

KAY BITZING

Now that the duties of office no longer confine us, we feel that we can take some questionable pleasure from touching lightly on various serious (and perhaps sometimes inane) matters which concern ourselves and those with whom we fraternize.

Elsewhere on these pages, there is a report dealing with the possible merger of the two boards controlling the organizations active within the Japanese American community. We have long felt the need of such a move and if this is a practical possibility and the will of the people, we can think of many advantages to the consummation of such an idea.

However, it is not a step to be taken lightly - one must weigh the evidence and take into consideration all aspects of such a move. Admittedly, such a merger would result in the subjugation of one or the other of the two groups - a loss of identity for one is inevitable. It will mean that the single board must of necessity be manned by mature-thinking adults who are seriously concerned not only with the management of the JA community center, but also have a nodding acquaintance with the JACL movement. Financially, there will be no decrease in the funds needed to meet the operating expenses of the Center and that of the quota set by the JACL to meet the national budget. A complex bookkeeping system must be set up. But most of all, it would entail the need for educating the public - in this case the JA community, to the advantage of becoming an active member of an organization which encompasses the benefits - and some of the disadvantages - of a joint group.

We have been told that other localities have attempted a merger of two or more groups and failed. Such a move as is contemplated here should not be projected with the idea that the situation would improve with time or experience - and it could possibly mean the eventual breakdown in morale of the community as well as a disintegration of the existing organizations.

There are those who have

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1963 JACL BOARD INSTALLED BY MDC CHAIRMAN

Highlighting one of the most impressive events of the year, the Twin Cities JACL's chairman-elect Paul Tsuchiya was duly installed into office February 2 at the Foo Chu Cafe by Midwest District Council Chairman, Dr. Frank Sakamoto. Members of the new 1963 board also installed were Howard Nomura, vice-chairman; Hatsume Akaki, recording secretary; Sally Sudo, corresponding secretary; James Kusunoki, treasurer; Kay Kushino, 1000-Club; Rev. Yurii Kyogoku, historian; Frank Tsuchiya, program; Kimi Hara, scholarship; and membership co-chairmen Sumi Teramoto and Mas Harada. Tomo Kosobayashi was Toastmaster.

Reverend Kyogoku of the Buddhist Church delivered the invocation and the dinner portion of the evening's program was officially concluded with a benediction by Reverend Andrew Otani, Director of the JA Community Center.

In delivering the keynote address, Dr. Sakamoto emphasized the important part JACL plays in legislative affairs on the national level and some of the objectives outlined on the national level for immediate action. He clarified the tax status of the evacuation claims awards, stressed the importance of the repeal of anti-alien land laws in the State of Idaho and the hope that a similar goal could be achieved in the State of Washington. Also, he explained the miscegenation laws which still are rampant in many states of the union. He also reiterated the necessity of keeping alert to prevent or eliminate legislative action which might be discriminatory to minority group.

Outgoing chairman Kay Kushino welcomed the guests and thanked members of the board for their cooperation and support during the past year.

The second half of the evening was devoted to a most unique program co-chaired by Chester Fujino and George Ono. Those participating in the entertainment were Frank Tsuchiya, Jr., who gave an instrumental solo; Mrs. Jay Anderson, vocal solos in the Japanese language; dances by Caroline Nishida, Jean Hirota, Elaine Hirota, Barbara Hirota, Sachi Osada, and Phyllis Ono; Randy Shimizu, accordian; and Diana Ichimura, Violin solo. "Yaji and Kita" enacted by the two chairmen, added a note of hilarity to the occasion.

Following the program, guests were invited to the home of Mrs. Kay Kushino for an informal "sit and chat" session. The following morning, Mr. and Mrs. Mas Harada opened their home for a brunch board meeting at which time Dr. Sakamoto presided at an interesting and informative discussion of the various phases of the JACL program as it related to the local chapter.

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Pushy Pat is another--when you're calmly sitting in your little corner of the seat, she sits down as hard as she can and arranges herself so that if you take the tiniest breath you immediately meet with an elbow in your diaphragm.

Snoopy Sam likes you--He loves you, in fact, if you happen to be reading; he isn't fussy...it could be a paper, a magazine or a letter--he likes to know what's going on, I guess.

Giggly Gloria can't be mistaken--she's the first one you hear as you board the bus, nobody ever knows the joke, but her echoing roars of laughter make you wonder!

Sophisticated Sarah catches your eye--not particularly because of her startling beauty, but because of the reflection of the sun from her mirror shining in your eyes; maybe she didn't have time to finish getting ready. Maybe I should call her "budding beauty" instead!

There are countless others including the hand-holding "Young Lovers", gum-snapping school girls, package-packed "shoppers" and impatient "stand-upers."

Do you fit any of these descriptions? Oh, don't be embarrassed, I'm just as guilty and we're all just human. Of course, before you ever pass judgement on anybody's behavior just ask yourself, "Aren't people really interesting??"

-- Barbe Luke

"WHAT IS JACL?"

The TC JACL is one segment of a national organization comprising 90 separate chapters. These 90 chapters are allocated into five district councils each with a chairman in charge and in turn answering to the national headquarters. The original group was formulated in the late 1920s for the purpose of presenting a united front against discriminatory practices in politics, to participate in areas of human and civil relations, and to promote the educational and cultural aspects of the Japanese Americans in this country. Insofar as the basic principles are concerned JACL has held the line on policy throughout the years of its existence with the exception that during the current biennium, it has broadened its base to include a national project entailing the documentation of the history of the Japanese in America. Altho JACL professes to no affiliation with any political party, many of the members are prominent in such areas of endeavor. The organization maintains a representative in the national capitol at Washington whose prime function is to alert its members to any legislation which might affect, detrimentally or otherwise, not only the Japanese but other minority groups. Dues are collected annually, from its members and at least 90% of such money is remitted to National directly or as a head tax to the district council. On the local level, funds are solicited through membership dues and some annual project to meet the national assessment, MDC head tax, budgetary expenses and delegates' expenses to district and national meetings.

JACL's policy is to promote sponsor and encourage programs projects and activities designed to further and encourage members to perform faithfully his duties and obligations to the United States of America. The organization and its members shall uphold the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the land and of the several states.

The organization is non-partisan and non-sectarian taking no active part in the process of endorsing candidates for public offices, nor engage in any other political

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J A BOARD MEETS WITH FATHER KITAGAWA

Edited transcript of Minutes
of informal J.A. Center Board
MEETING HELD WITH REV. D. KITAGAWA
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1963

Presiding: S. Aisawa, Chairman, JACC Board

Rev. Otani, Director, gave a resume of his current responsibilities. People from Japan, students, faculty members, industrial men, come to him for assistance in locating apartments, scholarships, temporary living accommodations, to sponsor students who are here and some who have gone back to Japan, and new ones are constantly coming.

He is called to help war brides in unfortunate circumstances, help families where husbands are not able to give support and try to get financial aid for them.

Business people come to him for information on importing and exporting. He receives requests to translate letters and manuscripts for the U. of M.

He attends meetings, representing the Japanese-American community, of the Minnesota Council of Civil and Human Relations, Fair Housing, etc. As Center Director, he is able to attend such meetings during working hours.

Problems of Building Up-Keep.

George Rokutani: Last fall a contractor was asked to come and give estimates of immediate needs to the property. His report is on the following areas of immediate need for repairs, gutters, cement work, driveways, side steps, basement steps, rear porch removal and replacement by something more substantial; total cost, \$6,200. This work should be started in the spring if we are to continue using the building. This \$6,200 job is only on the outside of the building, but does not include repairs to the roof which must be done later. Inside, we are told, new hot water pipes need to be replaced. The electrical wiring was replaced 4 or 5 years ago by the Diocese at a cost of \$1,000.

What is to be done?

Should money be spent to repair the old building or move?

Rev. Kitagawa:

An evaluation should be made of the usefulness of the Center to the Japanese community and also to the Twin Cities community. What can be envisaged in the future in terms of value and service.

Bill Doi gave a review of the Long-Range Planning Committee First, reference was made to the article in the March, 1959, JA JOURNAL, "Where Do We Go From Here?"

Discussions began at the board meeting in March 1959, continuing into August, September and November, when it was agreed to appoint a Long-Range Planning Committee consisting of Mrs. Hampel, B. Gingold, Y. Okamoto, B. Senzaki and B. Doi. The financial investment to procure the Center by the Diocese was \$10,000 down payment plus \$8000 mortgage.

May, 1960 - C. Tatsuda and H. Nomura were added to the committee. Discussion at that time was on the following:

1. Make repairs on present building
2. A new building
3. A cultural center
4. Present building too small for bazaars
5. Continuation of Rev. Otani's salary
6. Incorporating the Board
7. Petition to the National Council of Protestant Episcopal Church for acquiring building
8. Financing would be too high for small group
9. Interest of community waning as they become involved in PTA, church, local clubs, etc.
10. Initiative needs to be forthcoming from the Japanese-American community
11. Foundations were approached but they would not be interested as long as we are connected with a religious group or in a single ethnic group.

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