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

December 2023 • Volume 73 • Issue 11

NVC and NVC Foundation

Thanksgiving Eve Party 2023

Funds for two scholarships were raised!









(continued on pg.9)

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

NOTE: The NVC Executive Council and the NVC Foundation Board will meet on December 29, but there will be no Membership Meeting

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@seattlenvc.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.





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Published Monthly (Except July)

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NVC Commander's Column



I had a finished column a couple of weeks before the deadline - it was full of holiday cheer and stories about lousy holiday ties and food. But yesterday changed everything.

I dropped off a lovely couple at the airport, and a line of cars was slowly creeping along, and merging was going to be tough. A sharp-looking soldier stepped

out of the car in front of me, and he helped his mom out of the vehicle. The other occupant wasn't having much success hauling the soldier's tightly packed and heavy duffle bag out of the trunk, so I hopped out to help. The mom gripped her son and said, "Your dad says to do your job with honor and not bring shame on your family's long service history." An airport traffic officer tried to get my attention to move my car. But I merely pointed to the son and mother. The officer looked over, softly muttered, "hooah," and stepped away. She must have been an Army veteran.

Watching this reminded me of the stories I've read about what the parents of the WWII Nisei soldier told them before shipping out. The raw emotion I witnessed on December 9th gave me an even

better appreciation of their feelings as their son went to war.

By Michael J. Yaguchi

The Nisei soldier's legacy of duty, honor, and loyalty is a gift. I had an early Christmas present that night on December 9th. I'll remember that moment, how I felt, and what it reminded me of for many years.

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Shiz Kaku

Treasurer:

PJ Sugamura

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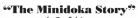
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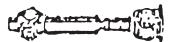


by Sat Ichikawa



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Connie Shimojima Ontario, OR

NVC Foundation President's Column By Shawn Brinsfield



I was standing in the NVC parking lot during the recent Nisei Lunch, getting into the holiday spirit, greeting and helping the many NVC Foundation and NVC members park their cars. I felt grateful as these Nisei and Sansei walked from the cold outside and into the warmth of a shared heritage and wafting aroma of a special meal inside. I appreciated that these community members were really being taken

care of. I savored it, comparing it to what their families were going through eighty years ago.

The Holiday Season is a ripe time for being grateful and thankful. May we fully enjoy our friends and families with the caring spirit which pervades this time of year. And in that same spirit, may we remember others who don't share the same blessings as we have. So many. Among them are the hundreds of mil-

lions around the world, forced to relocate, forced to leave their homes, often 'taking only what they can carry.' As we bear witness, please consider expressing your Holiday Spirit with solidarity and kinship. Groups such as the International Rescue Committee and Doctors without Borders would love to get a visit from you and Santa.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays!



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Nisei Lunch for December 2023

By Keith Yamaguchi







It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words and this article about the December Nisei Lunch will be told utilizing photos taken by Janice Kunitsugu. I was on a short vacation and unable to attend the lunch in person, however, through Janice's camera lens I was there enjoying the food and the good vibes of the Nisei Lunch.

The December Nisei Lunch has always been one of the most popular and well attended lunches of the year. Perhaps this is because of the time of the year or perhaps because of Terry Takeuchi's Prime Rib (sometimes it is another cut of meat because of cost factors—but always delicious).





I wanted to make a comment or two regarding the Nisei Lunch program. Since its beginning in 2015, we have weathered the ups and downs associated with the COVID era without missing a beat. When COVID prohibited personal interaction, we continued the program by instituting a lunch delivery program which is still in effect today. We've combined a delivery network along with an in-person dining option.

This brings me to another point—the December Nisei Lunch in-person dining levels are back to pre-pandemic levels, which is good news, however the growth of the in-person diners also means that we reach our capacity to serve our guests much quicker. I had to turn down reservation requests for the first time since the in-person dining option returned three years ago (or thereabouts).

I felt very bad about having to do this, however we needed to limit the room capacity to provide a comfortable atmosphere for both our guests and our volunteer servers. Having too many guests would be counterproductive to creating an atmosphere in which folks could casually chat and visit with one another. We also needed to make sure our volunteer servers would be able to bus tables and serve the meals in a safe setting.

As a suggestion regarding future Nisei Lunch reservations, I would recommend that you respond to our Nisei Lunch



Nisei Lunch for December 2023 (continued from pg.4) reminder emails as quickly as possible. I usually send out these email reminders a couple of weeks before the lunch and again one week before the lunch. Our RSVP list is compiled on a "first come-first served" basis, and I would hate for any of you to miss out on a delicious meal -- and more importantly, miss the opportunity to visit and "catch up" with old friends.

From the entire Nisei Lunch volunteer group, we wish you a wonderful Holiday Season celebration with family and friends.











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Nisei Lunch November 2023

Photos by John Ikeda





L-R: Lilly Tokita, Yuzo Tokita, Past Commander, Dale Kaku, Past Commander, Geri Lynne Egeler, Past President



L-R: Erin Shigaki, Paul Tomita, Mabel Tomita









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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 <u>bkashino@msn.com</u> or 206-488-6678.

JGSDF Visit By Michael Yaguchi

The 8th Infantry Regiment of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) and elements of the US Army's 7th Infantry Division concluded their joint training at the Yakima Training Center in support of Rising Thunder 2023 on November 10th. The exercise is designed to enhance interoperability and combat readiness between the US and Japan.

Colonel ABE, Commander, 8th Infantry Regiment, JGSDF, his commissioned officers, and



Colonel ABE and staff share a light moment during the tour of **NVC Memorial Hall.**

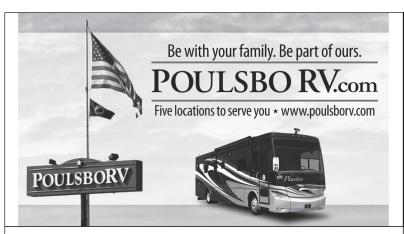
senior noncommissioned officers visited NVC Memorial Hall to learn about the experiences of the WWII Nisei soldier.



NVC Challenge Coin presented to Colonel ABE



Colonel ABE presented NVC with a Rising Thunder 2023 memento



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NVC and NVC Foundation Thanksgiving Eve Party 2023 (continued from pg.1)







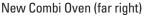






NVC Kitchen Update







New Commercial Freezer (right side)



New Tray Racks



Food prep sinks (veggies and meats)



New refrigerator across from the range top and ovens



New pot filler

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Community NEWS

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. Watch for more details:

https://bijac.org/upcoming-events/

First Crash Dance of the Year

Friday, January 12, 2024, 6:30pm – 9:30pm Salsa! with Reinier Valdes

Reinier is a fun, fabulous and charismatic instructor so please join us for some salsa dance, whether you are a beginner or seasoned salsa dancer! Dance exercises the brain and the body simultaneously, and research has shown there is a strong connection between dance and high-quality longevity! So, make it a new year's resolution to dance!

Doors Open: 6:30 pm

Lesson Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Practice: 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Place: NVC Hall, 1212 S. King St., Seattle

Cost is \$15 per person.

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Crash Dancers

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2024 Schedule – Second Fridays of the Month NVC Memorial Hall, 1212 S King St, Seattle

January 12 - Reinier Valdes - Salsa

February 9 - Suzanne Simmons - Line Dance 1

March 8 - Suzanne Simmons - Line Dance 2

April 12 - Sean Donovan

May 10 - TBD

You are welcome to bring potluck food to share (optional). However, we ask that you do not bring alcohol due to liability issues. Covid is still a concern, so masks are recommended but not required.

Day of Remembrance 2024

Monday, February 19 Time and Venues TBA

Densho, La Resistencia, Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee, Puyallup Valley JACL, Seattle JACL

February 19, 2024, marks 82 years since President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the military to remove over 120,000 Japanese Americans from their homes on the West Coast and detain them in inland prison camps. Many JAs in King and Pierce counties were first detained at Puyallup Fairground before long-term incarceration at Minidoka, ID and Tule Lake, CA. Today, just ten miles away in Tacoma, hundreds of migrants from the southern border are being held in the Northwest Detention Center. Families are still being separated. Join us in saying Stop Repeating History and Never Again Is Now.

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