



SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

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



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In addition to a quarterly print newsletter, you can now get the latest news on all-things Seattle JACL through monthly e-newsletters. In addition to following us on Facebook, get the latest news on chapter get-togethers, volunteer opportunities, and more through our regular email updates. We hope that with additional online outreach, we'll be able to better partner with you, members of our community, as we work together for social justice and to help the Japanese American legacy and culture thrive into the future. To sign up for our e-newsletter, email us at info@jaclseattle.org.



Baby Sarah and mom, Monica.

President's Column

By Sarah Baker

Somehow, I'm almost a third of the way through my presidency of Seattle JACL. Time flies when you're having fun, right?

I can't say that the past months have not been without trials and a steep learning curve. But as I become more deeply entrenched in this work, the more I feel a sense of

belonging in this community—even though my story stands apart from what many view as the “typical” Japanese American experience.

I am a millennial-aged Shin-Sansei. My grandparents moved to Seattle in 1957. I didn't even know what the World War II incarceration was until I learned about it in school. It had never occurred to me that my family was Japanese American too, and that this tragic piece of history could have been a part of my own personal narrative. It wasn't until I joined JACL that I had the opportunity to have direct conversations with people who were incarcerated, who had lived through this time period in the not-so-distant past. Suddenly, the implications of our own U.S. history really hit home for me.

The deeper I dig into my own familial history, the more I realize that although the Shin-Nikkei experience is not as talked about, our story is intrinsically linked with incarceration and what 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II went through. Seeing a photo at the Japanese American National Museum of 1945 Seattle, a spray painted garage reads, “No Japs Wanted.” I started thinking about what it must have been like for my Japanese grandmother to move here with her white husband 12 years later. What did she see, hear, and feel? I can only imagine.

The question of what I, a young Shin-Sansei Hapa, can do for the Seattle Chapter lays heavy on my shoulders. The JACL, born at a time fraught with turmoil, has such a rich history and connection to many people's lives. Where do I fit in? The answers have not come easily, and every day is still a struggle for me to unearth my role in the grand scheme of things. But here I am, working to serve a community that has welcomed me with open arms. I am learning as

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much about myself as I am about our chapter and its legacy.

I am so proud to be a member of Seattle JACL. Our organization sets a precedence for acceptance of all communities and all people. It is through my work here that I have come to see the intersections that make me who I am, and it is my hope that our chapter will continue to bring people together – not just from within the AAPI spectrum, but from all walks of life. The trials of communities of color and other minorities are inherently connected. We must work together to fight institutional injustice from the most minute levels all the way to the national stage.

Thank you for your membership with the JACL. We could not exist without our members, and our members are what make us great. I am so honored to serve on the Seattle JACL board, and I look forward to meeting more of you at future events.

National Convention returns to Las Vegas July 11-14



Seattle Chapter board members at a previous convention. From left to right: Past presidents Paul Tashima and Toshiko Hasegawa; PNW District Governor Sheldon Arakaki.

The 47th National JACL convention returns to Las Vegas and the Monte Carlo Resort & Casino on July 11 for a four-day event. Nearly 90 chapters in good standing, represented by their delegates, will conduct the business of the national organization during National Council. The two major business agenda items of the National Council are the election of national board officers and passing a balanced biennial budget. Constitutional and by-law amendments and resolutions will be considered, and awards will be presented including the Inagaki

Chapter of the Biennium, JACler of the Biennium, Japanese American of the Biennium in various categories, and the National Youth/Student Council Vision Award. The Seattle chapter has earned the Inagaki Chapter of the Biennium award 10 times.

The Wallace H. Coulter Foundation once again sponsors the civic engagement program for a second year featuring seven hours of civic engagement training. The Seattle chapter is one of 20 chapters receiving an invite from Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida to participate in the 2016 program based on a chapter's 2015 civic engagement activities and reported deliverables.

Non-convention activities include rolling dice, counting to 21, chasing a little white ball across well-manicured grass 18 times into a hole, shopping, attending all eight Cirque du Soleil shows, and taking in the beautiful outdoors of Nevada.

Convention registration is \$275 per person covering all events including the black-tie optional Sayonara banquet and awards luncheons. The deluxe rooms are \$55 per night and the Monaco suites are \$116 per night. Visit jacl.org for more information.



(Left to right): Hana Arega received the Elaine Reiko Akagi Scholarship presented by BiHoa Caldwell. Kioko Soneda received the Cherry and Mas Kinoshita Scholarship presented by Kyle Kinoshita. Rosida Mohamathno received the Aki Kurose Scholarship presented by Paul Kurose. Kristen Cunningham received the Bunshiro Tazuma Scholarship presented by Bunshiro's son, Yukio Tazuma.

Annual Scholarship and Past Presidents Luncheon

This year, Seattle JACL awarded our 2016 Chapter Scholarship winners and acknowledged our past Chapter Presidents a luncheon at the NVC Clubhouse on May 7, 2016. Each year, the chapter offers six scholarships totaling \$16,000. They include:

JACL

2016 Seattle Chapter Board

President

Sarah Baker

1st VP

Ken Kurata

2nd VP

Toshiko Hasegawa

3rd VP

BiHoar Caldwell

4th VP

Gabrielle Gainor

Recording Secretary

Stan Shikuma

Correspondent Secretary

Arlene Oki

Treasurer

Sheldon Arakaki

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Gabrielle Gainor

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Paul Tashima

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Bob Hasegawa

Kiku Hayashi

Wendy Kimball

Maria Leininger

May Namba

Tsuki Nomura-Henley

Sylvie Shiosaki

Elsie Taniguchi

Bill Tashima

Sharon Tomiko-Santos

- Bunshiro Tamuza Scholarship (\$2,000)
- Minoru Tamesa Scholarship (\$2,000)
- Cherry and Mas Kinoshita Memorial Scholarship (\$2,000)
- Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship (\$2,000)
- Elaine Reiko Akagi Scholarship (\$3,000)
- Dr. Susumu Shimokon Memorial Scholarship (\$5,000)

For more information about this annual event, contact BiHoa Caldwell at bihoa@jacl.org

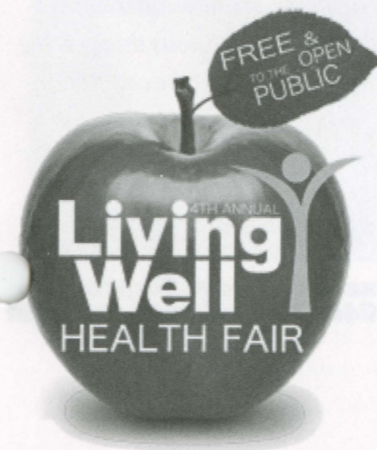
Upcoming Events

JACL Youth Membership Meetup



Are you a JACL youth member interested in meeting other youth members in our chapter? Want to see what people are up to? Want to learn more about what we do as a chapter to advocate for social justice? Come meet in a casual environment at Gossip Espresso & Tea for delicious boba tea or espresso (or both!) We will be meeting from 6 - 8 p.m. on Sunday, May 15. This is a great opportunity to introduce yourself as well as be introduced to Seattle JACL. RSVP on our Facebook event page (located on Seattle JACL's main Facebook page) and if you have questions, just send us a message.

Walk for Rice benefiting ACRS - June 25



Stephanie "Tsuki" Nomura-Henley and Marcine Anderson are co-captains of Seattle JACL's 2016 Walk for Rice Team. Please sign up to walk with them on June 25th in Seward Park, or sponsor them (for as little as \$5). Walk for Rice, a benefit for ACRS, funds multilingual counseling, mental health services and civil rights advocacy for

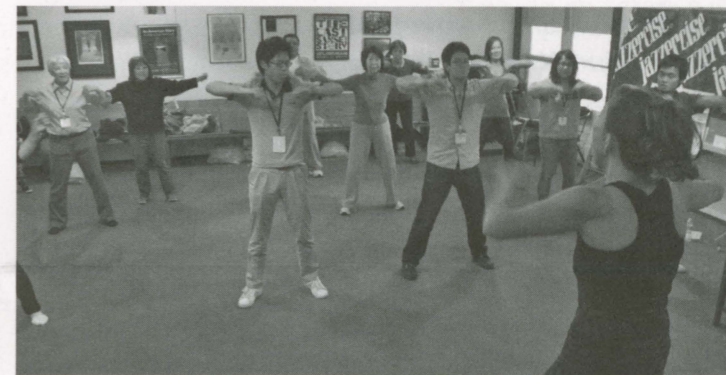
those who don't always have a voice. To register or donate, go to <http://bit.ly/1QxiI8B>.

Fifth Annual Living Well Health Fair October 22

Save the date for the Seattle JACL and Keiro Northwest (formerly Nikkei Concerns) Fifth Annual Living Well Health Fair this fall. Past participants declare our event as THE health fair in the region because of the emphasis on "living well," thus, having fun! Attendees can participate in taiko, hula and jazzercise, as well as sample free, healthy, organic food; as well as watch cooking demos, and hear from engaging speakers.

The fair emphasizes making healthy lifestyle choices, as well as keeping both body and mind active. There will even be a visit from the Maxmobile where attendees can adopt a loving cat or dog!

This year, the fair is from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, October 22, 2016 at Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church (3001 24th Av S, Seattle, WA, 98144). For information, or if you'd like to be a sponsor or vendor contact Linda Asami at lasami@jacl.org

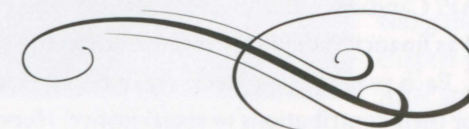


Jazzercise participants from a previous Living Well Health Fair.

Save the Date for Remembrance of Camp Harmony

By Elsie Leilani Taniguchi

Please save the date for September 2, 2017 for our "Remembrance of Camp Harmony," honoring Japanese American incarcerated who were imprisoned on the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup. Tom Ikeda, Executive Director of Densho, whose parents were confined at Camp Harmony will serve as keynote speaker. We will keep you up-to-date each month with our progress, and need all of your support. Survivors and family members of Camp Harmony are especially invited, but anyone detained at any of the temporary and permanent camps are encouraged to attend. Please contact me if you have a story or something you would like to share about Camp Harmony. taniguchie@icloud.com



Seattle JACL Raises \$16,000 at 94th Annual Banquet



More than 200 attendees helped raise \$16,000 for youth programs at the 94th Annual Japanese American Citizens League Banquet on April 2 at SODO Park. Attendees donned jerseys and colors from their favorite teams for the "Sports and Social Justice" themed event, emceed by Aaron Levine, Sports Director at Q13 Fox News.

The banquet honored the Japanese and Asian Pacific Islander game-changers who have broken barriers through athletics, thus guest speakers included two experts who spoke to the significance of baseball in the Japanese American community. Seattle University professor Marie Wong told the story of how baseball was crucial role in connecting the immigrant Issei with their American-born Nisei children prior to the World War II Incarceration. Author Ken Mochizuki read from his children's book "Baseball Saved Us."



The Seattle JACL chapter netted \$16,000 with a Raise-the-Paddle live ask and dessert dash. These funds will provide college scholarships and fund youth delegates' participation in the 2016 JACL National Convention. Additionally, they will benefit Seattle JACL's civil rights programming, which in the past has included an API Candidates Forum, a conference for API LGBTQ youth, as well as financial support of events such as the annual MLK Jr. rally. Each year, the banquet is also a time to recognize individuals for their contributions to social justice. Honorees

included: Frank and Penny Fukui of Woodburn Co. (Community Corporate Engagement Award); Akemi Matsumoto of APACE (Community Engagement Award). Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim (Civil Rights Award), North Seattle College (Special Recognition for Championing Youth) and Rep. Jim McDermott (Lifetime Achievement Award).



Biggest thanks to the Banquet Committee, as well as the dynamic sansei/yonsei duo of Mary Ann Midori Goto, Banquet Chair, and Stephanie Tsukiko Nomura, Banquet Coordinator, on pulling off such a successful event!



Dignitaries in attendance included Consul General of Japan Masahiro Omura, King County Executive Dow Constantine and Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, all of whom spoke briefly at the event.

"I know from my work with you over the years that JACL is committed, yes, to preserving the story of the wrong that was done during World War II, but, more importantly, to constantly looking ahead and identifying the ways in which we can head off the possibilities of mistakes like that happening again in America. We are in a very dangerous time. There are very dangerous things being said in this Presidential Election Campaign. But I take comfort in knowing that JACL is here as JACL was right after 9/11 to stand up, not just for Japanese Americans, but for the principle that every person in the country is created equal and entitled to equal protection under the law."

**- King County Executive Dow Constantine
94th Annual JACL Banquet**

News Roundup

Camp Harmony Committee Update

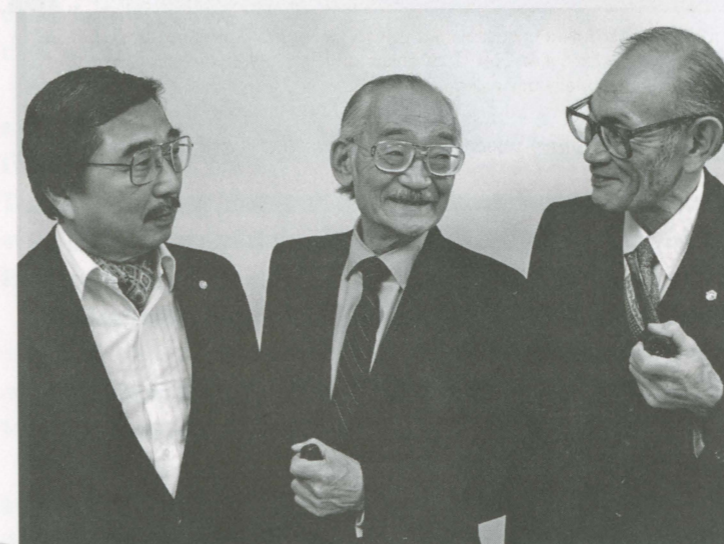
The Camp Harmony Committee of Puyallup Valley JACL is pleased to receive one of the generous Kip Tokuda Memorial Washington Civil Liberties Grants from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). This grant will go toward our video project featuring former Nikkei incarcerated.

Olympia Chapter Update

The Olympia chapter held its annual oshogatsu on January 30 at the Olympic Community Center featuring Reiko Callner's famous Portuguese bean soup, a mochitsuki, a green tea ceremony, a halau hula performance and a delicious potluck spread. The chapter's 2016 civic engagement project will include a ballot party and collaboration with the API Coalition of South Puget Sound.

Past Presidents Unite!

A small group of past presidents of Seattle JACL met to brainstorm ways and methods that we could help the chapter raise funds, support our younger members attend conventions, hold community leadership sessions, and organize community engagement functions. The group currently consists of Gail Tanaka (1991), Joy St. Germain (1992), Arlene Oki (2002), and Bill Tashima (2004, 2012). The group came up with a tentative strategy, goals, and timeline. The goal for 2016 is \$10,000. One of the first steps is to get other past Presidents on board. If you are interested in helping out in this effort or want more information, please contact Bill Tashima at buber@aol.com.



Japanese American social justice heroes: Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui, and Fred Korematsu.

Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui

Seattle JACL will commemorate the 100th birthday of Minoru Yasui by co-sponsoring two events by the Min Yasui Tribute organization in June 2016.

Minoru "Min" Yasui, a Hood River Oregon native, defied the Federal Government in the early days of WWII by resisting both the racially selective curfew and the forced removal of all people of Japanese ancestry in Portland, Oregon. Min took his cases all the way to the United States Supreme Court which ruled against him in 1944. Both shameful decisions were later vacated in 1984...he had won his cases. Throughout his life, the Nisei was an outspoken and articulate advocate for social justice and the civil liberties and civil rights of all people.

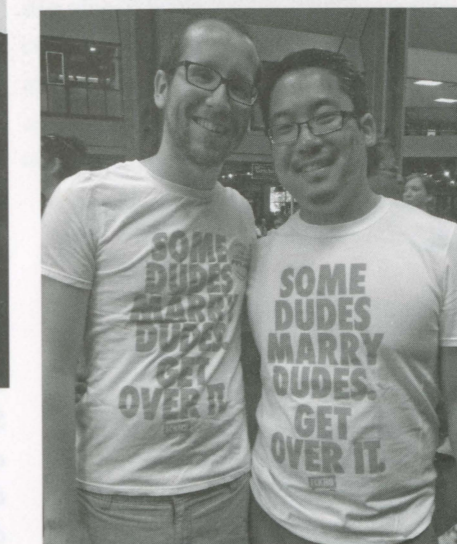
Last year, Min was awarded posthumously the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor. President Obama stated, "Today, Min's legacy has never been more important. It is a case of national conscience; a reminder of our enduring obligation to be 'the land of the free and the home of the brave'—an America worthy of his sacrifices."

Both events will feature clips from the documentary, "Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice," a short panel discussion, and a Q & A. The first program will be at the Wing Luke Museum on Saturday, June 25, 2016, from 7-9 p.m., and the second event will be at the Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church on Sunday, June 26, 2016. More details to follow. Please check for updates on our facebook page.

To support these events, Seattle JACL helped secure a \$6,400 grant from Washington Humanities, and the chapter board voted to allocate an additional \$1,000.

Welcome new Seattle JACL Board Members

Please join us in showing our thanks to our new board members of 2016. We appreciate your service to our community!



Josh with fiancé, Past President Paul Tashima.

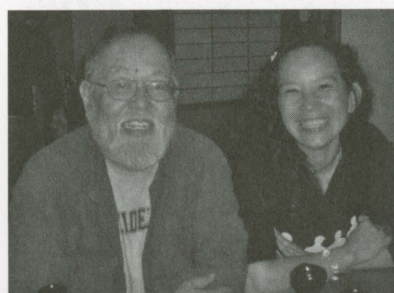
Josh Foley

Josh Foley is a teacher at Franklin High School. He is passionate about social justice and education which is why he fell in love with the Seattle chapter of the JACL. He initially got involved because of his now fiancé being the 2015 Seattle chapter president. After attending the

National Convention in Las Vegas over the summer, Josh was hooked. He was happy to put his parliamentary procedure skills to use. He is proud to be a part of the board and hopes to keep up his involvement. He'll see you at the many events JACL hosts or cosponsors.

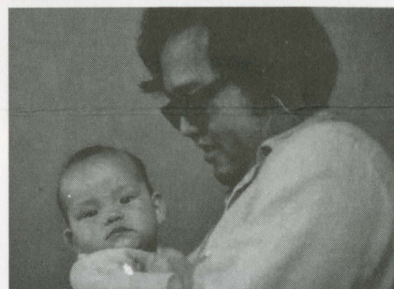
Wendy Kimball

I joined JACL at the request of my dear friend Elaine Akagi. Her work supporting the rights of minority and marginalized groups mirrored mine. I found Seattle JACL to be welcoming organization for all and it became my choice of civil rights organizations to devote my time to. These year I hope we will dedicate time and effort to immigration and refugee issues, as well as, supporting the restorative justice for our young people opposed to incarcerating them.

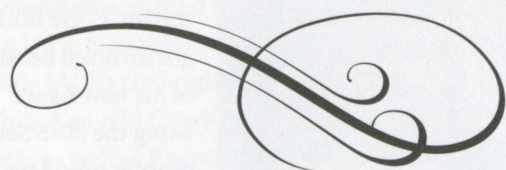


Stephanie Tsukiko Nomura-Henley ("Tsuki")

My father was born in the Santa Anita Racetrack. "The Internment," which is what they called it when I was growing up, wasn't really spoken about during my childhood. I would occasionally hear anecdotal stories about the Boy Scout troop my grandfather led,



and how they sometimes had access to food that was rationed for the rest of the country. It wasn't until I took an Asian American sociology class in college that I began to really think about the full scope of what happened to my grandparents. It wasn't until I looked up my father's birth certificate and saw his address--the row and barrack number--that I fully realized what kind of life he was born into. The incarceration of Japanese Americans was a shameful part of our country's history. It was a reaction born out of fear and intolerance, done with blatant disregard of civil rights. I joined Seattle JACL because they know so well: Even though we have rights, these freedoms can never be taken for granted; they must be fought for and defended.



Members on the Move

We love to share updates on our Seattle JACL members. If you have information to share, please email us at info@jacleattle.org with "Members on the Move" in the subject line.

Rod Kawakami and **Sharon Maeda** were honored at the 2016 OCA-Greater Seattle Golden Circle Awards & Lunar New Year Banquet. Each received a Golden Circle Award. OCA recognized Sharon for her unwavering work as an advocate for the underrepresented and a fighter for social justice. Rod was honored for his lifelong participation in civil rights and other Asian American causes, including serving as lead attorney in the Gordon Hirabayashi *coram nobis* case. The emcee for the event was our own, **Harold Taniguchi**.

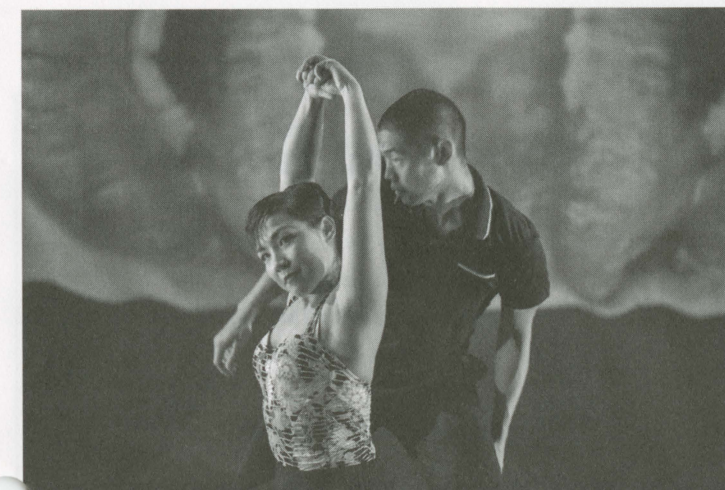


Former Board Member and 2016 Banquet Chair, **Mary Ann Goto**, recently took on a position as Development Director for Social Justice Fund NW. Mary Ann, of course, is also renowned for posting mouthwatering pictures of all cuisines on her Facebook page (look her up!).

Friends and supporters of **Lloyd Hara**, longtime City of Seattle and King County leader, gathered at the Nagomi Tea House to honor Lloyd for his decades of leadership. Lloyd, a former chapter president, urged support for his effort to raise funds for the "Lloyd F Hara Endowed Graduate Student Support Fund" at the UW Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. The fund is for students committed to public service with preference to those economically disadvantaged and/or those students with deep experience with diversity of diverse cultures. More: <http://bit.ly/23K9HpB>

June Sekiguchi was featured in an International Examiner article, "June Sekiguchi-Breaking Boundaries/Finding Connections." In the article, June describes her current exhibition, "Women Beyond Borders," and further discusses her transformation and growth an artist. As the article states about June, "Though not all artists can speak about their intentions in creating, she seems very clear in her own: "[In creating my art, there] has to be a significance for me to go after; it has to make sense to me, apply to my life." More: <http://bit.ly/1U6KYWp>

Former Chapter President, **Toshiko Hasegawa**, was selected as Executive Legislative Assistant for King County Councilmember Jeannie Kohl-Welles. Toshiko-san, Omedeto!



It's been a busy performance season for **Gabrielle Gainor**, a professional dancer as well as employee of Seattle Opera! She and her company, Relay Dance Collective, presented their fourth-season concert, PRIME, at Velocity Dance Center April 15-17; she also appeared as a guest artist with Bellingham Repertory Dance for their 10th anniversary show at Mt. Baker Theater. Gabrielle will dance next with Miss Saigon Brown at Rice Ball 2016, celebrating the Queer API story.

Past Chapter President, **Joy St. Germain**, completed another successful theatrical performance in a one month run at the Dukebays Theater. Joy was one of the principal actors in "Java Tacoma: Can't Buy Me Latte!" This was the sixth installment of the highly regarded series, "Java Tacoma" written by Aya Hashiguchi.

Alex Anderson is enrolled in the Masters of Fine Arts program at UCLA. He recently received an award for one of his original ceramics pieces at the NCECA Conference in Kansas City MO. alexanderson.us

Seattle Board member, **Stan Shikuma**, took a well-deserved break with his wife, Traci, to Peru. In Cusco, they met up with their children where they all embarked on a four day trek up to Machu Pichu. A once-in-a-lifetime experience...and we get winded just thinking about the hike!



Minidoka Baseball Field Project

In February 2016, the Minidoka National Historic Site (NHS) introduced the "Center Field" Project. The project will rebuild one of the 14 ballfields that were spread throughout the camp and the baseball field will be dedicated as part of the 2016 Minidoka Pilgrimage.

Baseball played a key role in sustaining the 13,000 Japanese Nikkei who were incarcerated at Minidoka War Relocation Center from 1942 - 1945. Many of the camp residents--youth, adults, male and female--played baseball or softball on one the many fields throughout the camp. It is clear that articles printed in the Minidoka Irrigator (camp newspaper) that baseball served as a glue to bring people together and to provide a bridge to communities outside the barbed-wire fence. Friends of Minidoka and Minidoka NHS are very excited about this project and are asking for your support. There are several ways in which you can contribute to this project:

- Donate online (either at discovernw.org or minidoka.org)
- Mail donations to FOM, PO Box 1085, Twin Falls, ID 83303
- Volunteer to help build the field on May 28 or donate in-kind services, materials, money, information etc.
- To get involved, please contact one of the following individuals: Keith Yamaguchi

; Carol Ash:

or Janet Keegan, Friends of Minidoka, at

Donations

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors for supporting Seattle JACL!

Elaine Akagi Scholarship Fund in honor of Yoshiko Hanashiro:

- Sarah Aoki
- BiHoa Caldwell
- Vern and Cathy Hayes
- Sue Kleitsch
- Wendy Kimball
- Bill Tashima

94th Annual Seattle JACL Banquet:

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Save the Date!

Join us for the 47th National JACL Convention

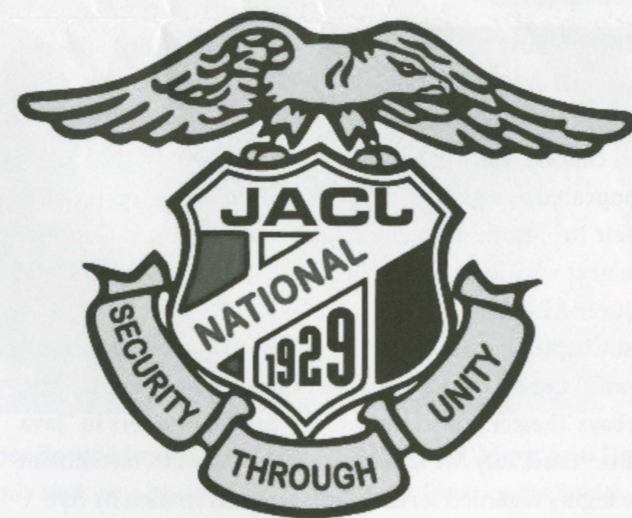
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