



President's Message by Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata



Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata
President, 2016-2018
Seattle Hiroshima Club

On behalf of members of Seattle Hiroshima Club, I thank my predecessor, Ms. Fumiko Groves, for serving two terms (4 years) as President. Also, I would like to thank members of her cabinet and committees for their time and commitment in service to the membership.

First, I'd like to briefly describe my background related to the Club since many members and people in the community do not know me. I and my family joined the club shortly after moving from Chicago to Seattle in 1980. My wife, Keiko, was born between parents of Japanese Americans (called kibeï Nisei) in Hiroshima. Her father was sent to internment camps during the war and deported to Hiroshima right after the war. Because of Keiko's visual disability they came back to the US hoping that she can have better educational opportunities. We have two daughters and both were honored to receive the club's scholarship to attend the University of Washington. After I was elected on the Board in 2008, I was involved in the committee to interview 8 Hiroshima atomic bomb survivors residing in Seattle. The club endorsed this project to educate the public to raise awareness of the dangers of A-bomb and send a message to the public to prevent future occurrence. We made the interview videos and published on YouTube which can be seen at <http://bit.ly/1SOhFas>. In the winter of 2009 I was asked by my colleague at the Radiation Effects Research Foundation to organize the educational seminar on the health effects of A-bomb explosions in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 to be held in Seattle. Our club endorsed the seminar and co-hosted with the Department of Epidemiology, University of Washington on December 4, 2009. You can still watch the seminar by visiting YouTube. Introduction: <http://bit.ly/1M3tVIY> and Effects of A-bomb radiation on human body Part I: <http://bit.ly/21sfl3H> and Part II: <http://bit.ly/21sfJEW>. I am very proud of the role that our club played in educating the public regarding the impact of the A-bomb on life and health of people, and importance of peace in the world.

Seattle Hiroshima Club has two objectives according to the bylaws: (1) to promote public and social welfare, and cultivate the social and fellowship relationship, and (2) to gather the news of Hiroshima Ken and disseminate the news to the members to promote their understanding of their heritage. These objectives were probably set many years ago and it is time for us to review and update as necessary to address our present and future goals. I feel that we can begin this process with the retreat on March 12, with open mindedness and our eyes toward the future of Hiroshima Club, we can get a fresh start. Based on the outcomes of the retreat, we can set the club's future direction and work together to make it an active, viable organization which we can all take pride in and attract others to join.

2016 New Year's Celebration Lunch

- by Frances Palmer

On Saturday, January 23rd, more than 100 celebrants joined in the club's popular New Year's lunch at Joy Palace. Along with delicious food, there was music, ever-popular bingo, happy raffle winners and a chance to meet new friends! Our table of eight included four lucky bingo winners!

No scholarship applications were received so no winners were announced at this time.



All who attended received a beautifully wrapped tower of tea and delicate gaufrette cookies, the latest fugetsudo treat from Japan.

From left: Masaru Tahara, standing behind Fumiyo and Miyuki Hanada, honored guests, and their three daughters; with new friends, three Nikkei Horizons tai chi classmates, Frances Palmer, May Shimbo and Helen Gota.

Annual Day of Remembrance at Olympia Statehouse

- by Russ Akiyama



*Hiroshima Club members meet **Rep. Santos**: Guest; Dolly Tokunaga, Russ Akiyama, Tosh Tokunaga, Rep. Santos, Elsie Taniguchi, Kimie Kuramoto, Curt Nakayama*

Club members were among the 60 Japanese community members who attended the February 18th **Annual Day of Remembrance** in Olympia, sponsored by **Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos** and **Sen. Bob Hasegawa**. This year was the 77th anniversary of President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, which authorized evacuation of 120,000 Japanese from the West Coast.

- Veterans and those who spent time in the relocation camps were recognized by both the Democratic and Republican members of the House of Representatives.
- The main theme of the **Day of Remembrance** was that this injustice to the Japanese Americans must not ever occur again in America to any minority group. This thought was repeated by the many State Senators and State Representatives who dropped by the bento luncheon hosted by **Santos** and **Hasegawa**, and spoke to the attendees.
- **Sen. Hasegawa** and **Rep. Santos** named the six groups awarded a total of \$250,000 by the **Kip Tokuda Memorial Civil Liberties Education Fund** to educate the public about the incarceration during WW 2. The Puyallup Valley JACL was awarded \$20,000; Densho, \$85,000 and Wing Luke Museum \$37,000.

- The **Seattle JACL** chartered the bus that took 30 JACL members, veterans, and community members to Olympia from Blaine Memorial Methodist Church at 8 a.m. Information will be available in January for the 2017 Day of Remembrance bus.

Club Members Pitch in at Lions Club Fundraiser

- by Russell Akiyama

Many Hiroshima Club members set up on Saturday, cooked and served, then ate, met old friends and had a fun time on Sunday, February 28, at the Seattle First Hill Lions Club annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at Kawabe Memorial House. The funds raised go to support the programs at Kin On, Seattle Keiro, and Kawabe Memorial House. **[Note: Russ is the incoming Board President of Kawabe House.]**

From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., long lines of hungry eaters had delicious pancakes, scrambled eggs, and ham or the Hawaiian breakfast, of sausage, eggs, and rice. Homemade tsukemono at each table added a homey touch.

Hiroshima Club Short History, Part One:

- By Frances Palmer

Outgoing President, Fumiko Groves, gave this Club history at the March 12 Board Retreat:

1901: Fourteen Hiroshima men began the "Koryo Gikai", which was later changed to Hiroshima Ken Jin Kai.

1909: The Club participated in the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition.

1915: The first Club picnic was at Lincoln Park and attended by over 300 people!

1941: All of the Executive Board members were arrested and detained at the U.S. Immigration Station in Seattle, then sent to Bozeman, Montana; Arizona; Lordsburg, New Mexico or Crystal City, Texas. At this time, much of the earlier records were destroyed.

Board Retreat at Seattle University, March 12

- by Russell Akiyama



Tsukasa Namekata, Gloria Shigeno, Dale Kaku, Karen Akira, Kimie Kuramoto, Irene Mano, Frances Palmer, Fumiko Groves, Terrie Tanino, Karen Morikubo, Midori Thiel. Back row: Russell Akiyama, Linda Ishii, Kats Tanino, Shizu Kaku, Curt Nakayama.

The Seattle Hiroshima Club's Board of Directors spent all day Saturday at its retreat. Bif Brigman, retreat coordinator, had interviewed many Board members prior to the retreat to

identify the Club's strengths and weaknesses so that he could lead the Board through an extensive process that developed our Club's "Values ", then led to the development of a new Mission Statement to be presented to the Cabinet for its consideration. He helped the Board understand how to improve its meetings, its interaction with each other, accomplish goals, better utilize volunteers, develop job descriptions for officers and Board members, orient new Board members, and much more. For the Board, the retreat had very positive outcomes that can be used to improve each member's experience. The Board of Directors is looking forward to implementing what we learned this day.

Hiroshima Board Elects New Officers at February 8 Meeting



Serving two years are the new officers listed below in the chart below. Members are encouraged to let officers know of their interests, concerns and ideas.

From left: Dale Kaku, Investments; Kimie Kuramoto, Corresponding Secretary; Karen Akira, 2nd VP; Tsukasa Namekata, President; Russell Akiyama, Recording Secretary; Curt Nakayama, 1st VP.

Upcoming Events

- Cherry Blossom Festival, April 22-24, 2016, at the Fisher Pavilion Seattle Center <http://www.seattlecenter.com/festal/detail.aspx?id=4>
- Minidoka Pilgrimage, June 23-26, 2016. <http://www.minidokapilgrimage.org/info.html>
- Seattle Hiroshima Club 33rd Annual Golf Tournament, July 18, 2016. Registration forms will be emailed to past golfers or can be requested from Russell Akiyama at akiyamarj@aol.com. There's room for 32 golfers; \$35 for Club members (\$45 non-members) and checks are due by June 30, 2016 to George Shimizu, 6900 South Rustic Road, Seattle, WA 98178.

Hiroshima Club Officers

Contact Us: Seattle Hiroshima Club, P. O. Box 94083, Seattle, WA 98124-9483	
Tsukasa Namekata, President namekata@comcast.net	Curtis Nakayama, 1 st Vice President
Karen Iwamura Akira, 2 nd Vice President	Russell Akiyama, Recording Secretary Japanese Recording Secretary
Kimie Kuramoto, Corresponding Secretary	Treasurer
Dale Kaku, Investments	Shizu Kaku, Auditor George Shimizu, Auditor

This Newsletter was edited by Frances Palmer, who invites you to send your news articles and ideas for future issues in July and October to the Club PO Box above, ATTN: Newsletter