I am passionate about advocating for the rights of others, and I am hoping to be able to draw my work at school together with my work for JACL.

Rest in peace Hugo Kurose, 1950-2014

Seattle JACL is saddened to report the recent passing of Hugo Tetsuo Kurose. Hugo was a longtime Seattle JACLer and passionate fisherman, who enjoyed jazz and blues, spending time with his family and keeping up with his many friends.

He is survived by his wife, Meredith, his sons, Kazuo and Toshio, and siblings, Ruthann, Paul, and Marie. He was preceded in death by his parents, Aki and Junx Kurose, and his brothers, Guy and Rollie Kurose.

A celebration of his life was held on October 19 at Blaine United Methodist Church. The family requested that donations could be made to various causes, including the Seattle JACL Aki Kurose Scholarship fund. The Seattle Chapter has received roughly \$2,000 in memory of Hugo Kurose. The donors, thus far, are listed below.

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Seattle JACL API LGBT PFLAG Programs

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Aki Kurose Scholarship Fund

(See article on Hugo Kurose)

SAVE THE DATE!

93RD Seattle Chapter JACL Annual Banquet

Saturday – March 21, 2015

Campion Hall

Seattle University



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