

SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

2018

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

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MEMBERSHIP

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jacl.org/member

President's Column

By Sarah Baker

Seattle JACL Members and Friends,

I'd like to start by thanking you for your support. Seattle JACL remains one of the most active and successful chapters in the country, and our members and supporters are what make us shine. From our annual events such as our scholarship program, youth leadership programming, and the Aki Kurose Cleanup; to winning the Chapter of the Biennium Award at the JACL national convention as well as the InspirASIAN Community Leadership Award, 2018 has been an exciting year for us. We couldn't have done it without you! Please enjoy a best-of-2018 newsletter recapping some of our favorite moments of the year.

Reflecting on the last 12 months, every single day it has been necessary to remain constantly vigilant in the realms of social justice and activism. Attacks on our most vulnerable communities; children; immigrants; LGTQIA+ identified individuals; and people of color, are continuous and unrelenting. As hate crimes rise in numbers and we repeatedly see pieces of legislation intended to

directly disenfranchise already underserved populations, it is hard to remain hopeful. But I truly believe that Seattle JACL has the power and capability to make a difference. As a minority group that knows too well the direct impacts of executive orders and discrimination, we must be willing to step up and take a stand. Never again is now.

Today I ask that you make a financial contribution to the Seattle JACL so that we can continue striving forward. No donation is too small. I am so proud of the work that we do and I hope that you will donate this year to help us continue our fight for social justice.

Please fill out the attached form and send it with your ballot in the provided return envelope, or donate to us online at:

squareup.com/store/jacl-seattle-chapter

Sincerely,



2018
Seattle Chapter Board

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Demanding Amazon Stop Selling Surveillance System to Government

By Stan Shikuma



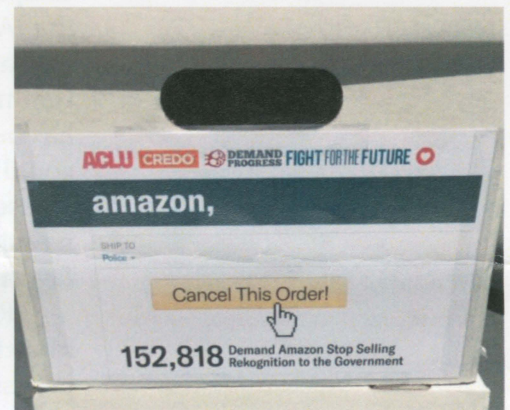
Stan Shikuma, middle in hat, stands with community organization representatives in protest of Amazon in front of the Amazon Spheres on June 18, 2018.

On June 18, Seattle JACL joined with a dozen other community organizations to speak out at a press conference in front of the Amazon Spheres protesting the marketing of Amazon's new and powerful face recognition system named 'Rekognition' to police and other government agencies. Afterwards, the group delivered a letter from over 65 organizations and petitions signed by over 150,000 people calling on Amazon to not sell the powerful, invasive mass surveillance system to government.

Speaking for Seattle JACL, board member Stan Shikuma noted that the Japanese American community was the target of massive surveillance in the years leading up to WWII and that this history raised huge concerns regarding bias and unintended use of such a system. "Prior to WWII, the FBI collected surveillance information on Americans of German, Italian, and Japanese

ancestry. Once the war started, less than 20,000 out of 12 million German Americans were arrested and less than 2,000 of over 4 million Italian Americans were taken -- in each case a fraction of 1% of the population. But among Japanese Americans on the West Coast, 120,000 or 100% were removed and imprisoned. We have seen the effects of mass surveillance on our community and ask where accountability lies for targeted groups and for this corporation."

Given this history and the current controversies over Black Lives Matter, the Muslim Ban, and the Border Wall, we should be vigilant in handing government new tools for mass surveillance without any public transparency or accountability. Amazon's marketing of its Rekognition system to government agencies would do just that and should be stopped before it can be used to infringe on our civil liberties.



The 150,000+ petitions delivered to Amazon on June 18, 2018.

Two Successful Youth Leadership Workshops Held in October

By Bill Tashima



Phyllis Campbell, left and Bridgette Takeuchi right, receive chapter thanks from Seattle JACL President Sarah Baker.

On October 11th, Seattle JACL presented an "Evening with Phyllis Campbell" at the Keiro NW Garden Room. It was an informal discussion with Phyllis Campbell, one of the nation's most distinguished business leaders, moderated by Keiro NW CEO and accomplished business leader in her own right, Bridgette Takeuchi.

The resulting dialogue was amazing! We learned how Phyllis rose from a business major in college to become President and CEO of US Bank, Chair of the Seattle Foundation, and currently Pacific NW Chair for JP Morgan Chase. Phyllis was able to talk openly about barriers for women and for people of color in business both in the past and today. The evening was like sitting at a dinner table and listening in awe to stories and experiences that were packed full of wisdom, advice, humor, and inspiration. Phyllis and Bridgette shared a chemistry that affected all who attended and left each person energized and uplifted.

We had an earlier event on October 6, also at Keiro NW on how young people could obtain internships in the tech industry while attending

college. This event was presented by Ray Parker, Seattle JACLER and recent college graduate, who published a book, "The Tech Intern Blueprint".

Ray imparted extensive hands-on tips and suggestions on how to position yourself for selection in the industry. Ray's information was so useful and could benefit any person regardless of age and profession.



Tech Intern Blueprint



We hope to be able to offer Ray's presentation again in the future and hope that the newly established JACL Young Professionals group will consider Ray for a workshop at an event.

About the Seattle JACL Youth Leadership Workshop Series

The Seattle JACL Youth Leadership series is planned by the Chapter's Presidents Committee which has been able to fund raise and organize these events. The committee is composed of past Chapter presidents and is chaired by 1991 Chapter President, Gail Tanaka.

Stay tuned for more Youth Leadership series events in 2019.

To learn more sign up for Seattle JACL emails by contacting:

info@seattlejacl.org

2018 Youth Scholarships and Past Presidents Luncheon

By Bill Tashima



2018 Scholarship Awardees. From left to right, Brenda Nelson, Mrs. Hirano for Danielle Hirano, Suscha Walker, Toshiko Hasegawa, Alysa Sugiyama and Alison Namba.



Past Presidents at Luncheon. From left to right, Bill Tashima, Roger Shimizu, Paul Tashima, Arlene Oki, Toshiko Hasegawa, Seattle Chapter President Sarah Baker, and Sharon Sobie Seymour.

On Saturday April 22, Seattle JACL celebrated our past and future at our annual Scholarship/Past Presidents Luncheon. We are proud to announce this year's scholarship awardees:

- *Elaine Reiko Akagi Scholarship* - Alysa Sugiyama
- *Elaine Reiko Akagi Scholarship* - Brenda Nelson
- *Cherry and Mas Kinoshita Scholarship* - Danielle Hirano

- *Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship* - Suscha Walker
- *Bunshiro Tazuma Scholarship* - Allison Namba
- *Minoru Tamesa Scholarship* - Toshiko Hasegawa

Our emcee's were Mika Kurose Rothman and Ray Parker, former recipients of a National JACL and Seattle Chapter scholarship respectively. Among our past Presidents present were Roger Shimizu and Sharon Sobie Seymour. Roger was Chapter President in 1988 when, during the 1988 National JACL in Seattle, many members were suddenly called to Washington for the signing of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act. Sharon was Chapter President in 2000 and hosted the first Past President's Luncheon at Nikkei Manor.

Seattle JACL offers six annual scholarships to bright young incoming and current college students. Educating the next generation of AAPI community leaders has been the vision of JACL for generations.

2018 Seattle JACL Scholarships Were:

- *Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship* - \$2,000 offered to applicants with a commitment to community service.
- *Cherry and Mas Kinoshita Scholarship* - \$2,000 offered to applicants who are active and plan to pursue a career in political science, law, education, journalism, Asian American Studies, or other field leading to service to the community.
- *Dr. Susumu Shimokon Memorial Scholarship* - \$5,000 offered to applicants who are accepted and enrolled in an accredited medical, dental, nursing school or other post graduate health studies professional school.
- *Elaine Reiko Akagi Scholarship* - \$3,000 offered to applicants who have declared major in education or a field related to education.
- *Minoru Tamesa Scholarship* - \$2,000 offered to of Japanese ancestry, or an individual member of the Seattle JACL, or actively involved with the Japanese American community.
- *Bunshiro Tazuma Scholarship* - \$2,000 offered to of Japanese ancestry, or an individual member of the Seattle JACL, or actively involved with the Japanese American community.

Seattle Chapter Recognized with the George J. Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award

By Sheldon Arakaki



Seattle Chapter President, Sarah Baker, receiving the George J. Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award.

On July 18 the Seattle chapter was honored with the George J. Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award at the 48th National JACL convention awards luncheon held at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Philadelphia. This is the twelfth time the chapter was selected in the 23 conventions the award has been given.

The George J. Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award, established by the Venice-Culver JACL Chapter at the 20th Biennial National Convention in 1968, is given in honor of George Inagaki, a past National JACL President, for his many years of unremitting efforts and outstanding dedication to the National organization.

As the title indicates, this is a chapter award, recognizing a chapter's promotion of better citizenship. "Better citizenship" is defined as chapter participation in activities that may be social, civic, educational, environmental, or legislative that results in the betterment of society as a whole. The Venice-Culver JACL raises and administers the funds for this award, and has delegated the selection of the recipient to the National JACL Awards & Recognition Committee. A commemorative plaque and a check for \$500 are



Seattle JACL Convention Attendees, from left to right, Stan Shikuma, Seattle JACL President Sarah Baker, Bill Tashima, Tsuki Nomura-Hendley, Sheldon Arakaki and Jess Juanich.

presented to the JACL chapter selected for this honor.

"Having our chapter recognized on a national level is incredibly humbling," said Seattle Chapter delegate Sarah Baker. "We get to see the work we are doing from an outsider's perspective. I am so proud of all that we do!"

Seattle Chapter Awarded \$5,000 Legacy Fund Grant

By Gabrielle Nomura Gainor

The Legacy Fund Grant will be used to bring the performance piece, *Farewell Shikata Ga Nai*, to local public schools and community colleges during the 2019 API Heritage Month.

Choreographed by Seattle JACL board member Gabrielle Nomura Gainor, this work combines dance, Asian American theater, and live taiko drumming by Seattle Kokon Taiko, and deals with Nomura Gainor's feelings about what happened to her jichan (grandfather) and great-grandparents, along with 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. The title is both a play off of the book "Farewell to Manzanar," and it's also an act of defiance. During the World War II incarceration, Nikkei people frequently said, and had the attitude of, *Shikata ga nai* (it can't be helped) in regards to what their government was doing to them. In 2018, communities of color are reconciling with, and re-imagining painful moments of the past in powerful ways. This is what Gabrielle Nomura Gainor hopes



Farewell Shikata Ga Nai performance at Hing Hay Park, Seattle on May 27 at Pride ASIA.

to do as an Asian American artist and activist reconciling with incarceration, more than 70 years later. The piece ends in a scene where a modern-day Japanese American woman dances with the spirit of her ancestors swirling around her; finally, she has found peace between the past and the present, and she moves into the future with love and inspiration for those who came before her, and also, with a certain strength and determination.

Jess Juanich, Awardee of Seattle JACL Convention Scholarship Shares his Experience

From July 17th to the 22nd, I spent my time in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the 2018 JACL Convention learning and listening to powerful heartfelt stories individuals shared related to the convention's theme of Redress, Resistance, and Reconciliation. As a youth member, I got to connect with other JACL youth from around the country sharing personal stories, ideas for coalition building, and great memories exploring the city and trying delicious cheesesteaks.

Every day involved a different session that always focused on the theme. JACL members, spanning many generations, were together in community discussing the parallels that our country is facing with the current administration's hateful travel ban and President Roosevelt's signage of

Executive Order 9066, which impacted the lives of Japanese Americans during World War II by being displaced and put into incarceration camps and revoked of their American citizenship.

This was brought to light when I watched a documentary about the history of the incarceration camps and how different generations of Japanese Americans were affected. I saw Redress exemplified in the clips of President Reagan issuing a public apology and reparations to families affected by the implications of incarceration. The theme of Resistance was present in the strength of coalition of the No-No boys who stood up against the infamous questions that forced Japanese Americans to denounce their citizenship. The theme was also present with today's youth standing up to fight against bigotry, racism, and discrimination against marginalized communities by centering their voices and making spaces accessible by holding those in power accountable. Finally, Reconciliation came in the form of different mediums to bridge tense



A group photo of the intergenerational JACL attendees at the JACL National Convention with Karen Korematsu. Jess Juanich is in the front in the white shirt crouching on one knee.

relations into a future with the promise of peace and understanding.

Rising Japanese-American hip-hop star, G Yamazawa performed at the Barnes Foundation on Friday night giving rise to music as a means of liberation by speaking truth to the masses and utilizing music as a creative outlet to disrupt societal boundaries.

The process of community building among other JACL members was wholesome in that many could share their experiences with one another. I had a lot of fun in the intergenerational trivia night where



National JACL News Headlines

JACL Submits Comments in Opposition to Proposed Changes to the Flores Agreement

JACL Condemns Proposed Changes to Homeland Security Public Charge Definition

JACL Joins JA Confinement Sites Consortium

JACL Urges Support and Compassion to Survivors of Sexual Violence

JACL Joins Walkout from Senate Hearing to Protest Inhumane Policy of Separating Families

JACL Condemns Border Concentration Camps

JACL Deplores the Government's Use of Hirabayashi as Justification in Guantanamo Case

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jacl.org/news/digest

Jess Juanich, Awardee of Seattle JACL Convention Shares his Experience (Continued)

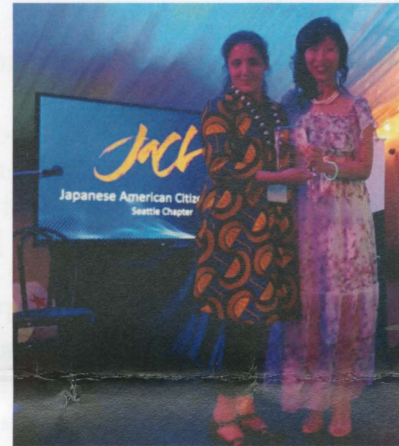
there were questions related to pop culture, politics, and Asian-American history which involved the deliberation, high-energy, and humor of every group sneakily writing their answers in friendly competition with one another to win awesome prizes while having a good time. I also enjoyed the open mic night at Madame Saito's where many of the JACL youth members showcased their talents ranging from music to spoken word performances which were all empowering, entertaining, and enjoyable.

My first JACL convention has underscored the need to be involved in the fight for civil rights not only within the Asian-American community but in community with others. The fight for freedom and justice is not a one-sided effort and it takes many to continue the progress that has allowed us to move forward. I am excited to be more involved as a JACL member with the Seattle chapter and to invite more youth to get engaged!

Huge shout-out and thanks to the Seattle JACL chapter for allowing me to participate this year and to the Philadelphia Chapter for hosting the convention!

InspirASIAN Recognizes Seattle JACL With Award

By Bill Tashima



Seattle JACL President Sarah Baker receiving award from Lai Lau, InspirASIAN Washington State Chapter Director.

The Seattle JACL received the *Community Leadership* award this past Friday from InspirASIAN, AT&T's Asian American employee resource group, at their 40th annual national awards banquet and "Igniting Possibilities - Dare to Be" scholarship fundraiser held this year in Seattle.

The Seattle JACL and InspirASIAN Washington have collaborated on a number of activities since 2012 from an introduction by David Lin, former National JACL President and former InspirASIAN National President.

InspirASIAN is composed of 8,000 members in 16 chapters around the country and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Employee Resource Group (ERG) led by employees at AT&T to foster diversity appreciation and inclusion in the workplace and community. Their mission is to engage and make a difference through impactful activities and programs enabling members to connect with each other, lead activities and inspire others to also make a difference.



Thank You All Who Attended Seattle JACL's 96th Annual Banquet!

By Paul Tashima

Thank You All Who Attended Seattle JACL's 96th Annual Banquet!

You helped us raise more than \$21,000 for social justice in our community! With the theme of "Food and Social Justice," this event examined the role of food in creating an equitable future for Japanese Americans, Asian Pacific Islanders, and other People of Color. Seattle JACL honored Pike Place Market Foundation, Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS), AT&T, Karen Akada Sakata (Bush Garden Restaurant), Keiro Northwest, and FareStart.

This year's keynote speaker was Shota Nakajima, chef and owner of Adana (1449 E. Pine St, Seattle, WA 98122). Having grown up in Seattle and Japan, Shota discovered a passion for food at 16, leading him to Osaka to train under Michelin rated Chef Yasuhiko Sakamoto. Shota talked about what it meant to dedicate oneself to the service of others and the strength of his diverse team. A contestant on the Iron Chef Gauntlet, semifinalist of the 2018 James Beard Award, and victor of Throwdown with Bobby Flay, Chef Shota is on a mission to explore Japanese cuisine and share it with the world.

Speaking of food, this year's Dessert Dash received over thirty desserts donated from our community of bakeries, restaurants, and home bakers! In all, over \$11,000 was raised to fund the Seattle JACL's annual scholarships.

Many thanks to Dessert Dash Donors:

Sarah Aoki, Bakery Nouveau, Carmelette Bentley, BiHoa Caldwell, Central Market, Cheesecake Factory, Cubes Baking Co., Karen Cunningham, Toshiko Hasegawa, Kiku Hayashi, Lillian Hayashi, Debbie Kashino, Wendy Kimball, Kyle Kinoshita, Macrina Bakery, Nothing Bundt Cake, Arlene Oki, Patrick's Bakery and Cafe, The Stauffer Family, Mari Sugiyama, Ellen Suzuki, Gail Tanaka, Bill Tashima & Chris Bentley.



Photo credit: Monica Ramey, Photos of Seattle JACL 2018 Banquet

Our Deepest Appreciation to our Banquet Sponsors:

Gobo Enterprises

Uwajimaya

Union Bank

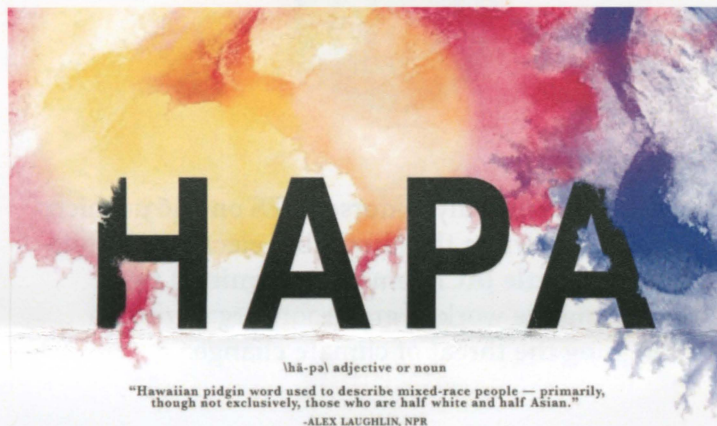
AT&T

Evergreen Washelli

Woodburn Company

Mixed Race Discussion Brings Youth Together to Share and Learn

By Theo Bickel



Educating the next generation of AAPI community leaders has been the vision of JACL for generations. Today, Seattle chapter is not only acting on youth leadership, it operates through youth leadership. This year, JACL Youth Members in the Pacific Northwest planned two youth events to encourage discussion and exploration of identity.

On July 7 at Eastern café was “a casual get-together to discuss our involvement and plan our next gathering and event open to any JACL youth in the PNW district.”

On October 6, the Pacific Northwest JACL Youth Group hosted an open discussion on mixed-race identity and culture called “Hapa’ Let’s Talk About it’ at the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington (JCCCW). This event, on an important topic for many young Asian Americans, was a full house and brought a lot of passionate discussion and sharing.

One of the PNW JACL youth members, Weston Koyama from Portland Chapter, shares his thoughts following the discussion:

The lived experiences of people of mixed heritage are unique, varied, and valuable. These lived experiences give us perspectives and insights about identity and belonging that should inform ongoing efforts to achieve social justice for all marginalized groups. Yet too often, people of mixed heritage do not have a space to express their identity or find their identities challenged by various forms of race

prejudice ranging from subtle micro-aggressions to overt forms of invidious discrimination. Events like these accentuate the exigency of claiming our voice as we work to dismantle and reverse systems of oppression in our communities and in the world.”



Attendees share and discuss what it means to have mixed heritage at “Hapa’ Let’s Talk About it’.



Become a Youth Member:

Membership revenue is one of the most important ways for JACL to continue our advocacy in the 21st century, in the face of new civil rights challenges.

Become a member today to take part in our Seattle chapter and nationally.

\$30.00

Youth / Student Membership

Sign-up online at:
jacl.org/member

Aki Kurose Cleanup Day

By Bill Tashima



Volunteers gather at the Aki Kurose Middle School Academy sign after a full day of gardening and cleaning.

A total of 45 people, Seattle JACL members and friends and family of Aki Kurose, joined together on a drizzly overcast August 25th for the Aki Kurose Middle School cleanup. Usually held on what participants feel is one of the hottest summer days of the year, the annual community service summer event is organized by the Kurose family and Seattle JACL to prepare the grounds right before the start of the school year to honor Aki Kurose's legacy. Volunteers weeded, raked, planted flowers, weeded some more and rocked out to Aretha Franklin as a tribute to the memory of beloved community leader Aki Kurose with lunch catered from Keiro Northwest.

"Our annual Aki Kurose Middle School beautification and garden clean-up is a way for us as a community to honor and continue her legacy by showing we care about the kids in our community and to show we appreciate and support those who are carrying on the work Aki Kurose dedicated her life to," said her son Paul Kurose. *"It is important and significant that the school serves predominantly students of color and immigrant children, so that we, as the Japanese-American community can stand with those who continue to face political atrocities due to race and national origin."*

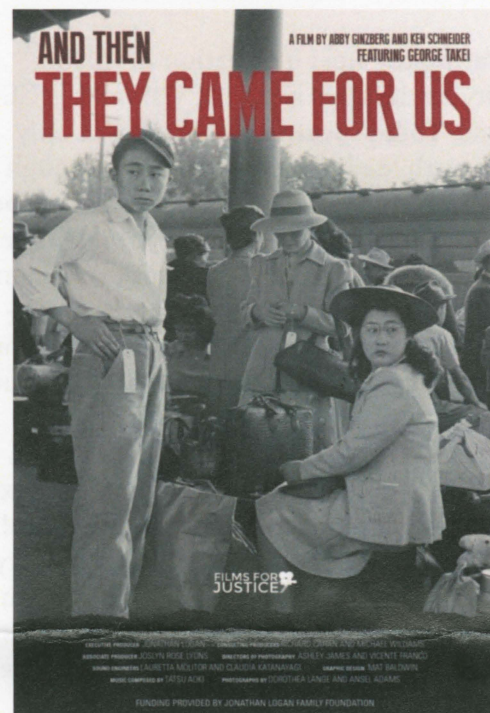
In honor of Aki Kurose, Seattle JACL also offers the \$2,000 Aki Kurose Memorial Scholarship annually to an aspiring student who shares her commitment to the community.

Community Sponsorships and Events



YES ON 1631

Seattle JACL proudly endorsed YES on I-1631 which was voted down in the November election. Despite the loss, Seattle JACL remains committed to continuing the work of grassroots organizing to addressing the threat of climate change.



'AND THEN THEY CAME FOR US'

Seattle JACL was a community co-sponsor of the film "And Then They Came for Us" on October 27th and 28th at the NW Film Forum. The film director Abby Ginzberg lead a post-film discussion joined by Masih Fouladi of CAIR-WA on Saturday; on Sunday, they were also joined by Satsuki Ina of the Tule Lake Committee.

Community Sponsorships and Events (continued)



ACRS' 28th annual
**WALK
 FOR
 RICE**
 every grain counts

ACRS WALK FOR RICE

Seattle JACL is proud to have supported Asian Counseling and Referral Service's Walk for Rice on June 7. JACL members and supporters joined in the walk at Seward Park as well as raised \$2,600, coming in 7th place in fundraising.



DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Seattle JACL joined the 76th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 at the Washington State House of Representatives on February 19.



SAAFF

Seattle JACL is Proud to
 Co-Present Two Films

SEATTLE ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

Seattle JACL proudly sponsored the 2018 Seattle Asian American Film Festival (SAAFF) which showcases films by and about Asian Americans across North America, with an emphasis on filmmakers from the Pacific Northwest.

JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION: CIVIL LIBERTIES AND UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW, THEN AND NOW

Seattle JACL sponsored 'The Japanese American Incarceration: Civil Liberties and Upholding the Rule of Law, Then and Now', a free public event on April 13 at Seattle University. Karen Korematsu, Founder and Executive Director of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute and the Honorable Judge Marilyn Hall Patel who in 1983 overturned Fred Korematsu's conviction, spoke on the legacy of Japanese American Incarceration and broader discussion of the rule of law, civil liberties, and current events.



Seattle JACL board members and guests at the Densho Dinner "Keeping Our History Alive Through Art and History" on November 3.

COMMUNITY BANQUETS AND CELEBRATIONS

Being present makes all the difference! Seattle JACL is proud to have supported our friends in community at these events:

- OCA Golden Circle Awards on February 6
- NVC 72nd Annual Officer Installation Banquet on March 17
- JCCCW Tomodachi Gala on March 31
- API Heritage Month Celebration at Seattle Center on May 6
- Seattle API Candidates Forum on October 11
- Eastside API Candidates Forum on October 8
- ACRS Gala on October 27
- Densho Dinner "Keeping Our History Alive Through Art and History" on November 3
- Southeast Asian Education Coalition "Rising SEAS" on November 17



Photo Credit: Jeff Miller "Autumn Garden"

Thank You for Your Support

Have a Wonderful New Year



Seattle JACL 2018 Board Members:

Back Row L to R: Mika Kurose Rothman, Renee Infelise, Maria Leninger, Arlene Oki, Theo Bickel
Middle Row: Josh Tashima-Boyd, Paul Tashima-Boyd, Sheldon Arakaki, Sylvie Shiosaki, Bill Tashima
Front Row: Tsuki Nomura-Hendley, Gabrielle Nomura Gainor, Sarah Baker, Stan Shikuma
Not Pictured: Marcine Anderson, Bihoa Caldwell, Bob Hasegawa, Toshiko Hasegawa, Kiku Hayashi, Elsie Taniguchi, Sharon Tomiko-Santos