



Internalized Racial Oppression Workshop Series

On November 8, Seattle JACL held the first in a series of workshops focused on exploring Internalized Racial Oppression within communities of color. This first workshop was focused specifically on the Asian and Pacific Islander American community and how it affects individuals and their advocacy work within the community. Nearly 50 participants spent the day with trainers Norma Timbang and Lulu Carpenter for meaningful and thoughtful dialogue on this topic.

The next workshop is scheduled for February 28, 2009 from 10AM until 5PM at South Seattle Community College and will focus on deeper conversations for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. For more information, please email IROtrainings@yahoo.com. Future workshops will include cross community dialogue including African American, Latino and Native American.

Honoring our Nisei

The 2009 JACL Installation Banquet is fast approaching. On January 24, 2009, our annual fund raising dinner will be held at the Seattle Waterfront Marriott. In addition to introducing the 2009 JACL Board of Directors, this year's theme will be Nisei – Okage sama de, which loosely translated means, "because of your sacrifices, we are what we are today."

Lori Matsukawa, KING 5 News anchor, will emcee the event. Keynote speaker will be Mr. Tom Ikeda, director of the Densho Project, with stories and video from the Project's interviews of Nisei.

Special honors will go to Mrs. Fumiko Hayashida, whose face was captured on film when the first Japanese Americans were removed from Bainbridge Island, following Executive Order 9066. Longtime JACL member Ms. Takako Yoda, who has worked silently behind the scenes on so many projects, will be presented with the Sam Shoji Unsung Hero Award. JACL will also honor the University of Washington, who became the first university in the country to honor all Nisei enrolled at their school in 1941-42 with an honorary degree.

In addition to the program, themed baskets will be raffled off. Proceeds from these ticket sales will benefit the JACL Scholarship program. New this year, a dessert auction will take place with desserts coming from bakeries as well as fantastic bakers from the community.

The event will take place on Saturday, January 24, 2009. Tickets are \$75 each, for requests made by January 10. After the January 10 early bird price, tickets will be \$90. For information, please see the Seattle JACL website: www.JACLSeattle.org. The invitation and reply card are available there. For additional information, please contact Elaine Akagi at (206) 772-7192.

Year End Close Out on Limited Edition Cookbooks

Seattle JACL has a limited amount of Bento Box Cookbooks left and would like to give you the opportunity to own a copy—a collection of favorites from chapter board members and friends that reflect the diversity of our community.

To order your cookbook, please contact Kendee Yamaguchi at kendeeyamaguchi@hotmail.com. Each book is \$15 (plus shipping). Please order soon as supplies are limited.

Butter Mochi submitted by Kendee Yamaguchi

1 pkg. Mochi Flour
3 c. sugar
2 c. milk
1 (12 oz) can of coconut milk
1 block of melted butter
5 eggs
1 T. baking powder
Mix ingredients together and put in a greased 9x12 pan. Bake at 350° for 1 hour. Cool 20 minutes before cutting.

Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu!

Happy New Year from the Seattle JACL! We wanted to share a bit of background and education about some traditional Japanese New Year's traditions. Enjoy!

Kadomatsu is a traditional decoration of pine, bamboo, and plum to symbolize good luck and best wishes for the New Year. The pine represents longevity, the bamboo for resiliency, and the plum for new beginnings and purity. A pair of Kadomatsu is often placed at either side of the entrance to a home or business.

Hatsumode is the first visit in the New Year to a Buddhist temple or Shinto shrine. Saisen (money offerings) are given to the temple/shrine. People pray for health and happiness. Some draw lots for omikugi (written oracles) and purchase good luck charms.

Saiwaigami or lucky paper is used at New Years to bring good fortune and keep evil away. The saiwaigami has pictures of "Shichi Fukujin" (Seven Gods of good luck) as well as other pictures including the eggplant which symbolizes good fortune and health. Place the saiwaigami crosswise on top of a hanshi (white paper) and place kagami mochi (two round mochi rice cakes, one larger than the other) on top of it with a tangerine. A moroba (fern leaf for good luck) can also be placed on the sawaigami.

See "New Year" on page 3

President's Message

by Dawn Rego, President

A Tradition of Innovation

In this day and age, where people's eyes are turned towards the economy, I've often heard that the way the United States will remain on top and stay competitive is our ability to innovate. Innovation, of course, is defined as our ability to create, and make real new thoughts, ideas and initiatives. JACL has a strong tradition of innovation.

We started as an organization that was dedicated to preserving Japanese heritage, to that of understanding the unique challenges of Japanese Americans in the United States, to one that understood that there was a unique experience that our racial heritage brings, and how we interact in a society that encounters race disparity.

Seattle JACL, in particular, had a unique lens made us the leading organization when it came to the reparation movement. Our leaders had the foresight to see, take action and begin on the journey to repair a grave injustice done to our community. And quite possibly the most important action: to tell the story and educate so that the past may not be repeated.

Now, we are at a crossroads. Several people whom I've encountered have asked, what is the relevance of our organization in this day and age?

We've had our victories, but it is time to move away from resting on our past victories and laurels, to one that returns to its tradition of innovation. It is time for Seattle JACL to innovate, change and grow so that we may be relevant to current and future generations.

So it is with these thoughts of innovation, creativity and change that we look towards 2009. Please get involved with the JACL in a way that is meaningful to you. This is your Seattle JACL and you have the ability to innovate and create change. It may be serving on one of our committees or attending one of our events but get involved.

Thank you to all of the board members who started the innovation this year. I look forward to continuing this in 2009. Many thanks to all of the committee members and volunteers who do so much. We appreciate all of you!

20th Anniversary Japanese Canadian Redress Settlement Celebration and Conference

As Japanese Americans across the US celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Redress, we must also recognize and honor that our Canadian neighbors went through a similar experience. On September 22, 1988 the Government of Canada formally acknowledged the injustices committed against Japanese Canadians (JC) during WWII. Twenty years later, it was an opportunity for all to learn about the Japanese Canadian internment experience, honor those who fought and won redress, and teach others so we do not repeat the same mistakes.

Doug Honma, our Vice President for Civil Rights, and I traveled to Vancouver, BC to attend the 20th Anniversary of the Japanese Canadian Redress Conference, co-hosted by the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) and the

Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens Association (JCCA). The conference was attended by nearly 300 people and held at the Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall and the National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre over the dates of September 19 through the 21 of this year.



There were various workshops and plenary sessions like Redress: Never Too Late, where a panel of representatives of the Aboriginal, Chinese Canadian, Ukrainian Canadian and Japanese Canadian communities shared their experiences fighting for and winning redress from the Government of Canada and Beyond Anti-Racism, where the panelists discussed moving beyond being against racism, discrimination or injustice that has a tendency to split groups into the 'us' and 'them' but rather towards being for justice and equality as a way to create unity. The conference also showcased local JC talent during the luncheons and a workshop titled Telling Stories, Questioning Japanese Canadian Identities: Research, Writing, Visual Art as Cultural Practices where a panel of authors and artists told of their work as a sense of expression of JC identity and the struggles, challenges and joys within the community.

Two workshops that I found most interesting were titled Building Partnerships and Right Relations with Aboriginal Peoples and a youth workshop titled Thinking for the Present, Re-visiting Redress. The first workshop had Mary Kitagawa (a former internee and member of the JCCA Human Rights Committee) and Lorna Williams (a member of the Squamish Nation and Assistant Professor & Director of Aboriginal Education, University of Victoria) share their personal history of the JC internment experience and of the experience of first nations people. It showed many similarities between the two experiences but also many differences and also had time for a sharing circle where attendees also were able to share their reactions or personal experiences. The Thinking for the Present, Re-visiting Redress workshop showcased a panel of leaders during the Redress movement and also had youth respondents to share their reactions and thoughts.

Doug and I networked with leaders in the JC community and met members of the JCCA Human Rights Committee so that we can build dialogue around the human and civil rights issues in the Japanese communities in both Seattle and Vancouver. We also had the opportunity to have lunch with Craig Natsuhara, President of the National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre in Burnaby, BC. We discussed the similarities and differences between Vancouver and Seattle, the Japanese communities in both cities and also a really interesting conversation on youth involvement with both of our organizations.

by *Emily Hanako Momohara*

Issei Memorial

The Friends of Minidoka (FoM) is working diligently on the Issei Memorial Project, a site specific memorial at Minidoka and a key component of a visitor's experience. It will be the first Issei Memorial in our country. A talented group has been formed to do the design: Valerie Otani, Public Artist; Jerry Arai, Architect; Kenichi Nakano, Landscape Architect ; John Buday, Project Manager for Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial; Anna Tamura, National Park Service Landscape Architect; and Alan Momohara as the Project Manager. At the pilgrimage this year, the initial design ideas were presented and much feedback was collected. Now, the team is refining the Memorial design and working on the phases of construction. In addition, the FoM has hired Bif Brigman as a part-time fundraising consultant to help raise the one million dollars needed for construction. Lastly, Alan Momohara is performing informational and outreach sessions. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Alan Momohara at alanmomohara@hotmail.com.

Honor Roll

The Honor Roll at Minidoka contained names of the brave men from Minidoka who were soldiers during WWII. Keith Yamaguchi, FoM board member and Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) Officer, has organized a group of NCV members to research the names on the Honor Roll. The group is assisted by Anna Tamura and Keith Yamaguchi. Bill Vaughn, FoM board member and architect, is drawing construction documents for the Honor Roll from historic photographs.

Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)

In September CAFO was approved to be constructed one mile from Minidoka. FoM and JAACL National have partnered with several local and national organizations to legally combat the CAFO. The air, water and soil contamination caused by 13,000 confined dairy cows would be a detriment to the function of Minidoka as a public park and endanger its historic assets.

2009 Pilgrimage

Save the Date! June 26 to 28 will be the seventh annual Minidoka Pilgrimage. The pilgrimage will include a tour of the Minidoka site, visit to original barracks, story telling, and a ceremony in the Minidoka Victory Garden. The pilgrimages have been a wonderful opportunity for families to learn about the sacrifices Nikkei made during the war. Those who have attended feel it was a life-changing moment. More information will be available at www.minidokapilgrimage.com.

There are other projects in the works at Minidoka such as the annual Civil Liberties Symposium and barracks move. In addition, a new permanent superintendent has been appointed to Minidoka, Wendy Jansen. To learn more about these projects or to see photographs from past pilgrimages and archeological digs, visit www.minidoka.org.

Otoshidama is a custom of giving pocket money to children. The money is placed in pochibukuro (decorated envelopes).

Kanenonaruki or money growing tree represents good fortune and happiness.

Mochitsuki or mochi pounding is a symbol of happiness. Cooked rice is put into the usu or wooden mortar and pounded with a kine or wooden mallet. Some people offer mochi at the Buddhist temple or Shinto shrine in the hope for a better, brighter, happier upcoming year.

Osechi Ryori or special selection of New Years dishes.

Oden is a nabe ryori dish which represents harmony.

Ozoni is a very traditional soup with mochi that is cooked in many different styles depending on the area of Japan. The Sendai version is a clear soup of shoyu with stock of dried fish containing toasted rice cakes and Chinese cabbage. Tokyo folks enjoy their ozoni with katsuoboshi (dried bonito), chicken, and spinach. Kyoto is known for their soup stock made with white miso and konbu and/or dried katsuo. Hiroshima ozoni contains oysters.

Toshikoshi soba is a buckwheat noodle eaten on New Years Eve. The long noodles symbolize long life.

Gobo, the longest growing of the root crops, represents long and meager life. It is served on happy occasions.

Kuri Kinton (mashed sweet potato with sweetened chestnuts). Kuri means victory and kinton means treasure.

Takenoko or bamboo shoot is eaten for good luck.

Tatsukuri/Gomame – Tatsukuri is a dried sardine and symbolizes affluence, health, and safety. Many years ago, Japanese people used tatsukuri as a fertilizer. According to folklore, rice grows well with tatsukuri as a fertilizer and can reap as much as 50,000 straw bags of rice. Goman means 50,000 and me means rice, giving us gomame.

Kuromame – black beans are eaten for good health. “Mame de kurasu” means living in good health.

Tai Nitsuke is a poached red snapper and is served for luck.

Sekihan – Red beans and rice. Sekihan means red rice. It is served during happy occasions. It is believed the red in sekihan protects a person.

Kamaboko or fish cake is served at New Years because the combination of red and white brings good luck.

Kinako Mochi is made on New Years for good luck. Kinako is a roasted soy flour.

Datemaki is a rolled omelet and represents the ongoing progress of learning.

Kobumaki represents happiness as in “yorokobu”.

Kazunoko – is herring roe and a symbol of fertility. Families hoping for children eat this dish on New Years.

Mission Statement: The Seattle Chapter JACL is a non-profit, grassroots civil rights organization dedicated to empowering our local community through high-quality programs and strategic partnerships focusing on activism, education, and youth leadership development. As a chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, we strive to be a leading Asian American advocacy group for civil and human rights while promoting and preserving the values and cultural heritage of Japanese Americans.

Chapter Board Meeting: Our primary means of carrying out our mission is a monthly meeting, held at 6 PM on the third Wednesday of each month, except August, at the chapter office, 316 Maynard Ave. S, Seattle. Those wishing to make presentations or be added to the meeting agenda should contact President Dawn Rego prior to the meeting.

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Article and Event Submission: Board members should submit materials to the editor (ryanminato@hotmail.com) by the Friday after the monthly board meeting. Calendar items emphasize chapter or community events not likely to be covered by community newspapers or by other newsletters.

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