

C H A P T E R C L A R I O N

New York
May 1973

DEAR FELLOW JACLers:

I was delighted to be able to meet many of you at the cocktail party held on April 14th and tremendously encouraged by your voice of support for our Chapter's proposed activities.

Our hats must be off to Ruby Schaar for her kind generosity in hosting this enjoyable event. Things are always lively when Dear Ruby is around.

To keep you abreast of and hopefully interest in the happenings in our Chapter, may I, with your indulgence, give you the scoop on what has been transpiring since our last newsletter and what is on the planning boards.

Eastern District Council Meeting -
New York Regional Office

March 10th was the date of a well-hosted EDC meeting in Moorestown, New Jersey. Philadelphia Chapter, in its inimitable style, did a fabulous job of hosting the affair.

The setting was ideal. Tak and Yuri Moriuchi's home is something to behold. Surrounded by woods, overlooking a large farm pond, the home enveloped us all in a very cozy feeling. And, for those of you who have not tasted Tak's apples, they have an indescribable savor which must be experienced to be fully appreciated.

Of interest to New York is the Eastern Regional Office assignment. Following considerable discussion on this topic, the New York Chapter was given the assignment of heading a committee to make a feasibility study of and draft a proposal to be presented at the National Convention in 1974 for establishing a National JACL office in New York City.

During the immediate post-war years such an office existed, but was eventually phased out. There is now considerable feeling that the office should be reopened and engage itself, inter alia, in constant efforts to promote and safeguard the rights and image of Japanese Americans by maintaining contacts with the press and the media.

The committee will be meeting on May 5th at George Higuchi's (Philadelphia Chapter President) home to prepare the final draft of the report. We will make available a copy of the report to any member who is interested in reading it.

Reparations Legislation

We have been asked by the Washington Office, specifically Barry Matsumoto, to submit our consensus of opinion regarding proposed national reparations legislation to provide monetary compensation for specifically defined injustice suffered by Japanese Americans during World War II. Consensus must be arrived at concerning the type of injustice for which the JACL will be seeking legislation. For example, answers must be obtained to such questions as: Should the injustice be defined in specific terms of evacuation and detention or in broader terms of pain and suffering experienced by all Japanese Americans? How should payments be calculated? Should they be made to individual claimants or to a common fund? If made to individuals, to whom should they be made?

A general business meeting by itself or in conjunction with a social event will be called to discuss this matter. In the meantime a special legislation committee

will be organized to spearhead Chapter action in this direction.

The Washington Office also has provided us with some good summaries of specific bills being introduced in Congress which affect Japanese Americans or U. S.- Japan relations. Illustrative of these is Bill No. S. 121 introduced by Senator Inouye which will extend the special credit for internment time under 5 U. S. C. 1076 to all civilian employees of the U. S., thus eliminating the present limitation which requires an employee to be in postal field service and classified civil service. Since we are desirous of having New York Chapter members manifest support for bills of their choice by writing to their Congressmen, we shall make available through the legislation committee to those who are interested copies of these summaries and explanations of how to contact your Congressmen regarding them.

Asian Organization Cooperation

The New York Chapter is interested in cooperating, wherein it can feasibly do so, with various Asian American organizations operating in the New York Metropolitan Area whose objectives and methods are compatible with those of the JACL. For this reason a special panel discussion is being planned involving representatives of the JACL and representatives from other Asian groups, such as American Asians for Action, Asians on the Alert, and the Asian Coalition. This panel discussion will be held in conjunction with the EDC meeting which the New York Chapter will host on May 19th at the Japan House, 333 East 47th Street, New York, N. Y. The discussion will begin at 3:00 p.m. and should be very interesting and enlightening. Any members who may be interested in attending are welcome to do so.

Ad Hoc Committee for the Elderly

The New York Chapter is wholeheartedly supporting the efforts of the Committee, and from results thus far produced it appears something positive should distill from the Committee's efforts.

It goes without saying that the senior citizens amongst us need our help and concern. After all, time being no respecter of persons, we too shall someday be where they are now.

It would indeed be a sad and regrettable commentary on the Japanese American if he indifferently neglects an often praised virtue of his race--that of caring for his elderly.

George Yuzawa deserves special plaudits for the many selfless hours of dedicated service he has devoted and personal resources he has expended to launch a project to aid the elderly in the New York Area. He certainly would welcome the support of any interested volunteers. His report on the project appears later in the Clarion.

Installation Dinner--May 19th

Have you purchased a ticket and circled the date on your calendar?

Although the details concerning the Dinner follow later, the featured speaker for the evening deserves special mention.

Sam Nakagama is the Chief Economist of Kidder, Peabody & Co., a large investment banking firm. He has a national as well as an international reputation in financial and economic circles. He is the former Editor of the National City Bank monthly letter and former Chief Economist for Argus & Co. He will address himself to the

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very timely topic: "The Role of Nikkeijin in the New Economics".

I am sure that those who avail themselves of the opportunity to hear Mr. Nakagama's thoughts on this provocative subject will come away from the dinner impressed and stimulated in thought.

Chapter Scholarship Candidate

Special thanks are due Tami Ogata and her Committee for the outstanding job they did in conducting our scholarship program. Evidently, the competition was keen and the selection very difficult.

The New York Chapter will make a \$50.00 Chapter Scholarship Award at the Installation Dinner to our Chapter candidate, Frederic R. Furuya. The other participants have also been invited to attend the Dinner.

Tami's report which appears later more fully describes the activities of the Committee.

East Coast History Project

The National JACL East Coast History Project being conducted under the special sponsorship of the New York Chapter is progressing slowly but surely. Brochures are soon to be published, which will be used to solicit funds in the History Committee's final fund drive to reach the established goal of \$45,200.

Professor T. Scott Miyakawa of the University of Boston has already begun research for the written history which will eventually be published.

One beneficial result which has already been realized from the Project, largely due to Professor Miyakawa's efforts, is the preservation of many valuable historical records which were destined for immediate destruction by the National Archives.

East Coast Charter Flight to Japan--
July 14 to August 12, 1973

Under the very capable leadership of Mike Watabe, our Chapter 1000 Club Chairman, and Stanley Okada, the charter flight seems to have overcome some initial difficulties and is now progressing quite well. A special student program has been added and will provide an excellent opportunity for students to use summer vacation time to visit Japan at bargain prices (despite the devaluation).

Stanley Okada has been spending many hours to make the flight a success and would appreciate your contacting any friends or relatives who possibly may consider joining the flight.

Ideas on the Planning Boards

The following are in our Chapter "Idea Mill" and may be inaugurated in the near future: A New York Chapter credit union; establishment of a Chapter Civil Rights Watchdog Committee; a Toastmasters' Club (for developing speakers and toastmasters); services for elderly people, especially with respect to relocating them in more suitable housing (immediate action measure for helping the elderly); and the formation of a youth group.

As you can see, the New York Chapter is brushing aside cobwebs, stamping off the dust, and briskly stepping out toward greater activity and accomplishment. We, therefore, earnestly urge your active support of our organizational plans and objectives.

In a country seemingly mired down in the doldrums of mediocrity in serving others, isn't it time we stood up to be counted among those "who care". May it be said that we did care, and this nation of

ours was thus made a better place to live because of what "We" did.

Sincerely,

Ron Inouye

HOUSING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The representatives of the New York Chapter, active participants on the Ad Hoc Committee for Concerns of the Senior Citizens, have wholeheartedly endorsed the program to find adequate housing for our needy elderly persons.

At a meeting held last April 26th, it was unanimously adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee to give priority to the finding of adequate housing, and wherever possible, to incorporate a multi-service center with the housing.

The feasibility for this program was established as a result of in depth studies of the answers to the questionnaires which were distributed in our community. Much credit must go to Lucile Nakamura and her staff, to Dr. Azumi of Columbia University and to Aiko Abe of Asian Americans for Action for their time and efforts to analyze the data and draw up the tables and the tabulations of the answers.

The following committees were formed to take action to implement the findings of the feasibility study: Legal - Ron Inouye, Joe Imai; Finance - Ken Yasuda, Kazu Obayashi, H. Matsuo; Social Welfare of Immediate Needs - Lucile Nakamura; Building Search - Mr. Miyahira, Fujio Saito; Fund Raising - Bill Kochiyama.

Necessary steps will be taken at the next meeting which will be held on May 17th to incorporate as a

non-profit organization and to consider possible locations and discuss necessary financing.

Much helpful information and data was furnished to the committee by the Tamai Towers' manager, Floyd Koshio, a Denver high rise project now in operation, by Kats Tokunaga of the San Jose Buddhist Church projects, and by Yukio Wada of JARF Housing Project of San Francisco. These sites in addition to Los Angeles area were personally visited by George Yuzawa to become better acquainted with the needs and requirements for housing.

We hope the fellow members will give their full support to the housing for the Senior Citizens, a worthwhile cause long overdue.

George Yuzawa

EASTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING - NEW YORK CHAPTER INSTALLATION DINNER

EDC Meeting: The EDC (New York, Philadelphia, Seabrook and Washington, D.C.) meeting will be held May 19th at the Japan House, 333 East 47th Street, New York, New York (near United Nations building) from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The New York Chapter will act as host and the meeting will be conducted by Mrs. Grayce Uyehara, EDC Governess.

Installation Dinner: The Dinner will be held at the American Room of the Mayan Restaurant (no view obstructing pillars or corners in American Room), 630 Fifth Avenue (between 50th and 51st Streets). No-host cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m. and the dinner begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 per person; students \$9.00.

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The featured speaker will be Mr. Sam Nakagama, Chief Economist at Kidder, Peabody & Co. The topic of his address will be "The Role of Nikkeijin in the New Economics".

For reservations, contact: Joe Imai - Business CO7-5289, Home 666-6337; Lucile Nakamura - 222-2451 (After 7:00 p.m.); Murray Sprung - Business 682-7779 (all phone numbers 212 area code)

BETTER RELATIONS - ISSEI, NISEI,
AND SANSEI

A coalition of Japanese American organizations, including the JACL, will hold on Saturday, May 5, from 2 to 4 p.m. in what promises to be an interesting afternoon. A panel of Isseis of different prefectures will relate their childhood experiences in Japan and their early life in America. Many third generations of the Japanese American have expressed curiosity about their ancestry, so it is hoped that a meeting such as this would close the generation gap. Future meetings will feature the Nisei and the Sansei.

One comment heard at the committee meeting was the indifference of the Nisei toward relating to the third and first generations. All JACL members should make a special effort to attend. Reservations are not needed; just come.

Joe Imai

NEW YORK CHAPTER CANDIDATE FOR
NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The Scholarship Committee recently underwent quite a challenge and an ordeal in selecting two out of four extremely able and accomplished applicants. The young high school seniors competed to be chosen to be the New York Chapter candidate to compete nationally for the National JACL Scholarships.

Each applicant had an impressive record in scholarship, school activities, accomplishments, interest and already received honors. The Committee was truly impressed!

After considerable deliberation, the choices were narrowed to two applicants. Frederic R. Furuya, an outstanding graduating senior from Stuyvesant High School was chosen to represent the New York area. For the New England states area, an extremely able senior at Newton South High School in Massachusetts, Charles Yuji Horioka, was designated as candidate.

The Committee consisting of Mrs. Ruby Schaar, Mrs. Alice Shimomura, Mr. Ken Yasuda, August Nakagawa and Miss Tami Ogata, regretted very much the need to limit the choice to two and wished that every applicant could have been named to enter the national competition.

Tami Ogata

COCKTAIL PARTY - A BUBBLING GOOD
TIME

The April 14, 1973 JACL Cocktail Party held at Ruby Schaar's studio was a smashing success--nearly 60 happy, old and new friendly faces exchanging greetings and having a warm, wonderful time.

Much credit goes to the untiring efforts of all the committee members:

Mr. Ron Inouye
Mr. Henry Iijima
Ms. Lucile Nakamura
Ms. Tami Ogata
Ms. Edna Suzuki
Ms. Ruby Schaar
Mr. Joe Imai
Mr. Murray Sprung
Mr. George Yuzawa

R. Schaar

FAREWELL TO JOE AND SAMMY OYAMA

An old time and loyal JACLer Joe Oyama and his wife Sammy have left New York and will be missed by their many friends. His column about Manhattan in the Pacific Citizen is always read with interest and we know his literary contributions will continue from another location.

Joe has always been a staunch supporter of our local chapter and has served on the Board of Directors for many years. A few close friends and board members gave a send-off party at the Nippon Club recently and we all wished them the best at their new home. Their plans are indefinite but Cincinnati, Ohio will be their first stop.

Joe Imai

WINNERS - OPERATION PORT CON-TOUR
DRAWING

Operation Port Con-Tour is the code name to help finance the 1973 27th annual JACL National Bowling Tournament in Portland, March 5-10, and the 1974 23rd JACL Biennial National Convention in Portland, July 23-27.

Winners of the first drawing of March 10, 1973 were:

1973 Toyota

Jane Wing, Portland, Oregon

2 Roundtrips to Japan

Clark & Hofsted, Chicago, Illinois

5 One Hundred Dollar Bonds

R. Yamamoto, Los Angeles, California
Shig Hongo, Portland, Oregon
Gary Shindo, Hawaii
Paul Otaguro, San Francisco, Calif.
Dr. Roland Kumasaka, Seattle, Wash.

Lucile Nakamura