

Meet Jane Nishita

Introduction by Jan Levy

Occasionally, I get to introduce someone I know to Rotary, which is a special treat. That's why I'm thrilled to introduce you to our newest corporate member, my good friend, Jane Nishita, Classification: Community Affairs, with CenturyLink.

I first met Jane almost 30 years ago, through Leadership Tomorrow. (She's a 1988 graduate and former member of our Curriculum Committee.) I was bowled over by her boundless energy and enthusiasm. We've been friends ever since.



Jane grew up in Honolulu where she earned her BA in Business from the University of Hawaii before moving to Seattle to attend the UW, to pursue her MBA. Lucky for us, she stayed here, and went to work for what was then Pacific NW Bell, and is now CenturyLink.

When I think of Jane, the first word that comes to mind is “loyal”. How many people do you know who have worked for the same company for their entire career? Jane is one of them! She loves her work, including her current role in community affairs, and previous roles in business field marketing, public policy, and regulatory affairs, to name a few.

She did take a leave of absence for two years to serve in Mayor Norm Rice's administration, supporting Seattle City Light as Special Assistant to the Superintendent. It was her opportunity to get a glimpse of work in the public sector. Beyond that, she has always been devoted to CenturyLink staff.

Something you won't see in Jane's resume is that she was able to attend a White House dinner during President Bill Clinton's tenure, to meet the new Prime Minister of Japan! Quite an experience, I imagine – you'll have to ask her to tell you more about what that was like.

Another word I use to describe Jane is “humble”. She prefers allowing others to shine – the true mark of a Servant Leader. In fact, getting her to agree to this introduction was almost impossible! Because she's so humble, she wouldn't want me to mention all her awards, like Leadership Tomorrow's Edward E. Carlson Outstanding Alumni Award, and the PSBJ's 2017 Business of Pride Outstanding Voices Award.

Jane has always been active in the community and is currently a member of the UW Minority Community Advisory Committee; and the Legacy West Pioneers. She's a former member of the Rainier Rotary Club.

Jane still spends a great deal of time in Hawaii where she and her younger sister have maintained their family home. She currently lives in West Seattle with her spouse Kay Godefroy.

Please join me in thanking Assunta Ng and Trent Mummery for supporting Jane's nomination, and let's give a warm Seattle 4 welcome to Jane Nishita, Community Affairs - CenturyLink.