



Newsletter

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

December 2024 • Volume 74 • Issue 11

Heroes of the Vosges Museum Grand Opening, Bruyères France

By Carl Williams

On October 18, 2024, just prior to the 80th Anniversary celebration of the Liberation of Bruyères, Mayor Denis Masy and Carl Williams cut the ribbon on the temporary museum in honor of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the French Resistance who aided them.

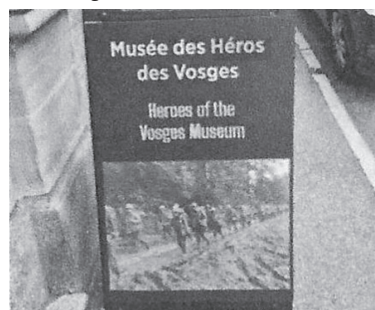


The Nisei Museum has borrowed limited space in the Henri Mathieu Musee, a historic building that once was a Jewish synagogue. We thank the town of Bruyères and all those who have contributed to this first step and look forward to moving to the final phase -- the permanent site which is now being considered by the Mayor and City Council. A special thanks to all those who contributed artifacts which were shipped by air to France as part of 54 cartons.

Our daughter, Mariko Williams, is largely responsible for the artistic work that resulted in the museum's layout, a layout that follows the Nisei story from Pearl Harbor to ultimate

victory and the incredible number of medals and honors -- including the 21 Medals of Honor earned by Americans of Japanese descent. Former Mayor Yves Bonjean, using his personal tools and skills, worked with us throughout the preparation and did a great deal to make the opening a success.

The image depicts the work in progress and in the left side of the photo shows the portion of the exhibition in honor of the French Resistance. Note the relief map at the lower right of the image and the campaign map behind the mannequin in 442nd RCT uniform. French re-enactors help accurately dress the mannequin with both original and replica 442nd RCT combat uniform. All displays were in both French and English.



NVC & NVC FOUNDATION CALENDAR

***NVC — Executive Council Meeting**

First Tuesday of the Month

6:00pm – 7:00pm

***NVC Foundation — Board Meeting**

TBD

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 General Membership Meeting:** The monthly general membership meeting is in transition. A new schedule will be published for 2025 by the December issue. The general membership meeting will continue to be held on a Hybrid basis, meaning you can either attend **In-Person** at the NVC Memorial Hall or participate **Virtually** through a Zoom Livestream online connection. Check the NVC Website and/or NVC Emails for updates on meeting times and dates.



**NEWSLETTER
EDITORIAL &
BUSINESS OFFICE**

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NVC Commander's Column

By Dale Watanabe



Hoping everyone is looking forward to a great holiday.

The Thanksgiving Eve event was a great success, and we've had several new events this first weekend in December.

- The Holiday Marketplace put on by the Small Business Program of the Japan-America Society hosted 17 new businesses with some great products that many of our members and friends were able to shop and buy for gifts.
- On Sunday, December 8th, Dr. Mitch Maki from the Go For Broke Foundation conducted a great presentation titled, "America's Promise: The Japanese American Veterans and the Fight for Justice" which was interactive with audience members who experienced some of the history of Japanese and Japanese Americans.

Board Nominations

If you are interested in joining or have other nominations for our NVC Board, please let me know.

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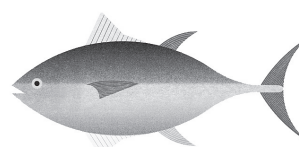
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NVC Foundation President's Column

By Jay Deguchi



Happy holidays!

The annual Thanksgiving eve event at Terry's kitchen was a huge success. We had a record turnout and raised roughly \$12,000. It was great to see so many familiar faces, and so many new and young ones as well. A big thank you to David Suguro for all his hard work in organizing and procuring so many items for the raffle, silent auction, and the hilarious single live auction item.

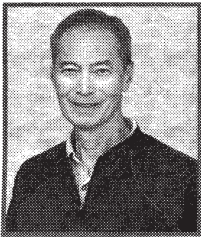
Shout outs to Terry Takeuchi for the use of his restaurant and the fantastic food and drinks, Chris Suarez for organizing the pool tournament, Harold Taniguchi and his incredible impromptu auctioneering skills, and Gary Matsudaira and all the young

folks (past scholarship winners) who worked the door and had to write so many raffle tickets. I am sure my son Shane, did not write this much in his first semester of college And of course, the biggest thank you to all those

(continued on pg.4)



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NVC Foundation President's Column
(continued from pg.3)

who donated so much and all the people that were able to attend to make this such a great event!

This holiday season feels the same and yet so very different. These holidays bring a certain normalcy to a hectic and chaotic time. They mark a time filled with fun, new memories, stress, apprehension, challenges, joy, and wonder.

As I looked out the at the packed tables and standing room only bar, it was nice to see so many young people -- the next generation and the future of the Foundation and of our Country.

For our youth, we must remain hopeful and optimistic! Our grandparents and parents remained committed in their beliefs for us, and our obligation now is to do the same for them. We all must be stewards and help navigate through these times.

Joy and peace.



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Best Wishes for a Wonderful New Year!"
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NVC Foundation Announces 2025 Scholarship Program

By Brianna Ishihara, Chair, Scholarship Committee

The NVC and NVC Foundation Scholarship Program will award up to four (4) \$3,000 higher education scholarships and one (1) \$2,000 scholarship in May 2025. Student's may apply to multiple scholarships, however, only one scholarship will be awarded per student.

Completed applications and all supporting documents must be submitted by Saturday, February 22, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. PST. Applications may be submitted via email, post, or through the Google Form provided on the NVC Scholarship website. Please visit the website for specific scholarship information and criteria: <https://nvcfoundation.org/education/scholarships/>

For questions or further information, contact the committee at: NVCFoundationScholarship@gmail.com

NVC Women's Auxiliary Scholarship

Amount: \$3,000

Scholarships Awarded: 1

Prior to the establishment of the Women's Auxiliary Committee (WAC), the Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) began as a "boys club" before evolving into the veteran, family, and community-oriented organization it is today. According to former Women's Auxiliary member and lifetime NVC member, Louise Kashino Takisaki, the WAC supported the NVC men in, "...patriotic, social, charitable, educational, and public service within the community".

This scholarship is open to all high school seniors, undergraduate, and graduate students. Students interested in applying to this scholarship should be prepared to engage in a critical reflection in relation to community and service.

Completed applications and all supporting documents must be submitted by Saturday, February 22, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. PST.

NVC Foundation Okagesama de Scholarship

Amount: \$3,000

Scholarships Awarded: 3

Okagesama de in Japanese means, "I am what I am because of you". The unconstitutional incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II inspires the mission of the NVC Foundation (NVCF): "Honor the past and educate the future". By "honoring the past" or remembering our ancestors who faced discrimination based on race and hysteria, our goal is to "educate the future".

This scholarship is open to all high school seniors, undergraduate, and graduate students pursuing a degree at a community, technical, or 4-year university in Washington State. Students interested in applying to this scholarship should be prepared to demonstrate a critical reflection in relation to this theme or traditional saying.

Completed applications and all supporting documents must be submitted by Saturday, February 22, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. PST.

Mark Shigihara Memorial Scholarship

Amount: \$2,000

Scholarships Awarded: 1

The Mark Shigihara Memorial Scholarship commemorates a Seattle sansei who prioritized the joy and wellness of his family and community. Shigihara's educational and inspirational memoir, *Living Lessons - My Journey of Faith, Love, and Cutting-edge Cancer Therapy*, was shared to "...help others who face life-altering challenges". His professional career spanned leadership roles as a clinical pharmacist, specialist in the pharmaceutical industry, and as an affiliate associate professor with the University of Washington and Washington State University Schools of Pharmacy.

Mark's father, Ken Shigihara, and father-in-law, Ken Sato, served in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service. His uncle, Tom Ohtani, served in the U.S. Navy. Mark's family members continue their generational support of the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee.

Scholarship eligibility applies to students who are currently enrolled in the University of Washington School of Pharmacy.

Completed applications and all supporting documents must be submitted by Saturday, February 22, 2025, 11:59 pm PST.

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"The Minidoka Story"

by Sat Ishihara

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.

Available Through the
NVC Foundation
1213 S. King Street • Seattle, WA 98144
Book Inquiries Email: info@nvcfoundation.org

Partially funded by the 2000 Boeing Grant

Obituary

Toshiko Akagi Okamoto

August 16, 1923 - October 27, 2024

Toshiko passed away peacefully at Nikkei Manor in Seattle, WA, at age 101. She was predeceased by Tosh, her beloved husband of 68 years, her parents Sadako and Tokio Akagi, and sisters Masako and Michiko.

She is survived by her sister Kachi; her four children Joyce, Susan, John and Sheila; her nine grandchildren; and her nine+ great-grandchildren. She actively supported them in hundreds of activities. She loved hosting and celebrating gatherings with the large extended family.

Toshiko ("Toshi") was born and raised in Seattle. During her senior year at Broadway High School in 1942, she, her family, and her community were forced by the US government to leave their homes. They were incarcerated, initially held at the Puyallup Fairgrounds ("Camp Harmony") and then moved to the Minidoka Incarceration Camp in Idaho. Toshi returned to Seattle following World War II, and worked as a medical secretary at Providence Hospital, then became a school secretary at Seward Elementary.

She and Tosh owned and managed several apartment buildings. Always ready for new adventures, Toshi took up skiing and golfing after retirement. She also enjoyed fishing, mushroom picking, hiking, clam digging, traveling, and hosting family and community gatherings. Tosh was a founding member of "Issei/Nikkei Concerns" which included Keiro Nursing Home, Ayame Kai Guild, Nikkei Manor Assisted Living, and Kokoro Kai Day Program, and Toshi was an enthusiastic supporter.

One of Toshi's many volunteer activities was leading and organizing the baking and selling of hundreds of delicious homemade apple pies for an annual Ayame Kai fundraising event - an event that she was "planning" even on her last days. On her final Monday, she participated in Nikkei Manor's daily exercise class, won at Bingo, and was proud and happy to cast her ballot for "Pamela" Harris for President of the United States.

The family especially appreciates the attentive and loving care provided by caregivers from Day By Day Nursing Care and Nikkei Manor staff.

Remembrances may be made to Keiro NW, Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church, or NVC Foundation.

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Veterans please use the NVC Membership Form.



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In Memory of Henry "Hank" and Tomi Hirano who enjoyed the Chow Mein dinner

Tim and Cindy Hirano

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Location: Woodward Middle School, 9125 Sportsman Club Road NE, Bainbridge Island.

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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 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.



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 for the cup of coffee!

—Service member serving in Kuwait

Thanks! I really appreciate it!

—Service member serving in Iraq

Thank you, very much appreciated!

—Service member serving in Kuwait

Thank you for your support

—Service member serving in Kuwait

Thank you so much for the Cup of Joe.

—Service member serving in Iraq

Thank you for your support, it means more than you know. And thank you for the coffee☺ These little pleasures out here bring so much joy when you're deployed.

—Service member serving in Djibouti

Thank you for your support!

—Service member serving in United Arab Emirates

Thank you for the gift of caffeine before I fly!!

—Service member serving in Qatar

Thank you for your support!

—Service members serving in Qatar

Thank you god bless

—Service member serving in Qatar

Thank you for your support! From Al Adeid AB, Qatar

—Isaac serving in Qatar

Acknowledgements also received from service members serving in:
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Community NEWS

BIJAC Mochi Tsuki

Saturday, January 11, 2025, 11am – 4pm
Woodward Middle School,
9125 Sportsman Club Rd NE, Bainbridge Island

For more than 30 years, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community *Mochi Tsuki* celebration has been an important traditional event to bring good fortune in the New Year. Once again, the public is invited to participate in making *mochi* the traditional way – steaming sweet rice over an open fire, then pounding the rice by hand with traditional, handcrafted cherry wood mallets (*kine*) in a granite bowl (*usu*). Visitors can get in on the action by trying their hands at pounding the mochi, forming it into cakes by hand, and eating it while it's still warm and sticky! This event is enjoyed by adults and children alike. All activities are Free to the public -- donations are welcome!

- Mochi-pounding
- Form-your-own mochi cakes
- Origami folding lessons
- Odori dance lessons and public participation
- Performances by Seattle Kokon Taiko

More information available at the BIJAC website.

Olympia Chapter JACL

Oshogatsu & Lunar New Year Celebration

Saturday, January 25, 2025, 2:30 to 4:30 pm
The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St NW, Olympia

Olympia Chapter JACL hosts their annual *Oshogatsu* New Year celebration. The family-focused event includes interactive cultural activities, "make & take" crafts, demonstrations, Japanese food, and an Art Exhibition of Japanese traditional crafts.

Puyallup Valley JACL Day of Remembrance Program

Saturday, February 8, Time TBA
Washington State Fairgrounds

Commemorate the signing of EO 9066 that authorized the US Army to remove all persons of Japanese descent from the West Coast in 1942. Visit the newly opened Remembrance Gallery documenting the nearly 8,000 people detained in horse stalls, livestock exhibition halls, and tarpaper barracks on the Puyallup Fairgrounds in 1942. And learn how history may be repeating today.

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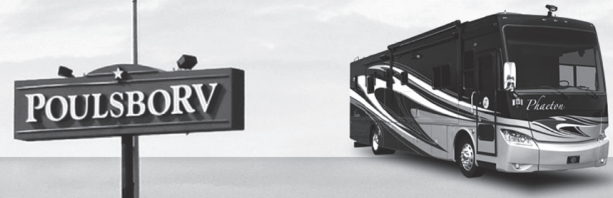
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