



Newsletter

Honoring & Carrying On the Legacy • Honoring the Past, Educating the Future

November 2023 • Volume 73 • Issue 10

New Consul General of Japan Makoto Iyori & Mrs. Iyori

The Nikkei Community Network (NCN) sponsored a community welcome event for the new Consul General of Japan in Seattle, Makoto IYORI, and his spouse, Yuko IYORI on November 3rd at NVC Memorial Hall. Over 80 members representing 24 different organizations were on hand to welcome the Iyori's. Also in attendance was Mr. Junichi SUMI, Deputy Consul General and Mr. Hiroshi TOJO, Consulate General of Japan in Seattle. Mr. Tomio Moriguchi, NVC Life Member, led everyone in a toast and everyone shouted "kampai!!!"

CG Inyoi's greetings may be found on the Consulate's website:
https://www.seattle.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/CGIyoriGreeting10242023.html



Kampai Toast (L-R) Tsuchino Forrester, Tomio Moriguchi, and CG Iyori
Photo by Dale Watanabe, JASSW



Remarks from Consul General Makoto Iyori
Photo by Sarah Ellerbrock, JASSW



SAVE the DATE!

NVC and NVC Foundation *Thanksgiving Eve Party and Pool Tournament*

Wednesday, November 22, 2023
5:00pm – 11:00pm
Terry's Kitchen
5625 119th Ave SE, Bellevue

Bring the whole family for a night out with friends, old and new. Savor Terry's Tasty Bites and Bar Specials while you enjoy Karaoke and a Raffle Drawing!

POOL TOURNAMENT

Begins at 6:00pm
Limited to first 32 entrants; ages 15+
Registration fee: \$30
To enter: Contact
Chris Suaers at (206) 291-4444

NVC & NVC FOUNDATION CALENDAR

Last Friday of the month

6:00pm – 6:30pm

*NVC Executive Council Meeting

6:30pm – 7:00 pm

*NVC Foundation Board Meeting

7:00pm – 8:00pm

*NVC/NVCF Combined Membership Meeting

Cancelled November 24 NVC Executive Council Meeting
NVC/NVCF Combined Membership Meeting

Postponed November 24 NVC Foundation Board Meeting
New Date for NVC Foundation Board Meeting December 1st. 6:30 PM

NOTE: NVC Memorial Hall is fully open, but for the safety of our volunteers and those who use the Hall, the NVC will continue to follow CDC, State, and County Covid protocols. For additional information, email: info@seattlennvc.org

**HYBRID Meeting: The monthly meetings will be held on a Hybrid basis, meaning you can either attend In-Person at the NVC Memorial Hall OR attend Virtually through a Zoom Livestream online connection.*



**NEWSLETTER
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NVC Commander's Column

By Michael J. Yaguchi



We are nearing the end of 2023
and entering the holiday season.
Are you still stuffed from your
Thanksgiving dinner? The left-
overs continue to add girth to
"my front buddy." My kids have



a terrible nickname for him (it
rhymes with bat), but I affection-
ately call him "Bud" cause he's
always with me.

Our country, with over two mil-
lion service members, including
Reserves and National Guard
members, makes up the Army,
Marines, Navy, Air Force, Space
Force, and Coast Guard, and
each has its own specific mission
and service culture, too. But the
percentage of Americans serving
in the military is getting smaller
and smaller.

The decreasing number is
undoubtedly a national security
issue. Still, during the holidays,
it adds to the isolation,
especially if the service
member is deployed or
serving in areas far from
home. There is an open-
ing scene from the movie
"White Christmas" when
Bing Crosby begins to sing

this portion of the lyrics, "...to
hear sleigh bells in the snow",
and you can see the soldiers
wistfully conjure up memories
about home, family, and the
upcoming holiday.

It's unfathomable what the WWII
Nisei soldier must have felt, the
sense of isolation during the
holidays, in competition with
the horrors of war, and the
passion to prove one's loyalty to
their fellow Americans in theater
and back home.

These combat-tested soldiers
were part of my landscape when
I grew up. The five uncles who
served during WWII are all gone,
but there is not a day that goes
by that I don't think of them and
the other WWII Nisei soldiers
I knew. Remembering them
becomes considerably more
meaningful during the holidays.
I'm sure it is the same for you—
so much gratitude for what they
did, but also for those serving in
the Armed Forces today.

Please enjoy your holiday time
with close friends and fam-
ily. And remember our service
members and members of the
diplomatic corps serving over-
seas and in places far away from
loved ones and family.

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NVC Foundation President's Column

By Shawn Brinsfield



A couple of weeks ago in San Jose, I caught the latest 'docu-theater' version of *Defining Courage*. It is an engaging, live, multi-platformed, high-value production which immerses one into the legacy of the Nisei segregated military units of World War II. With Los Angeles Emmy-Award winning ABC7 anchor David Ono narrating, buoyed by a live 6-person chorus and trio of musicians playing originally composed music by Chris Wade, the show takes one on a journey. By combining historic footage, recent interviews, and archived eye-witness interviews, along with fly-overhead footage of battlefield areas in France, Germany, Italy, and Japan, the stories create a compelling experience.

David Ono went researching in Europe and recorded interviews with French survivors in the town of Bruyeres where the Nisei soldiers rescued the Texas "Lost Battalion." He recorded touching stories from people who were youths back then when they met the 100th Battalion soldiers from Hawai'i. There are also human stories such as when David Ono finds on the actual battlefield area a Honolulu high school class ring only to find out later that the soldier who lost it died during the battle.

Ono has created a non-profit for the project and he is not getting paid for all his work on "Defining Courage". He has been quoted as saying "I'm not going to make money on the backs of our heroes. No way." And Ono is already quite busy with his regular full-time television journalism job which requires special projects.

The profits from ticket sales get immediately invested back into the show, which keeps evolving and being refined. One chapter that was added since the earlier versions is the inclusion of Nisei who served in the Pacific, in the Military Intelligence Service or MIS, and their role in the Battle of Okinawa.



Lower left, MIS Veteran Yasuo Takasaki with son, William; Narrator David Ono; and other Veterans with family.

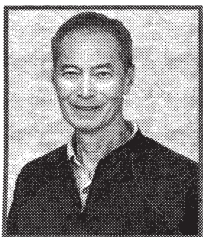
Working closely with co-producer and director Jeff McIntyre, the show continues to expand. By the end of November, it will have played in Hawai'i, San Jose, Los Angeles, and The Kennedy Center of Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. They are hoping to book performances in San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Denver, Chicago and Dallas or Houston, and in New Orleans at the World War II Museum.

logistics of bringing the show to the new town.

The version which I saw had Kristi Yamaguchi in the audience. That particular show was presented by Story Boldly (an innovative theatrical company), the Japanese American National Museum, Outside In Theatre, and numerous local partners in the San Jose Japantown community such as the San Jose Japanese American Citizens League and the Japanese American Museum of San Jose among others. And yes, the NVC Foundation has been asked to help with the Seattle show.

It is a huge lift to re-start the show each time in a new city, so they rely on local community members to help find venues and sponsors and figure out the

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Visiting NVC & Lake View Cemetery

One of the first places Consul General Iyori and Mrs. Iyori visited after arriving in Seattle on October 24th was the NVC Memorial Hall and the Nisei War Memorial at Lake View Cemetery. We were honored to host them and give them a tour of the hall, museum, and memorial wall. We also accompanied them when they visited the Nisei War Memorial.



Photo by NVC



Photo by Shawn Brinsfield, NVCF



Photo by Shawn Brinsfield, NVCF

COL Wakatake Tacoma Veterans Day Speaker By Michael Yaguchi

Colonel Kay Wakatake, USA-ret, was invited by the Tacoma Historical Society and Edward Rhodes-Parkland American Legion Post 2 to be their distinguished speaker for their Veterans Day event.

The theme of this year's program was to mark the 80th year of the 100 BN/442 commencement of combat operations during WWII. COL Wakatake explained how the 100th and 442nd comprised of Nisei who volunteered for military service despite facing rampant racism within their own country. She also talked about the contributions of the Military Intelligence Service.

Kay is the NVC Recording Secretary and serves on the board of directors for Armed Forces Insurance.



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Flagstaff Repair

Mr. Tony Chinn, Cathay Post 186, repaired both flagstaffs at NVC Memorial Hall. Our thanks and appreciation to Tony and Cathay Post 186!!!



Mr. Tony Chinn, Cathay Post 186, (pictured) repaired both flagstaffs.



Color Guard: US Japan Council Annual Meeting



Lieutenant Colonel Mark Nakagawa, USA-ret and NVC Life Member served as the Color Guard Commander during the presentation of the Colors at the recent US-Japan Council Annual Meeting. Mark also serves on the Board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. Thanks for wearing your NVC garrison cap, Mark!!!



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Swing Time in the Hall By Randy Tada



Authors Randy Tada and Kay Hirai sign copies of their Lotus Skyliners book



The Kaiden Uyeda Quartet with Kaiden (tenor sax), Roman Goron (keyboard), Michael Olivola (bass), and Axel Peterson (drums)

The early hours of Saturday, November 4, began like a lot of other typical fall days. Lots of rain and wind, with a little thunder and lightning thrown in. A good day to stay indoors, tackle a few projects, and perhaps watch a little football on television. Instead, several brave souls ignored the weather and anxiously ventured out to a Lotus Skyliners book signing at the Nisei Veterans Hall. For those who may not have been around in the 1950s and 1960s, the Lotus Skyliners were a popular swing band that performed in and around the Seattle area and up and down the West Coast.

When they entered the Hall, attendees were warmly greeted by enthusiastic NVC Foundation hosts and organizers Shawn Brinsfield and Geri Lynne Nakao-Egeler. Dale Kaku was on hand to moderate the panel discussion and Shiz Kaku organized the refreshment table. In addition, members of the Lotus Skyliners Book Committee -- Janet Baba, Kai Kubota (son of former Skyliner Tom Kubota), and Jean Nishi -- helped where needed.

All attendees were in for a special treat. In addition to purchasing books and having them signed by authors Randy Tada, Kay Hirai, and former Skylin-

ers band members, the Kaiden Uyeda Quartet played swing music throughout the afternoon, including songs like "Misty," "The Way You Look Tonight," "Autumn Leaves," and, of course, "Unforgettable," the signature song for the event. By the way, Kaiden is the grandson of Paul Uyeda, who also played tenor sax for the Skyliners. It just goes to show that the genes don't fall far from the tree.

Midway through the quartet's performance, the band was joined by Mark Kihara (nephew of Vic Kihara), a professional dancer. Everyone stopped what they were doing to observe the

fine art of swing dancing and enthusiastically applauded after his demonstration.

One of the most thought-provoking parts of the afternoon was when Dale led a panel discussion with former Skyliners Gary Yamashita (who flew in from the Bay Area with his wife Judy), Frank Fukui, Vic Kihara, Ken Aoki, and former "groupies" Janet Baba, Kay Hirai, and Ken Wakazuru. All the personal band and military stories that were told by the panelists were of extreme interest to those in attendance, especially the younger generation.

(continued on pg. 7)

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Mark Kihara and his partner demonstrate their swing dancing skills



Dale Kaku (left) leads a group discussion with Janet Baba (with mic), Kay Hirai, and (left to right) Ken Wakazuru, Gary Yamashita, Frank Fukui, Vic Kihara, and Ken Aoki

*Swing Time in the Hall
(continued from pg.6)*

When the event concluded, the weather had noticeably improved, and everyone left with satisfied smiles on their faces, knowing their purchases had contributed over \$1,000 to the NVC Foundation Scholarship Fund. With signed books in hand, you could see a noticeable "swing" in their steps as they left the Hall and headed out to enjoy the sunshine.

In closing, I would be remiss if I didn't gratefully acknowledge the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and 4Culture organizations. Their generous grants provided partial funding for the publication of the Lotus Skyliners book and this event.

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Puyallup Remembrance Gallery -- Deadline on December 1st

By Eileen Yamada-Lamphere

The Puyallup Valley Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is building the Remembrance Gallery to bring awareness and to commemorate the Japanese and Japanese Americans unjustly incarcerated in 1942 on the Puyallup Fairgrounds. We are asking for your help to spread the word about the Gallery.

The deadline to make spelling corrections or name inclusions for the memorial portion of the Gallery is December 1st, 2023.

If you have family or friends who were sent to Puyallup please check their names by visiting <https://www.puyallupvalleyjacl.org/puyallup-assembly-center-names>

Gallery completion is scheduled for September 2024. Our fundraising goal is \$1.85 million, and to date we have raised \$1.7 million. Our Honorary Co-Chairs are Bill Weyerhaeuser, Frank Fukui, and Penny Fukui.

For questions, contact Sharon Sobie Seymour, Project Manager at: ssproevents@comcast.net



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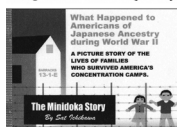
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"The Minidoka Story" by Sat Ichikawa

A publication from the NVC Foundation.
Designed and created especially for elementary school students



Partially funded by the 2008 Boeing Grant

This picture story booklet was designed specifically to tell the experience of the WWII Japanese American incarceration through the actual words of a camp survivor. The booklet's colorful graphics and simple but poignant words can be easily appreciated by all.

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\$5 donation recommended at the door

Date
Wednesday, November 22
5-11 p.m.

Why Attend?
Bring the whole family for a night out with friends, old and new

Savor Terry's tasty bites and bar specials

Location
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5625 119th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98006

Activities



Karaoke



Raffle



Pool Tournament
To enter: Contact Chris Suaers at 206-291-4444
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Limited to first 32 entrants; ages 15+



Thank you to Terry Takeuchi and the team at Terry's Kitchen

The NVC Foundation welcomes donations for the raffle.
Contact: David Suguro at 206-890-0354

One Puka-Puka: The Purple Heart Battalion

From Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, weekly update of October 18, 2023

The Nisei Veterans Memorial Center is currently showing its exhibit "One Puka-Puka: The Purple Heart Battalion". The exhibit is by appointment only, Monday through Saturday. To schedule a viewing, call the center at (808) 244-6862.

This exhibit sheds light on the formation and remarkable journey of the 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate), famously known as the "Purple Heart Battalion," during World War II, through its time at Monte Cassino in Italy.

The 100th Infantry Battalion was formed in the aftermath of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Comprised almost entirely of Nisei (second-generation Japanese) from Hawaii, who were integral members of the

298th and 299th National Guard units, the battalion holds the distinction of being the first group of Japanese Americans to engage in combat during World War II.

Enduring a 20-month stint in combat, from Sept. 29, 1943, until Germany's surrender on May 2, 1945, the 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate) demonstrated extraordinary valor and resilience. Their immense contributions and gallantry during the war were recognized with three Presidential Unit Citations. Notably, the 3,147 soldiers who served in the battalion were awarded a total of 4,340 individual medals and honors, including 1,703 Purple Heart medals, bestowed upon those wounded or killed in U.S. military service.

The 100th Infantry Battalion's role during combat in Italy earned them the moniker of the "Purple Heart Battalion." Moreover, battalion members' achievements played a significant role in reshaping the perspectives of military and political leaders, who had initially banned the enlistment of Japanese Americans. The soldiers' gallantry and dedication paved the way for the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The "One Puka-Puka: The Purple Heart Battalion" exhibit at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center provides visitors an opportunity to delve into the history of the 100th Battalion. Through meticulously curated displays and informative narratives, this exhibit pays homage to the brave

soldiers and their self-less sacrifices during a defining chapter in our nation's history.

To ensure a safe and enriching experience for all visitors, attendance to the exhibit is by appointment only. Interested individuals and groups can schedule their visit by contacting the Center at (808) 244-6862.

The Nisei Veterans Memorial Center

Telephone: 808/ 244-NVMC (6862)

Website: <https://www.nvmc.org/>

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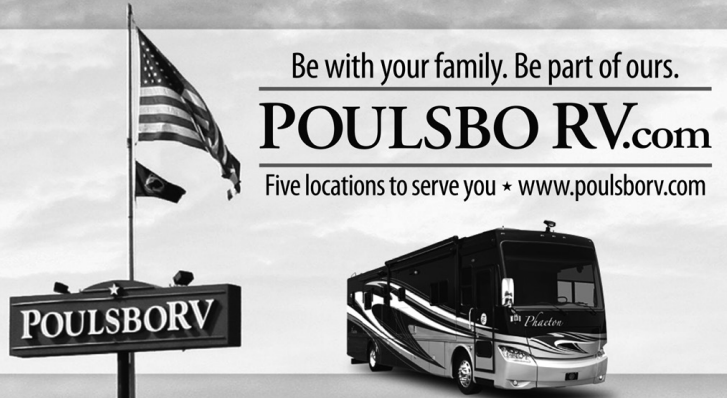
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The Westin Seattle, 1900 5th Avenue, Seattle

JASSW invites members and their guests for the most enjoyable event of the year!

Jump-start your holiday shopping with fabulous auction items and thank JASSW for a successful year — all while supporting a great cause! Features both a silent and live auction and great raffle prizes as well as a specially recorded video from Ukulele musician Jake Shimabukuro! Emcee Lori Matsukawa is bringing her energy and unique spirit to this dinner, and you won't want to miss it!

Registration and Information: <https://jassw.org/>

King County Prosecutor's Office (KCPO): Hate Crimes Review

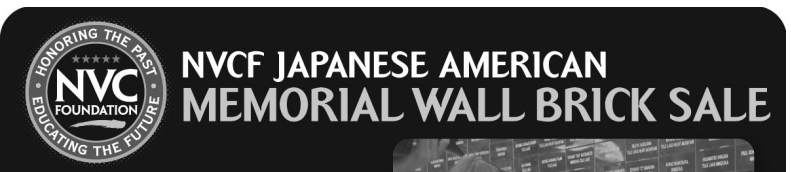
Wednesday, November 29, 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Seattle University School of Law, 902 12th Ave, Seattle

KCPO provides a Hate Crimes Overview to provide useful information for the community, including crime victims, non-profit organizations, community leaders, concerned citizens, law students, attorneys, etc. Sponsors include: Asian Counseling and Referral Service; Chinese Information and Service Center; Filipino Lawyers of Washington; Asian Bar Association of Washington; the Asian, Filipino and Middle Eastern and South Asian Law Students Associations at Seattle University Law School; Seattle University School of Law Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; the University of Washington Asian Pacific American and Filipino Law Students Associations; the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; OCA-Greater Seattle; the National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association; and the Wing Luke Museum. Information to RSVP: prosecuting.attorney@kingcounty.gov

BIJAC: Mochi Tsuki 2024

Saturday, January 6, 11:00am – 4:00pm
Woodward Middle School, 9125 Sportsman Club Rd NE, Bainbridge Island

Mark your calendars! Celebrate the new year while trying your hand at pounding fresh mochi the traditional way with the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC). Watch for more details: <https://bijac.org/upcoming-events/>



We have made space for 9 more Veteran Bricks. No further space will be available after these 20 JA veteran bricks are filled. Orders will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Also, we have 284 Internee Bricks remaining. The price per brick is \$260.



If you are interested in purchasing a brick, please go to the www.nvcfoundation.org website and click the link under Japanese American Memorial Wall at the bottom of the page. Please print and return a copy of the donation form to: NVC Foundation, Japanese American Memorial Wall, 1212 S. King Street, Seattle WA 98144.

Questions? Contact Bev Kashino at bkashino@msn.com or 206-488-6678.

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For More Information, Please Contact:
Leslie Inaba at info@nvcfoundation.org or leave a message at NVC Hall: (206) 322-1122



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