

BAY AREA COMMUNITY JACL

Next Meeting: Monday, September 20, 1971, 7:30 p.m.
Bank of Tokyo Hospitality Room, Japan Center
Post & Buchanan Streets, San Francisco

Agenda: Proposal for sponsoring a Symposium on United States-Japan Relations at the February, 1972, meeting of the NC-WN JACL District Council.
Reconsideration of plans to participate in the S. F. Community Day Picnic.
Confidential progress report on the Iva Toguri d'Aquino case.
Report on the chapter Flea Market sale.
Nominations for the NC-WN JACL District Council Executive Board.

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Summary of the August 15, 1971, meeting in Berkeley (S. F. Federal Savings Building)

Present: 12 members, 4 guests.

Chairman for the meeting: Ray Okamura.

1. Letter of apology and restitution of expenses from the Asian American Community Alliance of Berkeley was acknowledged. This was for the incident on July 29, 1971, when a scheduled meeting with John Thompson of the State Fair Employment Practices Commission was summarily cancelled. (See last Newsletter for details)
2. Chapter declined a request for a donation to finance the Junior JACL Tri-District Conference in Riverside, California. Due to the impoverished condition of the chapter treasury, it was decided that we are in no position to be giving funds away to other groups. However, individual members were encouraged to donate to the conference.
3. Chapter received a request from Ernest Wu of the Asian American Community Alliance of Berkeley for support in getting Asian Americans appointed to State of California education boards, commissions, councils, and committees. Rather than sending a letter to the governor (which will probably be unproductive), chapter decided to send a letter to Assemblywoman March Fong to see if she can be of assistance. The letter, mailed on September 6, emphasized the need for an Asian American appointee who is sensitive and responsive to the Asian American communities. The letter bluntly cautioned against the appointment of a person like S. I. Hayakawa.
4. Ron Lai asked the chapter for nominees for appointment to the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Commission. Chapter decided to nominate Mrs. Isami Waugh. (Nomination papers were mailed to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on September 6)
5. Chapter decided to lend the "Walking Histories" used at the Oakland Museum Asian American Festival to other Asian organizations who wish to use them. Reprints of the "histories" will be made into pamphlet form and sent to those who requested it. (Robin Matsui and Mary Ann Takagi to work on this) A letter was sent to the Oakland Museum recommending a paid Asian staff to organize next year's Festival.
6. Ron Lai felt that the "Fling Fong" series in Al Capp's L'il Abner was derogatory to Asian Americans. Chapter decided to send letters of protest to the New York News Syndicate, San Francisco Examiner, and Oakland Tribune. (Letter mailed on August 30)
7. Alan Fong, Ken Kawaichi, and Colin Watanabe of the Asian Studies Staff of U. C. Berkeley presented a proposal for an Asian alternative to Subject A. Also, they discussed the lack of Asian staff at the University, and possible use of the Department of Health, Education, Welfare's Affirmative Action Program to correct this situation. They are seeking Asian American community awareness of institutional racism and support for their proposals. Chapter decided to sponsor a motion before the JACL Northern California-Western Nevada District Council to gain understanding and support from the wider Japanese American community. (Ken Kawaichi to write position papers and coordinate effort)
8. Mrs. Ying Kelly, representing the Social Action Committee of the Asian American Community Alliance of Berkeley, presented a proposal for a one day strike of all Asians to dramatize Asian American opposition to the Indo-China war. After explaining that anti-war activities are not exactly new to the chapter, chapter members agreed to support the strike, but the primary organizing manpower must come from the AACAB Social Action Committee.

Miscellaneous Notes of Interest

Through the courtesy of Edison and Rosalind Uno, the chapter is making available the monumental book "100 Year History of People of Japanese Ancestry in the United States, 1860-1960" at extremely reduced prices. (See enclosed flyer) If there are any left by the next chapter meeting, you can buy a copy at the meeting for only \$5.00.

The Cultural and Ethnic Guild of the Oakland Museum Association invites all chapter members to a champagne reception on Friday, September 24, 5:30-7:30 p.m., in the Food Service Area, Second Level, Oakland Museum, 10th & Fallon Streets, Oakland. Of all the museums in the San Francisco area, the Oakland Museum, by far, has been the most responsive to the Asian American community.

For our younger members and others who do not know the background of the Iva Toguri d'Aquino case, we recommend reading David A. Ward's article in Amerasia Journal, July, 1971. (Published by Yale Asian American Students Association, Box 3374 Yale Station, New Haven, Conn. 06520. Cost: \$1.50 for single issues; \$4.00 for annual subscription) The July issue also contains articles by Yuji Ichioka on Early Issei Socialists, and by Stanley and Derald Sue on Chinese American Personality and Mental Health.

A new Asian American publication has made the scene--The Bridge, published by the Basement Workshops, Inc., 54 Elizabeth Street, New York, N. Y., 10013. The magazine deals primarily with Chinese Americans, but it should be of interest to all Asian Americans. (One Year subscription: \$5.00)

Amerasia Resources, Inc., 165 West 66th Street, New York, N. Y., 10023, carries a complete line of books on Asian Americans. Catalogue Number 1, "Issei, Nisei, Sansei, Japanese in America" is now available. Write for a free copy.

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The Meaning of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

By Karl G. Yoneda

(Text of speech given at the Rally Against War, Racism, Repression and Poverty at the First Unitarian Church of San Francisco on August 6, 1971)

It is exactly 26 years ago today that the U. S. dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima killing more than 200,000 people. Three days later, another A bomb exploded over Nagasaki, and an additional 140,000 human beings were dead or missing!

Hiroshima was a beautiful city, as I remember. I spent my young days from age 7 to 20 there. When Hiroshima was bombed, I was stationed in Kunming, China, as an enlisted man with the China, Burma, India Psychological Warfare Team of the U. S. Army. My immediate reaction was, "Why did they do it? What happened to my mother?" Our team knew that the fanatic resistance of the Japanese Imperial Army had collapsed on Okinawa in June, 1945, and Japan was militarily beaten for all intents and purposes. We learned, many years later, that the U. S. had intercepted and decoded a message, in July, 1945, from Tokyo to the Japanese ambassador in Moscow giving him instructions to arrange surrender terms through the Soviet Union. In spite of this knowledge, President Truman went ahead and used the A bombs with a two-fold purpose: of racism, and to prevent the Soviet Union's gain of stature in the Far East. Many experts agree that Hiroshima and Nagasaki were far from any military targets in August, 1945. Fortunately, my mother escaped from injury because she was working at a shipyard 5 miles from the center of Hiroshima. She still lives in that city today--93 years old.

Most of you now know that racist America incarcerated more than 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry--native and foreign born--including my family and me--in 10 concentration camps surrounded by barbed wire and watchtowers with massive searchlights, manned by U. S. Soldiers armed with machine guns--without any trial or hearing in 1942. We must remember, however, that President Jackson, after enactment of the Indian Removal Act of 1830 used the U. S. Army to drive tens of thousands of unwilling Indians from their ancestral land west across the Mississippi River. The full story of these racial acts, as well as other crimes against Blacks, Chicanos, Asians, and others must be told and retold, because these stories are missing from our history books. We, of Japanese ancestry, were alone in 1942 except for a handful of church people and some of the leaders of the California CIO, such as Lou Goldblatt, secretary-treasurer of the ILWU, who spoke out against evacuation.

Here is one of the original Military Evacuation Orders. (Shown to audience) Twenty-nine years ago, it was directed against those of Japanese ancestry. Today, it could be you, and you, and you sitting in this audience. It could apply to members of the Black Panthers, Communist Party, or any organization that the "establishment" wants to label as "undesirable or subversive". Just three weeks ago, J. Edgar Hoover told Congress

The Meaning of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Continued)

By Karl G. Yoneda

the FBI expects to step up its efforts to combat Chinese communists' revolution inspiring activities in the U. S., for now there is Title II of the McCarran Act on the books, wherein the Attorney General is authorized to set up concentration camps and detain any one or group without hearing or trial.

Today, we, and especially a large segment of Asian American youth, will no longer play the role of "quiet Americans", of keeping to ourselves while our Black, Chicano, and other brothers and sisters fight against racism, political and economic oppression. We charge Hiroshima and Nagasaki as genocide against Asians, the same as is now going on in Indochina, originated by the Eisenhower administration in which we must remember the role of then vice-president, and now President, Nixon.

We find concentration camp conditions prevail on the Indian Reservations, in the ghettos, in the educational and penal systems, in Chinatown and Manilatown right here in this city. Attempts at other Hiroshimas are in the making in the Amchitka Island testing area off the coast of Alaska, and at the Western Medical Institute of Research which is being built in the San Francisco Presidio at the cost of 28 million dollars, to study so-called "Asian diseases".

When my wife and I met A-bomb survivors in Hiroshima, 11 years ago, they pled passionately and emphatically with us to see that all nuclear weapons are abolished so that no other people on earth will again be made to suffer such horrendous agonies. We are not here to remember only the casualties of the past. Our main concern is how to act now. We here tonight must solemnly pledge that there shall be no more Hiroshimas, no more Nagasakis, no more American G.I.s in Indochina, South Korea, and other places, no more concentration camps, no more racism, oppression, poverty, and to fight effectively against repressive laws such as the McCarran Act, and for the release of all political prisoners, as exemplified by Angela Davis.

(NOTE: Other principal speakers at this rally, which was co-sponsored by the Bay Area Community JACL, were: Mrs. Sallye Davis, Father James Groppi, and Dr. Carlton Goodlett)

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NEW MEMBERS

- 94. KEN KAWAICHI, 2729 - 12th Avenue, Oakland, Calif. 94606.
- 95. ROY S. TAKAI, 631 Parkside Court, Kensington, Calif. 94708.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 51. WAYNE OSAKI, 30 Berkeley Way, San Francisco, Calif. 94131.
- 55. MURAYO SAWAI, 2616 Ellerhorst Avenue, El Cerrito, Calif. 94530.
- 77. PAUL & PATRICIA WONG, 122 West 81st Street, #7, New York, N. Y. 10024.