



Newsletter

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

February 2025 • Volume 75 • Issue 2

Past NVC Commander Allen Nakamoto Receives the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold & Silver Rays

[From the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle website.]



From left: Mrs. Iyori, Consul General Iyori, Mr. & Mrs. Nakamoto

On February 5, 2025, a conferment ceremony and reception were held at the Official Residence to congratulate Mr. Allen Mamoru Nakamoto, former Commander of the Nisei Veterans Committee, Inc., on his receipt of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays. Mr. Nakamoto's family, friends, colleagues, and many others were in attendance.

Consul General of Japan in Seattle IYORI Makoto expressed his appreciation for Mr. Nakamoto's many years of continued contributions and formally conferred the Order. Mr. Nakamoto spoke about how his background led to him take an active role in the Nisei Veterans Committee, and how the NVC's annual gatherings in conjunction with joint

(continued on pg.6)

Celebrating Valentine's Day at the February Nisei Lunch

By Keith Yamaguchi; Photos courtesy of Janice Kunitsugu

Happy Valentine's Day!!! The February Nisei Lunch featured Chicken Curry, Gohan, green salad and a delicious dessert provided by Carla Kohler (Mizuta). We continue to welcome a growing number of new guests and are always glad to see "old" friends at our monthly gathering.

Our Birthday recipients included Shiz Kaku, George Kiuchi, and Junks Ikeda—Happy Birthday wishes to you!

(continued on pg.4)



SAVE the DATE!

NVC 80th Annual Memorial Day Service

Monday, May 26th
10:00am – 11:00am

Nisei War Memorial
Monument

Lake View Cemetery

1554 15th Ave E, Seattle, WA

NVC & NVC FOUNDATION CALENDAR

*NVC — Executive Council Meeting

First Tuesday of the Month

6:00pm – 7:00pm

*NVC Foundation — Board Meeting

TBD

NVC & NVC Foundation Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

Terry's Kitchen Sunday, March 16

11:00am – 2:00pm

RSVP Required to Keith Yamaguchi

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 in the near future. 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 dates and times.*



**NEWSLETTER
EDITORIAL &
BUSINESS OFFICE**

1212 S. King St.,
Seattle, WA 98144
Tel: (206) 322-1122

Published Monthly (Except July)

Mailed to all NVC, Women's
Auxiliary & NVC Foundation
Members and to those in the
armed forces upon request.

SUBSCRIPTION • \$25 per year

COPY DEADLINE: All news or
photos submittals should be sent
to Nisei Veterans Newsletter, 1212
S. King St., Seattle, WA 98144, no
later than the 5th day of the month
publication is intended. Submitting
does NOT guarantee placement and
will be subject to editing for length
or content at the discretion of the
Newsletter Staff.

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NVC Commander's Column

By Dale Watanabe



Past Commander Allen Nakamoto!

Congratulations to Past Commander Allen Nakamoto on his receipt of the Order of the Rising



Sun, Gold and Silver Rays on February 5th. I was moved by Allen's personal and family journey that influenced his life and involvement in NVC. I

was honored to meet his family and members of NVC and NVC Foundation were proud to attend the ceremony and reception in Allen's honor.

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PJ Sugamura

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Dale Kaku (veteran)
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Frank Kiuchi (veteran)
Lt Col Bill Wright, USAF (Ret)
Jay Deguchi, NVC Foundation President

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Japanese Ground Self Defense Force Visit to NVC

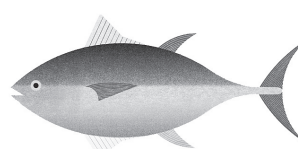
On January 26th, the NVC welcomed 15 officers from the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force. These officers, chosen from each branch of the JGSDF, were selected for this visit to the U.S. as developing leaders who will lead JGSDF in the future. The purpose of this trip, which included visits to Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) as well as to the Department of Defense (DOD) in Washington DC, was to promote understanding of the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

LTC Hiroki Kitamura, JGSDF Liaison Officer currently stationed at JBLM, arranged the visit to

(continued on pg.5)



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NVC Foundation President's Column

By Jay Deguchi



I recently saw an ad for the screening of the new film *Kintsukuroi*.

The title and word kintsukuroi or kintsugi never seemed more appropriate.

Kintsugi or Kintsukuroi - a way to accept things not perfect and to find beauty in the flaws. To find strength and beauty in something that has been broken or challenging. Incorporating our wounds into who we are.

To me this definition so fittingly exemplifies the Issei and Nisei spirit and the philosophy that has impacted and benefitted my generation so much.

With the anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 and the recent flurry of new executive orders being signed, it seems appropriate to think about

this. The stress and uneasiness that many are feeling is unimaginable, and they could now be left in a similar predicament as our ancestors. What the Issei and Nisei did serves as a great example in how to navigate difficult times.

An old Taoist fable also seems to lend a bit of perspective.

Once upon a time there was a farmer whose horse ran away. That evening, all of his neighbors visited him to commiserate, saying, "We're so sorry to hear your horse has run away. This is most unfortunate." To which the farmer simply replied, "Maybe."

The next day the horse came back bringing seven wild horses with it, and in the evening, everybody came back and said, "Oh, what luck! You now have eight horses!" The farmer again simply said, "Maybe."

The following day the man's son tried to break one of the wild horses, and while riding it, he was thrown and broke his leg. The neighbors came again and said, "Oh dear, we're so sorry to hear about your son's leg." The farmer simply responded, "Maybe."

The next day an enlistment officer came to the farm looking to draft young men into the army, and upon seeing the boy's broken leg, he left the farm allowing the boy to stay with his father. Again, all the neighbors came around and said, "How lucky you are that you can keep your son!" Again, the farmer simply said, "Maybe."

As difficult as things become, we can never know how a situation may turn out.

I cannot imagine the feeling that the Issei and Nisei had after the signing of Executive Order 9066. I believe some were able to maintain a similar mindset though. And though it's ir-

rational to say the camps were beneficial, they were able to adapt, making the most out of what life threw at them, giving us a stronger, tighter, and more resilient community. Who knows what we would be without it?

As tough as it may be, hopefully we can embrace the uncertainty knowing that life always provides a balance. Our past has shown us the ability to find strength in what is broken and beauty in what is unpleasant.

Kintsukuroi will have two screenings, one at the University of Washington on March 28th and the second at the Nippon Kan Theater on March 29th.

Remembrance & Resistance From Tsuru for Solidarity

Remembrance means nothing without the courage to act. This is why we, as Japanese Americans in Tsuru for Solidarity, are inspired by our friends at La Resistencia, and all the immigrants and other targeted people who are standing up to efforts to scapegoat and divide our communities. This courage, more than any ceremony, is what the remembrance of Japanese American incarceration means to us.

We hope that everyone in our region can learn from the courage they demonstrate, because with so many groups being targeted now—immigrants, trans kids, BIPOC communities, medical researchers, nonprofits, and more—we all need each other more than ever.

We call on our elected leaders to speak up and stand alongside all the people in our community who are feeling under threat. By pledging to defend immigrants from the kinds of mass arrests, denial of due process, and efforts at deportation that Japanese Americans faced during World War II, and by committing to defend all of the people and organizations in our community who are feeling afraid to act, our elected leaders can help us all rediscover the courage we need to offer Resistance in this moment.

[Note: This statement was released by Tsuru for Solidarity after the Park Place Market Foundation retracted their co-sponsorship of a Day of Remembrance event scheduled to be held at the Market. The event was moved to Chiyo's Garden in the International District.]

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***Celebrating Valentine's Day
at the February Nisei Lunch
(continued from pg.1)***

I would like to include in this month's article an announcement about the Remembrance Gallery opening dates and time during the Washington State Fair-- "Spring Fair". The times and dates are:

April 10, 2pm – 10pm
April 11, 10am – 10pm
April 12, 10am – 10pm
April 13, 10am – 8pm
April 17, 2pm – 10pm
April 18, 10am – 10pm
April 19, 10am – 10pm
April 20, 10am – 8pm

You may visit the Remembrance Gallery during the dates and

times listed above, and if you are available to act as a docent at the exhibit, you can contact Sharon Sobie-Seymour at: ssproevents@comcast.net.

Sharon would be happy to arrange your volunteer date and time. This would be a great help to the organizers of the Gallery

and ensure that visitors' questions are answered. The "Gallery" is such an important part of the Incarceration story and one that needs to be told repeatedly.

Take care and hope to see you next month at the March Nisei Lunch. We'll be looking forward to St. Patrick's Day and Beef Stew!



Birthday-Shiz Kaku



Birthday- Junko Ikeda
(continued on pg.5)

Celebrating Valentine's Day at the February Nisei Lunch
(continued from pg.4)



Birthday-George Kiuchi



Bingo winner- Paul Kogita



Bingo Prize winner-Mike Nagan

NVC Commander's Column
(continued from pg.2)

NVC Memorial Hall. The NVC greeting party included Past Commanders Dale Kaku, Mike Yaguchi, Allen Nakamoto, and me. Mari Wilson of JBLM also attended and served as interpreter when needed.

Past Commander Nakamoto and I served as tour guides and storytellers on the history of the Japanese in America and of the Nisei soldiers who served during WWII and founded the NVC.

I was impressed by all the Japanese officers' command of English. One of the officers requested discussion in Eng-



lish, which helped us English-only speakers to share our NVC stories easily.

In addition to the box lunches provided by LTC Kitamura, the

nesses working through the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington's Small Business Program to rent the kitchen and grow their business.

Email List

If you have not received an email from NVC and NVC Foundation through our email news account on MailChimp, please send email to info@seattlennvc.org with "Add to EMAIL List" in the subject line and we will add you to the email group mailing.

NVC arranged for the future leaders to enjoy two onigiris made that morning by Onigiri Sanzan. Onigiri Sanzan is one of the food incubation busi-

**Past NVC Commander Allen Nakamoto
Receives the Order of the Rising Sun,
Gold & Silver Rays
(continued from pg.1)**

military exercises have deepened understanding and cooperation between the U.S. Army and the Japan Self-Defense Forces. He thanked his family and colleagues for their support and expressed gratitude for the honor of receiving the Decoration.

As Commander of the Nisei Veterans Committee, Mr. Nakamoto made significant contributions to fostering reconciliation and friendly relations between Japan and Nisei veterans. Moreover, he organized get-togethers in conjunction with the Japan-U.S. joint military exercise "Rising Thunder" every year since 2013, contributing to the promotion of Japan-U.S. security exchanges.

In addition to being a Former Commander of the Nisei Veterans Committee, Mr. Nakamoto



The Ceremony at the Official Residence

has been instrumental in the organization of Japan Fair, first as Vice Chair of the former East-side Nihon Matsuri Association

(ENMA) and then as Vice Chair and Treasurer of ASUNARO. With over 25,000 attendees, Japan Fair is a leading event for

the introduction of Japan in the Seattle area.



NVC Donations

General Donation

Frederick S. Sakura

In Appreciation of Chef Jim Shimbo and Keith and Mary Ann Yamaguchi

Nancy Fujimoto

In Appreciation of the Nisei Lunch Program

Carolyn Takei

Sue Uriyu

In Appreciation of NVC Newsletter

Kiyo Scott

In Memory of Hidy Hideko Hayashida Matsui

Shelby, Mark, Carson
and Weston Del Valle

In Memory of Mary Katayama

Carolyn Takei

In Memory of Arata Nakamura

Ed and Maxine
Yakushijin

NVC Foundation Donations

General Donation

Anonymous

Frederick S. Sakura

In Appreciation of Dale Kaku

Junior Nagaki and
Janice Nakamura

In Memory of Judi Imori

(wife of Gilbert Imori,
brother Juan Mina
killed in the Vietnam
War)

George and Reiko
Beppu

In Memory of Toshiko Okamoto

Colleen and Ken
Hayashi

Craig and Sheila
Omoto

In Memory of Ryomi Tanino

Mark Ota

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

Jimmie Kanaya Scholarship Fund

Lynn Kanaya



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.





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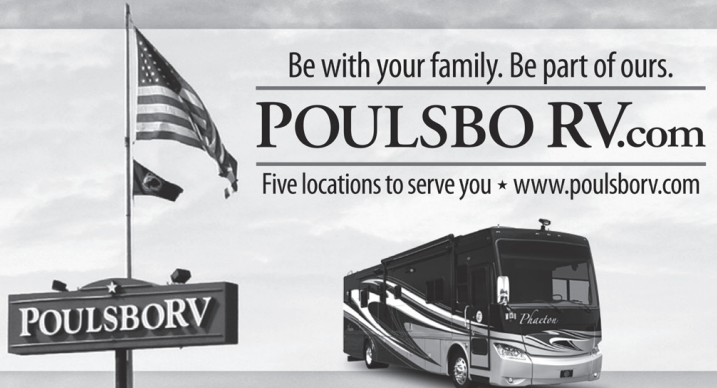
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Thank You for a Cup of Joe! By Keith Yamaguchi

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.

—Christopher serving in Qatar

Thank you sooooo much!!!

—Service member serving in Kuwait

Thank you so much for your support!

—Service member serving in Qatar

Thank you for your support of all of us over here. Happy New Year! God bless you!

—Service member serving in Djibouti

Thank you for your kindness

—Service member serving in Kuwait

Thank you so much for buying me a cup of coffee. I appreciate taking the time and making the effort to give. I'll pay it forward also.

—Service member serving in Kuwait

Thank you for a cup of joe and for your support

—Service member serving in Kuwait

Thank you for your generosity. This'll make the brisk Iraqi mornings a little nicer.

—Scott serving in Iraq

Thanks for you continued support! With love from CENTCOM.

—Service member serving in Kuwait

Thank you for the cup of coffee and support. Hope your new year is off to a great start!

—Daniel serving in Djibouti

Thank you. You made my day.

—Service member serving in Djibouti

Appreciate your time and contributions to the mission. Have a great weekend!

—Sgt Oz serving in Qatar

Acknowledgements also received from service members serving in:

Djibouti (2), Iraq (6), Kuwait (6), Qatar (3)

To send your own Cup of Joe, go to:

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



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2025 JACL National Scholarship Applications Available Now!

SAN FRANCISCO, CA. -- The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) announced that the 2025 National Scholarship and Awards Program is now underway. The JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, and those specializing in law and the creative/performing arts. There are also financial aid scholarships for those demonstrating a need for financial assistance.

Scholarship Program guidelines, instructions, and applications have been posted on the JACL website, www.jacl.org, and can be accessed by clicking the "Youth" tab on the menu bar. As in previous years, the application forms for the scholarship program will be completely online.

- Freshman applications must be submitted directly by the applicant to National JACL through the online form no later than **Monday, March 3, 2025, 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST).**
- Applications for the non-freshman scholarship categories (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts, and financial aid) must be submitted directly by the applicant to National JACL through the online form no later than **Friday, April 4, 2025, 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST).**

All those applying to the National JACL Scholarship Program must be a youth/student or individual member of the JACL; a couple/family membership held by a parent does NOT meet this requirement.

Applicants must be enrolled in school in Fall 2025 to be eligible for a scholarship.

If a student has received two National scholarship awards previously, they are no longer eligible to apply as the limit is two national awards per person.

For more information on the National JACL Scholarship Program, contact Scholarship Program Manager, Matthew Weisbly at: scholarships@jacl.org

Or visit the website at: <https://jacl.org/scholarships>

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"The Minidoka Story"

by Sat Ichikawa

A publication from the NVC Foundation.
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What Happened to Japanese American Incarceration during World War II? A picture story of the lives of Japanese American incarceration camps.

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
1212 S. King Street • Seattle, WA 98144
Book Inquiries Email: info@nvcfoundation.org

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

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To: **NVCF Membership Chair**

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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!

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From: _____

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Tel: _____ Email: _____



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

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TOTAL ENCLOSED

Community NEWS

Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church – *Sukiyaki 2025!*

Saturday, March 1, 1:00pm – 6:00pm
Blaine Memorial UMC, 3001 24th Ave S, Seattle

Come to the Sukiyaki 2025 fundraiser and enjoy Sukiyaki, traditional Ohagi, Tsukemono, Baked Goods, and Blaine Cookbooks. Both limited In-Dining and Take-Out available at \$20 per serving. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Altadena United Methodist Church Disaster Relief as they rebuild their church and neighborhood after the devastating Southern California wildfires. Pre-order your Sukiyaki and pick it up between 1pm - 6pm at the church.

Pre-order link: <https://blaineevents.square.site/>

Tacoma Buddhist Temple – *Sukiyaki Fundraiser*

Sunday, March 2, 11:00am – 4:00pm
Tacoma Buddhist Temple, 1717 S Fawcett Ave, Tacoma

Mark your calendar for the Tacoma Buddhist Temple sukiyaki fundraiser that they've held for over 60 years! The traditional way of cooking each sukiyaki in individual pans is unique to the Tacoma temple. Choose to dine-in or drive-thru to enjoy our special beef or vegetarian sukiyaki for \$24 OR a chicken teriyaki meal for \$20. Each will be served as a combo with our mochi cupcake, Japanese rice and tsukemono. Hot tea will be offered for the dine-in experience.

Dine-In: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm (1:00pm is the last seating).

Drive-Thru: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
(please come only during your selected pick-up time)

ORDER DEADLINE: Saturday, February 22nd, 10 pm.

Visit the Temple website to order:

<https://www.tacomabt.org/sukiyaki-pre-order>

Wing Luke Museum

– *Annual Dinner & Auction: Wing Luke Legacies*

Saturday, March 22, 5:00pm – 9:00pm
Sheraton Grand Seattle, 1400 6th Ave, Seattle

5:00 PM General Reception, Silent Auction, and Live Preview

6:30 PM Dinner and Live Auction

Emcee: Michelle Li

Speakers: Gov Bob Ferguson, Ron Chew

Auctioneer: Sasha Summer Cousineau

Reader: VIPER FENGZ

Silent Auction & Live Auction

Tickets and Registration: <https://wingluke.ejoinme.org/2025>

JCCCW – *KINTSUKUROI!* Film Screening

Friday, March 28 at UW, 7:00pm
Saturday, March 29 at Nippon Kan Theater, 5:00pm

(see below for location address)

Join JCCCW for the first ever Seattle screenings of Ikeibi Films' *KINTSUKUROI!*, a film recounting the story of the Ito family, detailing their experience in Topaz and Tule Lake Concentration Camps, the battlefields of Europe, World War II-era discrimination, and post-war life in San Francisco. Two screenings will be available:

–Friday, March 28th: University of Washington's Architecture Hall in Room ARC 147 at 3943 W Stevens WY NE Seattle, WA 98195. Doors open at 5:30 PM and the film begins at 6 PM.

–Saturday, March 29th: Nippon Kan Theater in Seattle's Chinatown-International District at 628 S Washington St Seattle, WA 98104. Doors open at 4 PM with a small reception, and the film begins at 5 PM.

Each screening will be followed by a Q&A with the film's cast and crew for audiences to get a behind the scenes look into the making of this moving story. For any questions regarding the screening, please contact nikkeimuseum@jcccw.org

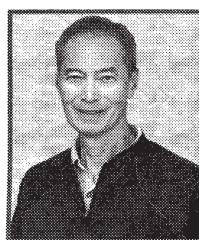
Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival

Friday, April 11 – Sunday, April 13
Fisher Pavilion and The Armory, Seattle Center

Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival will take place, at the Armory Food & Event Hall and Fisher Pavilion. The festival is part of the Seattle Center Festál series. It is free and open to the public. More information to come.

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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 or leave a message at NVC Hall: (206) 322-1122



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