



# Newsletter

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

August 2024 • Volume 74 • Issue 7

## 2024 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage By Shawn Brinsfield

One of the many inspiring events at the 2024 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage in Cody and Powell, Wyoming was the introduction of a truly engaging graphic novel titled *From Barbed Wire to Washington: The Remarkable Friendship of Norman Mineta and Alan Simpson* (Mineta, Simpson, Higuchi, Locker, Johnston).

This entertaining piece begins with Norm Minetta as a young Boy Scout inside the Heart Mountain prison camp. His isolated troop invites local Boy Scout troops in the Wyoming region to come to the camp and join in for a Jamboree where they would come together to tie knots, construct tents, and work

on merit badges. No troop accepts the invitation -- except for one troop from Cody, Wyoming.

The adult leader of this one troop knows that the Boy Scouts in the camp pledge allegiance to the same flag and share the same boy scout oath along with the same salute. Upon entering the camp, the visiting scouts, fearful at first, are each paired up with an incarcerated Boy Scout.

A tall Alan Simpson pairs up with Norm Minetta. They get along fabulously. Little do they know that they will meet up again years later as politicians, one being conservative and the other liberal. They will join hands across the aisle and pass significant valuable legislation that affects the whole country.

Fast forward to today: the Minetta-Simpson Institute was inaugurated recently at the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage. This institute aspires to carry on the collaborative spirit of Norm Mineta and Alan Simpson to find a way forward during these polarized times. The belief is that



Norman Mineta

America is strongest when all sides work together.

At the institute's inauguration, Debra Kawahara, Ph.D., President-elect of the American Psychological Association, extolled the cooperative values of speaking honestly, being respectful, sharing emotions, listening to the other side with empathy, and being vulnerable.

Another inspiring event at the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage was personal storytelling by Apsáalooke Nation (Crow) and Japanese American young people. They shared their Heart Mountain connections, similarities, and contrasts through video

*(continued on pg.7)*

## Nisei Lunch for July 2024

By Mary Ann Yamaguchi



On Friday, July 5th the Nisei Lunch hosted the 2024 Scholarship Awardees and their families to recognize their hard work and academic accomplishments. There were four winners this year, and many luncheon participants commented on how much they enjoyed reading their scholarship essays in the May and June newsletter. They felt connected to the essay writers and appreciated their sense of service to the community.

Three of the four winners were in attendance: Shane Deguchi,

James Jingui, and Selena Liu. Kaya Terada was not in attendance since she was already

*(continued on pg.8)*

### NVC & NVC FOUNDATION CALENDAR

**\*NVC - Executive Council Meeting**

**First Tuesday of the Month**

**6:00pm – 7:00pm**

**\*NVC Foundation - Board Meeting**

**Last Friday of the Month**

**6:00pm – 7:00 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](mailto: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. Check the NVC Website and/or NVC Emails for updates on meeting times and dates.*



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## NVC Commander's Column

By Dale Watanabe



NVC Memorial Hall has continued to be a busy place especially with additional groups renting our facilities to put on special events. We just had a work party to clean and rearrange areas of the hall. Look for an article next month for more information and pictures.

Also, instead of the last Friday of the month, the NVC Board of Directors will be meeting the first Tuesday of the month. This also means that membership meetings will be changing so look to the website and make sure you are on our email list since announcements will be going out as things change. If you have not gotten any email announcements, like the NVC Work Party sent out this month, please send an email to me directly at [dalewat@msn.com](mailto:dalewat@msn.com) or to [info@seattlennvc.org](mailto:info@seattlennvc.org)

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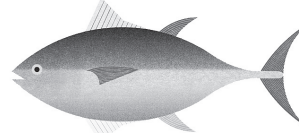
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# NVC Foundation President's Column

By Jay Deguchi



I hope everyone is enjoying a great summer.

Over the past few months, we have unfortunately had a few members pass. One being our past NVC commander, Walt Tanimoto. I would like to acknowledge his commitment, and all the hard work and effort he gave to make the NVC a better organization and better place. His legacy will certainly live on.

More of Walt's life of service can be found in this newsletter.

And speaking of veterans, we have sold our final veteran brick for the memorial wall! A huge accomplishment and much gratitude goes out to Bev Kashino. We have approximately 260 internment bricks remaining that may be applied to any of the internment and incarceration camps. As we get closer to the

completion of the wall, we hope to bring the website up to date, so people can once again reference names and information of all those honored by a brick.

Please be on the lookout for another meeting to discuss the future of the NVC Foundation soon. Everyone is welcome! Time and location to be determined.



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## "The Minidoka Story"

by Sat Ichikawa

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



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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# 79th Annual Memorial Day Service Messages & Prayers

## Invocation Rev. Lisa Ishihara

University Chaplain, Seattle Pacific University

Creator, Holy and Loving God, as we gather together this morning, on this Memorial Day, bless each one of us as we memorialize and remember the sacrifice and the steep cost that was paid by those who have come before us and served in the armed forces. We especially remember those who fought bravely in the 100th

Infantry Battalion who were integrated into the 442nd during WWII. We give thanks for their commitment and sacrifice.

God, we give thanks for those who served in the 442nd and courageously answered the call even as they fought and endured racism and the incarceration of their families and loved ones in camp.

May we honor and hold their memory in deep esteem today.

God, we praise you and lift in prayer those who have gone before us, our loved ones and all of those who sacrificed for us, to have what we have today. God, I'm grateful for this community and pray that you could continue to work and move in these spaces

God, may we remember those who died whether in the air, or on the land or in the sea with much love and mercy and respect and honor. May they inspire us to live and love in grace and mercy, as Christ calls us to do.

We pray these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

## Reflection Eugene Onishi

Co-Lay Leader, Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church

Good morning and thank you. It is an honor to be here before you today, and to represent Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church at this important Memorial Day Remembrance of our fallen heroes.

I would like to say a personal Thank you to all you who have served this great country. Thank you to all the family members who have sacrificed so that their loved ones could serve, and especially thank you to all who we honor today, who gave their life in the service of our country. I have been very blessed in my

life. Blessed by God through the love and the actions of many, many people. In addition to my wonderful family and friends, my life has been made possible by the service and sacrifice of the veterans we remember and honor today. I am, as all of us are, blessed by the opportunity to live in this great country. And that opportunity exists only because of the sacrifice made by these great men and women who gave their lives for us. They sacrificed to give all of us our freedom and our rights. They sacrificed so that all of us, whether we're Chris-

tian, Buddhist, Shinto, Muslim, agnostic or atheist, whatever our beliefs are, we can freely follow them, and gather here today as one community to honor their legacy.

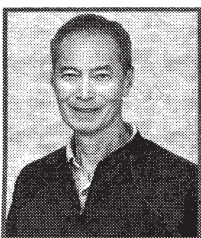
This morning as I looked at the news on my phone, I came across these eloquent words delivered by President Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address in 1863 "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did . . . It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

The Nisei Vets who served in WWII dealt with injustices and prejudices that are almost unimaginable to the sansei and yonsei generations. Yet they volunteered, most of them directly from imprisonment in camp. Even though they dealt with such terrible injustice from their own government, they volunteered to fight for this country out of a sense of duty and honor driven by a love for this country and what it could be. And out of a love for their family, their friends, their community and the world.

While I have faced instances of prejudice, what little I have faced in my life is nothing compared to what the Issei and Nisei experienced. This great life that many in my Sansei generation have enjoyed, is a direct legacy of the sacrifice of those we honor today. They gave their lives to provide a better life for their families and their communities, and we have all been beneficia-

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*Eugene Onishi,  
(continued from pg.4)*

ries. But lately, we've seen and experienced renewed prejudices. The instances of AAPI hate, the hate driven rhetoric that has become too normalized across the country, the divisiveness that pervades so much of our society - they all threaten to destroy our great country. So, at this time, it's especially important to remember what these fallen warriors were fighting for. We need to honor our fallen veterans, and we need to help ensure this country delivers on the promise of "One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and Justice for all".

To deliver on this promise, we need to love more. We need to be willing to sacrifice for our neighbors. In this time of great division within our country - a time of war in the middle east and in Ukraine, of political, ethnic, sexual and religious oppression in a growing number of countries, we need to love more, talk more, listen more, understand more instead of hating and fighting more. Be kind, be gracious, help each other out. We need be better at making peace, so that we don't lose more brave souls to war. Let us move our great country forward. Jesus said, "love your neighbor as yourself". Whether you believe in God or not, I ask that you take these words to heart. When we go from here, let us make sure our actions uphold and further the legacy of those we honor today.

## Benediction Rev. J.P. Kang

**Pastor, Japanese Presbyterian Church of Seattle**

The ancient Hebrew poet Qohelet composed lines that comprehend the nature of existence. In fourteen pairs, the range of life's experiences is described, bounded by birth and death and war and peace. I invite you to listen and reflect:

- 1 There is a season for everything  
and a time for every matter under the heavens:
- 2 a time for giving birth and a time for dying,  
a time for planting and a time for uprooting  
what was planted,
- 3 a time for killing and a time for healing,  
a time for tearing down and a time for  
building up,
- 4 a time for crying and a time for laughing,  
a time for mourning and a time for dancing,
- 5 a time for throwing stones and a time for  
gathering stones,  
a time for embracing and a time for avoiding  
embraces,
- 6 a time for searching and a time for losing,  
a time for keeping and a time for throwing  
away,
- 7 a time for tearing and a time for repairing,  
a time for keeping silent and a time for  
speaking,
- 8 a time for loving and a time for hating,  
a time for war and a time for peace.

(Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 CEB)

Would you lift your hearts with me?

You who are the ground of all being, by whatever name we call you,

- renew in us gratitude for the lives and sacrifices of our forebears
- grant us peace to soothe the sorrow that accompanies our memories of the dead
- strengthen us to continually fight for equity so that their deaths will not have been in vain.

And may we

- be devoted in our duties to those who have gone ahead,
- be committed to those whom we are responsible for in the present,
- leave a legacy of faithfulness, goodness, and kindness.

So may it be, Lord, and Amen.

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# Japanese American & National Park Groups Infuriated by Biden Administration's Decision to Mar the Sanctity of Minidoka National Historic Site

From Friends of Mindoka

Friends of Minidoka along with community partners have been fighting for nearly three years to preserve the solemn and reflective cultural landscape of Minidoka National Historic Site from a massive commercial wind development.

Last week, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Lava Ridge.

The BLM claims they reduce the number of turbines by 50% to protect the site; however, the initial plan of action was massive, and even at a 40% reduction (BLM incorrectly states 50%), the turbines can still be seen and mar the sanctity of this solemn site. Additionally, the closest turbines are less than 9 miles away from the Visitor Center and half of the turbines are within 15

miles (the BLM's plan references a 20-mile buffer as an area of potential effects specifically for visual impacts). The evaluative measure should be how the project impacts the historic site – not how much it has been reduced from the original proposal.

The alternative in the FEIS fails to protect Minidoka National Historic Site and mars its sanctity with this obstructive

commercial project that favors the company rather than historic preservation and conservation.

To learn more about our fight to protect Minidoka: [https://www.minidoka.org/lava-ridge?blm\\_aid=23913](https://www.minidoka.org/lava-ridge?blm_aid=23913)

## Thank You for a Cup of Joe! By Keith Yamaguchi

NVC has joined "Cup of Joe for a Joe", a Green Beans Coffee program that allows you to thank a member of the armed forces for their service with a hot, fresh cup of Green Beans Coffee and a personal message at over three dozen overseas bases where Green Beans Coffee has an outlet.

Here are some of the messages the NVC has received from Troops wanting to thank you for sending them a Cup of Joe!



*Thank you so much for the coffee!*

—Service member serving in Iraq

*Thank you so much! You brought joy to my day☺*

—Kathleen serving in Djibouti

*Thank you so much. We all appreciate the support.*

—Service Member serving in Kuwait

*Thank you!!! What a pleasant surprise! I will make sure to enjoy this gift when I get to a place where they have green beans!!!*

—Seikung serving in Iraq

*Thank you very much. God bless you.*

—Service Member serving in Iraq

*Thank you for your generous gesture!*

—Service Member serving in Djibouti

*Thanks so much, sir. Appreciate it more than you know!*

—Service Member serving in Djibouti

*Thank you so much!*

—Service Member serving in United Arab Emirates

*Happy Holidays to you and your family!*

—Service Member serving in Qatar

*Thank you so much. God bless.*

—Service Member serving in Iraq

*Thank you. Happy Holidays to you and yours.*

—Emanuel serving in Qatar

*Thank you for the cup of coffee. Best regards.*

—Melanie serving in the Danish Army in Kuwait

Acknowledgements also received from service members serving in: *Djibouti, Iraq (x4), Kuwait (x6), Qatar (x7),*

To send your own Cup of Joe, go to:

<https://www.greenbeanscoffee.com/products/cup-of-joe-for-a-joe>

**2024 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage**  
(continued from pg.1)

clips amplified by their speaking directly to each other and to the engaged audience. Much later that evening they sang karaoke together.

During the Pilgrimage's second morning there was an emotionally moving performance by four women: actress Tamlyn Tomita, theater artist Mika Dyo, film-

maker Vanessa Yuille, and theater performer Maggie Simpson-Crabaugh. Speaking solely in the first-person, based on verbatim excerpts taken from primary-sourced oral histories and interviews, they gave voice to women taken from the trajectory of Japanese American history. This presentation style made

for compelling listening to the personal experiences of imprisoned Japanese American women but also of their non-Japanese white counterparts who reacted in their own way to what was a monumental violation of civil rights. The audience reacted with a prolonged standing ovation.

Other inspiring events are too numerous to mention but include the tour of a camp root cellar (the length of a football field) and a hands-on taiko drumming workshop where the audience participants were taught the artistic and spiritual values of attitude, posture, and energy flow.



## Preventive Maintenance Plan By Bill Wright

NVC Memorial Hall is a valuable asset for NVC members and the community at large. Regular maintenance as well as unexpected repairs are a normal part of making sure the Hall remains in good repair.

Recently there have been unplanned/unbudgeted repairs to the NVC Hall building and equipment. This has surfaced the need for a Preventive Maintenance Plan that encompasses the building and its systems/equipment. Before seeking a consulting firm to

develop this plan, first we need to consider our ability to do this ourselves.

It is likely that among our members and supporters there are many with project planning skills and experience. If this includes you, please consider volunteering for the proposed Preventive Maintenance Plan project. The plan will include the annual schedules and cost estimates for the recommended preventive maintenance tasks

Contact [NVCBuilding@seattlencv.org](mailto:NVCBuilding@seattlencv.org) for more information.

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**Nisei Lunch for July 2024**  
(continued from pg.1)

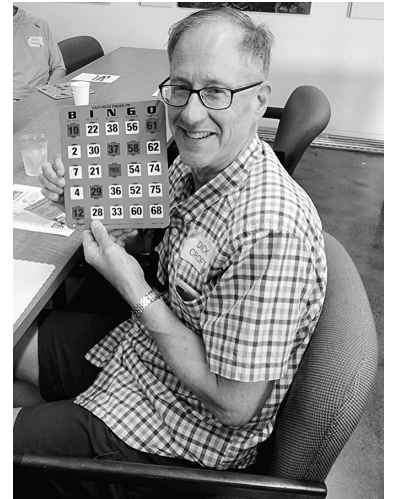
putting her skills to work as a camp counselor; she sent her dad (Calvin Terada) as her proxy. The young people were introduced to our luncheon guests, and each of them expressed their appreciation and shared their plans for next year.

This year we were able to give a scholarship in memory of Mark Shighihara. His wife Gwen spoke lovingly about Mark's desire to fund a

student in pharmacy at his beloved University of Washington and the pleasure she and her family had in giving it to Selena Liu, a student at UW in Pharmacy.

About 75 people -- seniors, scholarship recipients, their families, scholarship committee, as well as our hard-working volunteers -- joined together for a picnic style lunch of chicken, beans, and cold slaw. We had four birthdays to celebrate, and after dessert we had some lively games of bingo. Some great prizes were brought by participants, including chocolates from Norway, home grown plants, gift cards, and the ever-popular homemade pie made by Nancy Fujimoto.

(continued on pg.9)





*Nisei Lunch for July 2024*  
(continued from pg.8)

## Nisei Lunch: Community & Friendship

By Keith Yamaguchi

I would like to extend a special thank you to Richard Kincaid for providing the salmon for the Nisei Lunch. In years past, the Yoshimura family (Mutual Fish) had generously provided salmon for our August lunch, however with the closing of the store this year, we needed to find another source for our salmon if we were to offer that as our main entrée. I asked Richard if he would be willing to help us out and Richard was quick to step up and offer to do so.

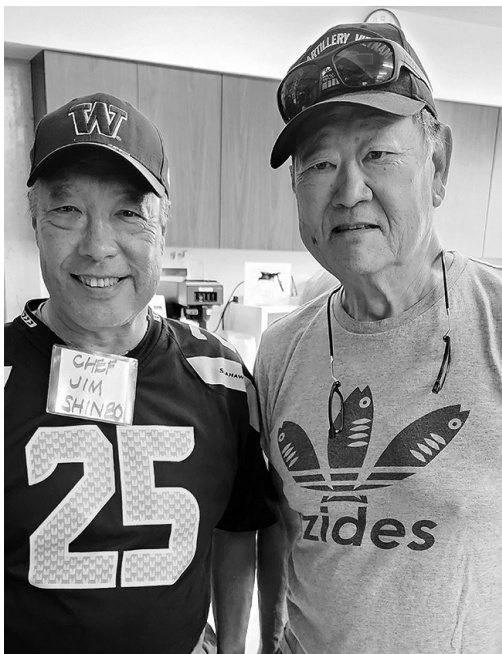
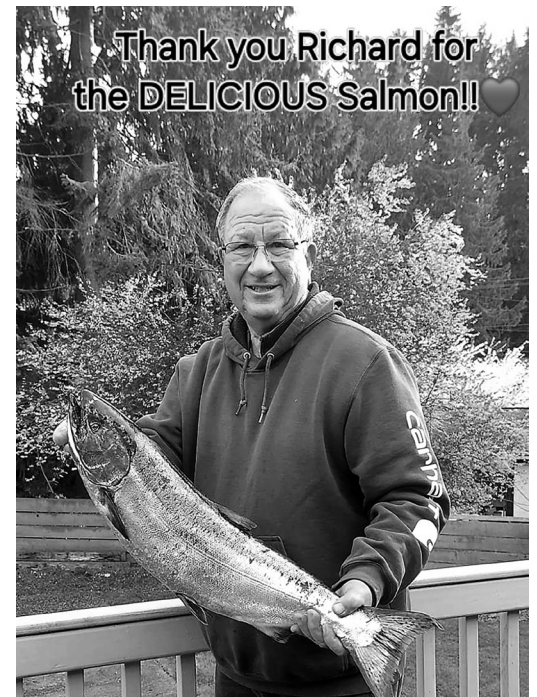
A little background—Richard and I had grown up fishing together as Beacon Hill neighbors. We shared many fishing trips together as kids and throughout our adult lives as well. I know of no better fisherman than Richard Kincaid, who is very skilled and in my

opinion one of the better salmon fisherman, bar none. Richard is a very skilled fisherman and in my opinion one of the better salmon fisherman-- bar none. Richard seems to have an uncanny ability to locate and catch salmon when others are struggling to catch fish. What I was asking Richard to do was a little more difficult than one would think. The task at hand for Richard was to go fishing in the days prior

to the Nisei Lunch and catch the salmon in Puget Sound. If Richard wasn't successful, we would have had to rethink our August lunch menu, however Richard came through with "flying colors". We had plenty of salmon to go around, and it was a treat for our guests.

We continue to enjoy large numbers of in-house diners. It is nice

to see and hear the enjoyment of everyone involved in the Nisei Lunch. Everyone (including the volunteers) seems to be having a great time. For me, that is what the Nisei Lunch is all about—community and friendship.



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Allen and June Nakamoto

Yuzo and Lilly Tokita  
Julia Tokunaga-King

Thursday Poker Group – Mike Fukuma, John Ikeda, Victor "Junks" Ikeda, George Kiuchi, Don Maekawa, Don Taniguchi

## In Memory of Kaoru Yamada – Tule Lake

Lillian Hiyama

## In Memory of Ted Yasuda

Dale and Shiz Kaku  
Joyce Miyabe  
Toshiko Okamoto  
Craig and Sheila Omoto

## In Memory of Ben Yorita

Mary Jenkins  
Meri Shimada

## In Memory of George Yorita

Gary and Katie Kiyonaga  
Meri Shimada

## Nisei Lunch Program Thank you for lunches to veterans and wives at Merrill Gardens

Alan and Judy Fukuda

## NVC Activities

Roberta Yagi Chin and Steven Chin

## Pizza Gallery Fundraiser for NVC

Colton Ramsey of Pizza Gallery

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## NVC Foundation Donations

### General Donation

Shawn Brinsfield  
Jody Clovis  
Kai Fujita  
Diane Gibson  
Joe Ohashi

### In Appreciation

Jean Deguchi

### In Memory of Rian Ebesugawa

Nelson Lee

### In Memory of Kimitomo Muromoto

Jim and Teri Chihara  
Diane and Tom Kitano  
Michelle Kumata  
Wayton Lim  
Mari Watanabe  
(Thank you, Uncle Kim  
for your service)  
Michael Yonemitsu

**In Memory and  
Honor of  
Hiroshi "Hiro" Odoi  
and  
Masaru "Mas" Odoi,  
442 Twins,  
Donation to the Fence**  
Steve Odoi

### In Memory of Donald Yamamoto

Janine Chin

### In Memory of Dr. George Yorita

Jean Deguchi  
Harry Yoshimura

**In Tribute to  
Uncle Kim's  
(Kimitomo Muromoto)  
service to  
his family, community  
and country**

Susan and David Fink

**King County United  
Way Matching**

Lawrence Leake

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

### In Memory of Linda (Kawaoka) Briggs

Pauline and Elaine Yoshida

### In Memory of Donald Yamamoto

Pauline and Elaine Yoshida

## NVC Foundation Legacy Endowment Fund Donations

### General Donation

Ray and Dory Hamlyn

### In Memory of Kimitomo Muromoto

Nancy Kitano  
Patty Kitano  
Paul Kitano

### In Memory of Walt Tanimoto

Frank Nishimura Family

### In Memory of Ted Yasuda

Eric and Roxanne Gion

## NVC/NVCF Membership

### NVC

**Annual  
Life  
Life**

Lynnette Ikuta  
Rie Hillman  
Frank Yanagimachi

### NVC Foundation Life

Kristin Yamada  
(granddaughter of  
George K Yamada, MIS)

## NVC FOUNDATION MEMORIAL WALL UPDATE

**Background:** The Memorial Wall was dedicated in 2010 as an NVC Foundation project. The campaign to purchase the property adjacent to NVC Memorial Hall was begun in 2008, shortly after the renovation of the Hall. The Memorial Wall was built to honor both Japanese American Veterans and Internees/Incarcerates of WWII.

### • Veteran Bricks: **Sold Out!**

○ We have just sold our last veteran brick so there are no more bricks available

### • Internee/Incarcerate Bricks: 260 spaces left

○ Donors have purchased bricks from all 10 WRA Camps and several DOJ internment sites

The incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII and the hardships the Issei and Nisei endured was a critical injustice. We want to be sure no one is left off the Memorial Wall.

If you have not purchased your family internment/incarceration brick(s) and would like to do so, follow the directions below.

Go to our website at [nvcfoundation.org](http://nvcfoundation.org), click on the top link under Education Programs/Japanese American Memorial Wall. Print and complete the donation form and send \$260 to:

**NVC Foundation  
Japanese American Memorial Wall  
1212 S King Street  
Seattle WA 98144**

We will confirm your order, have bricks printed and installed as a group, on an annual basis (at this point in 2025).

If you have questions, please contact Bev Kashino at 206-488-6678 or [bkashino@msn.com](mailto:bkashino@msn.com).



## NVCF JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL WALL BRICK SALE

**We are now SOLD OUT of all  
Veteran Bricks.** No further space  
will be available. We do still have  
some **Internee Bricks** remaining.  
The price per brick is \$260.

If you are interested in purchasing  
an Internee Brick, please go to  
[www.nvcfoundation.org](http://www.nvcfoundation.org) 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](mailto:bkashino@msn.com) or 206-488-6678.**





# NVC TAPS

## FUMIO BILL ISHIDA

Fumio Bill Ishida was born on May 19, 1938, in Seattle, WA to Kenichi and Mikiyo Ishida. Bill was the youngest of three children with older sister Chiyeko and older brother Kazuo Jack. The Ishida family grew up in Seattle, WA.

Soon after President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, after the start of World War II, the Ishida Family's lives were disrupted, similar to the 120,000 other Japanese and Japanese Americans living on the mainland US. The Ishida Family was a part of 13,000 Northwest Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans who were imprisoned in Minidoka War Relocation Center in Jerome, ID.

After the war ended, the Ishida family returned to the Seattle around 1945-1946 to start their lives again. While growing up, Bill helped with the family Japanese Main Shokudo Restaurant in Seattle's Japan Town on 6th and Main streets. Billy Ishida, as people used to call him, attended Garfield High School from 1953 to 1956 where he excelled in all the sports he participated in, but his passion was on the gridiron where he was an All-City Halfback on the state champion football team at Garfield High School. Those close to Billy called him "Cheeta" because of his lightning speed.

Also, from 1953 to 1956, Billy Ishida was a part of Northwest Japanese American history as an original member or "First Herd" of the Lotus Skyliners Big Band as a drummer. The Lotus Skyliners, originally sponsored by the Seattle Buddhist Church, was a big band that helped young Japanese Americans assimilate back into society during post-war racial tensions. They became quite popular in the Seattle community and not only performed at church dances, but business receptions, concerts, proms, weddings, anniversaries, and even bar mitzvahs. Their highlight was in 1955 when they took a bus tour down the west coast all the way to California to perform at various events. A book, "The Lotus Skyliners: A Big Band Lifts Up a Small Community", was released in 2023.

After Bill graduated from high school, he enlisted in the military served in the US National Guard from 1956 to 1957. After he completed his National Guard service, he joined the army from 1957 to 1960 where he ended his military service as a Specialist 4.

Soon after Bill became a civilian again, he decided to go to college and attended Central Washington University from 1960 to 1963 where he became a two-sport collegiate athlete in Diving and Football. His 1963 Wildcat football team finished the year with a 9-0 record - the first undefeated football team in school history. Bill's 1963 football team was inducted into the Central Washington University Sports Hall of Fame in 2003.

While Bill was a student at Central Washington University, he met the love of his life, Dorothy Shirozu and soon after Bill graduated with a BA degree in Art Education, Bill and Dorothy got married in Pasadena, CA on August 25, 1964.

In 1964, soon after their marriage, Bill started his career as a High School Art Teacher at Cleveland High School and Dorothy became an Elementary School teacher in the Seattle School District. During Bill's tenure at Cleveland High School, he also coached many sports teams such as Swimming, Diving, Soccer, Wrestling, and you guessed it, Football.

Bill also opened a stained-glass shop in Seattle with a fellow high school teacher, Mimi Iwami. The name of the stained-glass shop was I & I Glass Designers. Bill continued to teach, coach sports, and do stained glass until his retirement in 1992.

During their early retirement years, Bill and Dorothy enjoyed travelling with their life-long friends all over the world, from China to the Mediterranean. Both Dorothy and Bill were avid Mariner and Seahawks fans and enjoyed watching their games.

Bill also enjoyed his retirement by spending time with his family, golfing, skiing, shooting pool, and playing in adult softball leagues. Bill participated in the Senior Softball World Series representing Seattle, and he also competed in the National Billiards Tournament representing the state of WA showing that he still had his competitive spirit.

Bill could not retire quietly into the sunset, so he decided to go back to work part-time doing what he loved which involved sports in the Northwest. Starting in 1995, Bill took part-time jobs for the Seattle Mariners, Seahawks, Sounders, UW sports, and Seattle concert events as an Usher and Arena Director. He continued to work until his permanent retirement 12 years later.

After Dorothy passed away in 2019, Bill spent time living with his three children, Mark, Crissy, and Kimi, in Florida and California, as he needed some assistance. Bill was eventually diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 2021. It may have been caused by all the head trauma he suffered playing football during his youth, but we will never know for sure. Bill eventually had to move to a Memory Care facility in CA in 2023 where he passed away on March 26, 2024, due to Alzheimer's complications.

Bill was a great husband, father, and grandfather of three grandchildren (Ryan, Scott, Ally) who always thought of others before himself and lived his life to the fullest. Everybody that knew Bill was a better person for knowing him. Bill will be truly missed by all his family and friends.

A memorial service was held on June 28, 2024, at the White River Buddhist Temple. The family wishes to extend their appreciation to the Nisei Veterans Committee and Michael Yaguchi who presented the United States flag to the Ishida family.

*Taps*  
(continued from pg12)

## MAJOR WALTER T. TANIMOTO, U.S. ARMY (RET.)

Major Walter T. Tanimoto, U.S. Army (Ret.), a distinguished veteran, volunteer, and father, passed away in the early hours of June 22, 2024. His life was marked by service, dedication, and a commitment to community.

Walt was preceded in death by his father, Atsushi. He is survived by his mother, Kumiko, his wife of 39 years, Lori, their three children, Christopher, Jennifer, and Michael, and granddaughter, Abigail.

Born in Hawaii on January 16, 1962, Walt split his early years between the United States and Japan. He graduated from Lake Washington High School and was an ROTC student at Seattle University. In 1984, after obtaining a degree in history, he was commissioned into the U.S. Army as an Armor Officer.

Walt served in Operation Iraqi Freedom II, earning numerous awards, including a Combat Infantryman Badge. After retiring from the Army, he transitioned to civilian life, embarking on a long and impactful career at the Washington Department of Revenue.

Beyond his professional achievements, Walt was deeply committed to supporting his fellow veterans. He actively participated in several veterans' organizations and had leadership roles in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Nisei Veterans Committee, and the Military Order of the Cootie, and he was a life member of the American Legion.

Walt was laid to rest with Military Honors at Tahoma National Cemetery on 9 August. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the VFW.



## GEORGE YASUO YORITA

George Yorita was born on February 23, 1926, to Minosuke and Toku Yorita and passed away on April 30, 2024. George was incarcerated with his family during WWII at Minidoka concentration camp in Idaho. Like many Nisei, he did not speak much about his experiences there, but he did have stories of picking potatoes by hand for the local farmers to make money.

George was then drafted into the US army and served in Germany. After the war, George joined some of his family in Chicago. He enrolled and graduated from Loyola University and then Loyola University Dental School.

In Chicago he met and then married Janet Hirota. They moved back to Seattle where he established his dental practice in Rainier Beach. George loved dentistry and his patients. He was involved in the Seattle-King County Dental Society and was a founding member of the Northwest Asian Dental group in Seattle. He retired from his practice to care for his wife.

George and Janet raised their family in Bellevue. Their summers were filled with fishing with his buddies in the Drifter's fishing club of Seattle and their families and golfing at Meridian Valley CC in Kent and Bermuda Dunes CC in California. George and Janet gave their children many opportunities and experiences which they carry with them today.

George was preceded in death by his wife Janet and his eleven brothers, sisters and their spouses. George leaves behind three sons Ron (Vivian), Brian (Cherie), Glenn, daughter Kayo, grandchildren Tyler (Marissa), Anthony (Lilian), Mariko, great-granddaughter Sophia and many nieces and nephews.

Remembrances may be made to the Densho Project, Wing Luke Museum, NVC Foundation, or Seattle Japanese Baptist Church.

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## Community NEWS

### 2024 Kawabe Summerfest!

Sunday, August 25, 11am to 3pm

Kawabe Memorial House, 221 18th Ave. S.

This one-day event will be held in the street in front of the Kawabe Memorial House. Come and enjoy food, a bake sale, music, demonstrations, raffle drawing, and street dancing. This is a free event! Food for purchase will be provided by the Kawabe House Board of directors and residents. For information, email: [emi@kawabehouse.org](mailto:emi@kawabehouse.org)

### Puyallup Valley JACL: Grand Opening of Remembrance Gallery

Washington State Fair Events Center

110 9th Avenue SW, Puyallup, WA

Friday, August 30, Time TBD

The "Puyallup Assembly Center" Remembrance Gallery tells the story of the Nikkei in Washington State who were removed or otherwise affected by Executive Order 9066 during WWII in a unique combination of a memorial and historical experience. Over 7,600 names of Japanese and Japanese Americans who were all wrongfully incarcerated on the Puyallup Fairgrounds will permanently be displayed. For years to come, the Remembrance Gallery will serve as a visual reminder of this injustice. We strive to honor our beloved family and friends who

were innocent people wrongly imprisoned, to educate the public, and to highlight that what happened over 80 years ago echoes in the inequities and racial prejudices happening now.

### "The Volunteer" Film Showing

NVC Memorial Hall, 1212 S King Street, Seattle

Saturday, September 14, 2:00pm

"The Volunteer is a heartbreaking exploration into the devastating, life-long psychological impact of repressed racial trauma, as endured by a Japanese American soldier maneuvering the multi-faceted realities of American and anti-Asian racism during the Vietnam War. It is also a stirring tribute to cross-racial bonds of military brotherhood forged in the shared anguish of racial oppression." – Kelly H. Chong, PhD, University of Kansas. Admission is Free! Inquiries to Keith Yamaguchi at [kyamavet@gmail.com](mailto:kyamavet@gmail.com) or call (206) 390-1253.

(continued on pg.15)

#### NVC FOUNDATION • MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please do NOT use this for donations.) ☐ New ☐ Renewal

#### MEMBERSHIP OPEN for NON-VETERANS

To: **NVCF Membership Chair**

From:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

☐ Enclosed are Annual NVC FOUNDATION Membership Dues for \_\_\_\_\_ years at \$35 per year; or Student Membership Dues at \$20 per year. (25 & Under)

☐ Enclosed is \$150 for an NVC FOUNDATION Life Membership.

*Veterans please use the NVC Membership Form.*



Thanks!

TOTAL ENCLOSED



Please send check payable to:  
**NVC FOUNDATION**  
1212 S. King Street, Seattle, WA 98144

#### NVC FOUNDATION • DONATION FORM

(Use this form for donations only.)

Please check the most appropriate heading:

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Appreciation of  
1

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Appreciation of  
2

Please direct my donation toward the:

☐ NVC/WAC Scholarship ☐ Okagesame de Scholarship  
☐ Endowment Fund ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledge to Next of Kin:

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Thanks and please  
do NOT staple  
check to this form.

TOTAL ENCLOSED



Please send check payable to:  
**NVC FOUNDATION**  
1212 S. King Street, Seattle, WA 98144



**Community NEWS**  
(continued from pg.14)

**JCCCW Virtual Tomodachi Gala**

Online via JCCCW's YouTube Channel

Thursday, September 19, 6:15pm

The Virtual Tomodachi Gala is the JCCCW's premier fundraising event, which will be livestreamed on the JCCCW's YouTube channel on Thursday, September 19th starting at 6:15 p.m. (PT). Actor Yuji and his wife Angie Okumoto will receive the 2024 Tomodachi Award from the JCCCW! Special Auction items, Raffle prizes, and other ways to donate. For more information: [www.jcccw.org/tomodachi-gala](http://www.jcccw.org/tomodachi-gala)

**Franklin High School Class of 1974 -- 50-Year Reunion**

Terry's Kitchen, Bellevue

Saturday, September 21

FHS Class of 1974 will be celebrating their milestone 50-year reunion this year. Mark your calendar for Saturday September 21, 2024. The venue will be "Terry's Kitchen" in Bellevue, WA with dinner, entertainment, music, dancing and lots of socializing to catch up with classmates. Details will be sent out via email and updated on our Facebook page. Classmates are asked to please send your contact phone # and current email address to "quakers1974@gmail.com". Tickets are on sale now. Please visit our Facebook page "Franklin High School Class of '74" or send an email requesting ticket information to [quakers1974@gmail.com](mailto:quakers1974@gmail.com). Go Fighting Quakers!

**SCIDpda Annual Fundraiser: Preserving Legacy, Block by Block**

Washington Hall, 153 14th Ave, Seattle

Friday, October 11, 5:30-7:30pm

SCIDpda is a community development organization and steward of the Chinatown International District (CID) that provides affordable housing for low-income residents, support to small businesses, and community-minded real estate development. This year's fundraiser honors the small businesses that give this neighborhood its identity. Emcee is Aleksa Manila. Registration is now open at:

<https://scidpda.cheerfulgiving.com/e/2024-scidpda-annual-fundraiser>



**LEGACY  
ENDOWMENT  
FORM**

[www.nvcfoundation.org](http://www.nvcfoundation.org)

EIN# 46-0517221

Donate to the **NVC Foundation Endowment Fund** to Help Continue the NVC Legacy!

- ☐ Check is enclosed in the amount of ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Transfer of stock, bonds, other securities (Please contact one of the persons below for a transfer) . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Planned gift in my will, insurance, or other plan (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check and gifts payable to: NVCF Legacy Endowment**

**Mail check and form to: The NVC Foundation • 1212 S. King Street • Seattle, WA 98144**

For More Information, Please Contact:

Leslie Inaba at [info@nvcfoundation.org](mailto:info@nvcfoundation.org) or leave a message at NVC Hall: (206) 322-1122



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**THIS MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO BOTH VETERANS & NON-VETERANS**

To: **NVC Membership Chair**

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please fill in below applicable information regarding where your served:*

Branch (Co./Div.): \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Enclosed are Annual NVC Membership Dues for \_\_\_\_\_ years at \$35 per year; or ROTC Membership Dues at \$20 per year (25 & Under).

☐ Enclosed is \$150 for an NVC Life Membership.



Thanks and Please  
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Please send check payable to:  
**NISEI VETERAN'S COMMITTEE**  
1212 S. King Street, Seattle, WA 98144

## NVC • DONATION FORM

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*Please check the most appropriate heading:*

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**1**

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Appreciation of  
**2**

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Appreciation of  
**3**

**Acknowledge to Next of Kin:**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



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