



Newsletter

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

March 2025 • Volume 75 • Issue 3



Day of Remembrance Ceremony at the Washington State Capitol

By Dale Watanabe

On Tuesday, February 19th, NVC Executive Committee members Dale Watanabe, Dale Kaku, Shiz Kaku, and Bill Wright attended the Day of Remembrance ceremony at the Washington State Capitol. NVC member, Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs, Bill Tashima, and Danny Ing also attended. The DOR 2025 photo gallery is located on the Washington State Legislative Support Services photo galleries website, which can be accessed here:

https://www.lssphotos.com/day-of-remembrance_2025

(More photos on pg.6)



Nisei Lunch Celebrates Saint Patrick's Day

By Keith Yamaguchi

The theme of the March Nisei Lunch was a celebration of St. Patty's Day! The room was decked out in St. Patrick streamers and banners and Emerald Green necklaces were provided to our guest's just in case they forgot to wear green (didn't want to get pinched). The menu for March was a bowl served with a hearty Irish Beef Stew over rice,

a green salad, and dessert.

We had several birthdays to celebrate for the month of March. Those that were acknowledged at the lunch were Paul Kogita, Mel Inouye and Suma Yagi. Sadako Matsumoto also celebrated a birthday and her "gift" was delivered to her along with her meal by Jim Yoshida.

(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

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@seattlencv.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.*



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- Restrictions apply due to non-profit status. No promotions, coupons, products or services may be advertised unless directly authorized by the NVC EC.

NVC Commander's Column

By Dale Watanabe



Congratulations and welcome to the 2025-2026 NVC Board of Directors. We added two additional members from last year's board of directors. Long time member John Ikeda and West Point graduate, Josh Ishibashi. We look forward to providing more information on them in future newsletters.

We were notified in late February that NVC's application to change our IRS status to a 501c3 non-profit organization was approved. This new status will broaden the opportunities for corporate and government grants, as well as making NVC eligible for other benefits and

discounts that are only available to 501c3 organizations. Many companies only provide discounts to 501c3 organizations as opposed to other types of non-profits, e.g. Zoom, Microsoft, Adobe, etc.

Thank you to Karen Shimizu for the over 20 years of service as our Web Master. The posting to our website of the newsletter in the easy-to-find format has been her baby. We are seeking a new committee chair for our website and possibly our social media presence. Please let me know if you are interested or know of someone who would be.

2025-2026 NVC Officers

Commander Dale Watanabe	Past Commanders (Not Elected) Dale Kaku (veteran)
Vice Commander Lt Col Michael J. Yaguchi, USAF (Ret)	Members At Large (Up to seven) John Ikeda
Recording Secretary COL Kay Wakatake, USA (Ret)	Josh Ishibashi
Corresponding Secretary Shiz Kaku	Scott Kushino (veteran)
Treasurer PJ Sugamura	Frank Kiuchi (veteran)
	Lt Col Bill Wright, USAF (Ret)
	Jay Deguchi, NVC Foundation President

2024-2025 NVC Foundation Officers and Board Members At-Large

President Jay Deguchi	At-Large Board Members Les Inaba
Vice-President Dean Hoshizaki	Dale Watanabe
Treasurer PJ Sugamura	Denise Inaba
Corresponding Secretary Shiz Kaku	Ryen Shimizu
Recording Secretary Scott Sakagami	David Suguro
	Derek Ishihara
	Tim Miyamoto
	Steven Suyama
	Scott Sakagami
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	Gerri Lynne Nakao-Egeler
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NVC Foundation President's Column

By Jay Deguchi



Hello and a happy return to daylight savings, cherry blossoms, and spring!

We recently held our elections for board members for 2025. I am pleased to announce that all board members will be returning except for one. Steve Suyama unfortunately is stepping down due to family commitments and obligations. We appreciate his

involvement last year and wish him the best. We are hopeful he will rejoin the board soon.

There has been much discussion recently discussing ways to increase membership involvement and connection to the Foundation. We came to the realization that fundraisers (like the Thanksgiving Eve event) help not only bring in needed funds, but they are a great and easy way to bring people together and connect. So, with that said, we are going to have the first annual NVC Foundation Golf Tournament on September 15th at Fairwood Golf and Country Club!

This tournament will be in the spirit of the old NVC Tournament and other past tournaments like Keiro. We are hopeful this event will be a catalyst to get

even more of our community out and provide lasting connections. Planning is just getting started and if anyone would like to join the golf committee and help, we would love to have you. Please shoot an email to president.nvcf.seattle@gmail.com. Mark your calendars, let others know and stay tuned for more information.

With the recent approval of the NVC moving to a 501c3 non-profit status, discussions about consolidation with the Foundation have now picked up.

The city closed Hoa Mai Park, the small park on our eastern side, this past week. A fence and gate were added to control access and park hours. Dean Hoshizaki recently solicited proposals for a new, 8' tall steel fence to be constructed on the park side of our parking lot. The Board approved All City Fence's proposal, and construction should be starting soon. With the new fence and park hours we are hopeful for a safer environment.

Newsletter Mailing Work Party

10:30 am until done at NVC Memorial Hall

Thank you to our new newsletter mailing crew. Going forward, only those who have helped or have indicated they want to get the newsletter work party notification will get an email reminder. The planned scheduled dates for the remainder of 2025 are:

April: Wed., April 30th
 May: Wed., May 28th
 June: Wed., June 25th
 July: No newsletter
 Aug: Wed., August 27th
 Sept: Wed., September 24th
 Oct: Wed., October 22nd
 Nov: Wed., November 19th
 Dec: Wed., December 17th

Please email info@seattlencv.org to let us know if you can help! If you can't make it this month but want to help in the future, please let us know that too.



Ed Shinbo

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"The Minidoka Story"

by Sat Ishikawa

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

1171 N. 44th Street, Seattle, WA 98103
 Book Inquiries Email: info@nvcfoundation.org

**Nisei Lunch Celebrates
Saint Patrick's Day
(continued from pg.1)**

I wanted to mention the increasing number of Bingo prizes being donated by our Nisei Lunch guests. Their generous donations have added much to our popular Bingo sessions and are very much appreciated -- Thank You All!

I also wanted to mention that we were without the services and expertise of our chef, Jim Shinbo, who underwent emergency back surgery. Jim is recovering at his sister's (Liz Olschefski) and is progressing as well as can be expected.

Jim has always been an active guy and is taking his PT regime seriously. A "Get Well" card was signed by many of those attending the lunch and given to his sister for delivery. We are hoping to have him back in the kitchen in a few months. We wish Jim the best in his recovery.

Our attendance number continues to increase so **please RSVP** early to reserve your seat at the table (this is also appreciated to help us to determine food quantities). Thanks for your support and we look forward to April 4. We will be observing Easter with a traditional ham and rice entrée.



Ruth Shimano and Joan, Hall-Nisei Lunch Volunteers

Nisei Lunch March 2025

Photos courtesy of Janice Kunitsugu



Happy Birthday Suma Yagi



Loren Drebin



Bingo Prizes



Beef Stew

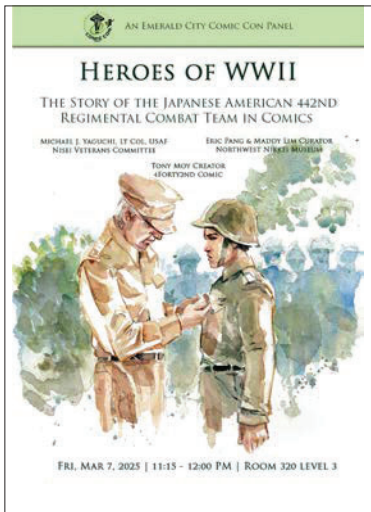


Don Maekawa-Lucky Bingo winner



NVC at Emerald City Comic Con

By Dale Watanabe



Past Commander Mike Yaguchi served on a panel at the latest Emerald City Comic Con with artist and comic creator Tony Moy. View the session by using your phone app camera, scan the QR code to view the video.

Tony talks about how he found out about these WWII Asian heroes during the pandemic and the Asian hate going on at the time. Learning about the 442nd RCT has become a passion, and he now expects to expand his initial story about the battle to save the Lost Battalion beyond the 5 or 6 issues originally planned.

It was evident by the crowd attending that he is reaching a much broader audience, including young people and teachers. Tony Moy lives in Chicago, but his art has taken him to the 442 foxholes in France. You can see his comic online at <https://www.4forty2nd.com/>



<https://youtu.be/dye8JFWx80w>

Kirkland Proclamation on 2025 Day of Remembrance



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming February 19, 2025, as "Day of Remembrance of Japanese American Incarceration" in Kirkland

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the forced evacuation and incarceration of thousands of loyal United States citizens because of their Japanese ancestry; and

WHEREAS, other countries followed the United States in issuing similar orders, including Canada, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Chile, and Argentina; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 1942, approximately 60 Japanese American families from Bellevue boarded a train in Kirkland bound for a "relocation center" in Tule Lake in northern California; and

WHEREAS, over two and a half years from 1942 to 1945, the U.S. government removed Japanese Americans from their homes on the West Coast from the states of California, Washington, and Oregon and the Alaska Territory – without a trial or due process, and many unable to inform their families – forcing them into internment camps in unfamiliar lands in the states of Montana, New Mexico, and North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, approximately 7,390 Americans of Japanese descent from Western Washington and Alaska were forcibly relocated and incarcerated in concentration camps, where they endured miserable conditions and treatment by military guards; and

WHEREAS, despite these experiences, thousands of young Japanese American men enlisted in the U.S. armed forces, bravely fighting to defend the nation that was abridging their own freedoms at home; and

WHEREAS, we honor their sacrifice, as well as the resilience that made it possible for thousands of Japanese American families to reclaim and rebuild their lives after the war; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government in 1988 admitted that the forced evacuation and incarceration of Japanese American families was based on "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership"; and

WHEREAS, this stain on our history should remind us to always stand up for our fellow Americans and that acknowledgment of past injustices can help bring people together around a recommitment to the shared values in our country of civil rights and civil liberties; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has worked to demonstrate a deliberate and intentional effort to create a Kirkland where everyone belongs through the approval of resolutions R-5240 in February of 2017 and R-5434 in August 2020 and the adoption of a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Five-Year Roadmap in July 2022 that identifies actions to ensure that Kirkland is a safe, inclusive, and welcoming place for all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, Mayor Kelli Curtis, on behalf of the City Council, does hereby proclaim February 19, 2025, as Day of Remembrance of Japanese American Incarceration During World War II in Kirkland and calls upon the Kirkland community to join in solemn remembrance of the issuance of Executive Order 9066 in 1942 and to commemorate the rescission of that same order on February 19, 1976.



Signed this 18th day of February

Kelli Curtis
Kelli Curtis, Mayor

Commander Dale Watanabe and Vice Commander Michael Yaguchi attended the City of Kirkland City Council Meeting on Feb 18th to receive the proclamation.

Day of Remembrance 2025
(continued from pg.1)

Photos: Day of Remembrance 2025



Bob Hasegawa



Sharon Tomiko Santos



Boy Scouts



Bento

NVC Donations

In Appreciation of the Nisei Lunch Program

Mike and Nancy Fukuma

Fay Tanagi

Peggy Tanemura

In Appreciation of the Nisei Lunch Program Volunteers

Eileen Lamphere

In Celebration of Weldon Lee's 80th Birthday

Dale and Shiz Kaku

In Honor of Allen Nakamoto, Emperor's Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays

Dale and Shiz Kaku

In Memory of Kay Hashimoto

Jill Hashimoto

In Memory of Toshiko Okamoto

Peggy Tanemura

Ron Takemura and Sharon Sakamoto

NVC Foundation Donations

In Memory of Don Yukio Yoshida

Pauline and Elaine Yoshida

In Memory of Keisuke and Imeko Yoshida

Pauline and Elaine Yoshida

In Memory of Richard and Akemi Yoshida

Pauline and Elaine Yoshida

NVCF Boeing Matching Fund

Junior Nagaki
S. Tanino

NVC Hall Maintenance: In Memory of Gene and Mary Akutsu

Marilyn Akutsu

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

Mark Shigihara Memorial Scholarship 2025 Gwen Shigihara

NVC/WAC Scholarship Fund
In Memory of Arata Nakamura

Pauline and Elaine Yoshida

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Kyle Sato

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

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To: **NVCF Membership Chair**

From:

Address:

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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!

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$

Please send check payable to:
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NVC FOUNDATION • DONATION FORM

(Use this form for donations only.)

Please check the most appropriate heading:

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1

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

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Please direct my donation toward the:

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☐ Endowment Fund ☐ Other: _____

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check to this form.

TOTAL ENCLOSED

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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 for the Coffee!

—Service member serving in Djibouti

Thank you for your support of all of us here. God bless you!

—Service member serving in Djibouti

Thank you for your support.

—Service member serving in Kuwait

Thank you for the gift.

—Service member serving in Kuwait

Thank you so much. I truly appreciate it.

—Service member serving in United Arab Emirates

Thanks – truly appreciate it.

—Service member serving in United Arab Emirates

Thank you so much!

—Service member serving in Kuwait

*Thank you for your support of all of us over here.
God bless you!*

—Service member serving in Djibouti

Thank you!! – from a deployed airman overseas.

—Service member serving in Qatar

Thank you for your support

—Service member serving in Iraq

Thank you so much

—Christopher 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 so much for your support

—Service member serving in Qatar

Thank you for your support

—Service member serving in Kuwait

Thank you so much!

—Mark serving in Kuwait

Acknowledgements also received from service members serving in:

Djibouti, Iraq (2), Kuwait (4), Qatar (2), United Arab Emirates

To send your own Cup of Joe, go to:

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



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Emerald Downs: "A Day at the Races" Coming June 7, 2025

By Keith Yamaguchi



Emerald Downs: "A Day at the Races" coming June 7, 2025

Save the date and join in on the fun and excitement of Thoroughbred horse racing at Emerald Downs Racetrack. This year's event will take place on June 7, 2025. The event will be held in the Trackside Pavilion Event space, which is located at the track level of the racetrack. With Mt. Rainer in the background, the Trackside Pavilion offers a great viewing spot as the horses enter the South turn. You will also be in an area reserved only for our group. The Pavilion area will offer sit-down dining for 60 guests, a buffet luncheon, a no host bar and our own parimutuel betting window and betting machines.

The menu for the All-American Buffet includes:

- Beverage Station -- Coffee, Tea, Water; Soft Drinks are available for purchase
- Snacks upon arrival (snacks available at 12:50pm) — Home made Kettle Chips with French Onion Dip
- Vegetable Crudit  with Creamy Ranch Dressing, Gourmet Snack Mix
- Sides: Fresh Watermelon, Coleslaw, Corn on the Cob, Southwest Potato Salad
- Main Course: Beecher's Mac and Cheese, Crispy Chicken Tenders, Pulled Pork Sandwiches
- Dessert: Cookie Platter
- No host Bar (The bar closes half an hour prior to the last race at approx. 6:00pm)

Pricing for the "Day at the Races" per person:

- Adult Buffet: \$73.13 ea. includes service charge and tax
- Teen Buffet (ages 11-17): \$73.13 ea. includes service charge and tax
- Child Buffet (ages 5-10): \$36.58 ea.
- Toddler Buffet (ages 4 & under): Free

To summarize the "Day at the Races" event:

Your buffet ticket includes event space admission, Official Program and Tip Sheet, banquet staff, mutuel teller, bartender, set up and clean up.

Timeline:

- 12:50pm — Trackside Pavilion/Snacks Available
- 1:50pm — First Race
- 1:55pm — Buffet Service (one hour)
- 6:30pm — Approx. Conclusion of Racing

Parking:

- Free Parking is available in the general parking area (well-marked with signs). A shuttle service is provided from the general parking areas to the track entrance.
- Paid parking in designated areas is available
- Valet Parking is available

ALL GUESTS must have a ticket to enter the admission gates during live racing (including teens and children ages 5-17). To ensure that you have your ticket before June 7, please RSVP no later than May 26, 2025.

Please email your RSVP to Allen Nakamoto at nakamoto.a@comcast.net, Vicki Potter at vpott3@comcast.net for Rising Star Stable reservations, or Keith Yamaguchi at kyamavet@gmail.com.

I will make every attempt to mail your tickets to you prior to the event. Remember, there are a limited number of sit down spaces available, so please respond early.

Payment for your tickets can be made on the day of the event. There is no need to pay for your tickets in advance. Check or cash accepted, with checks payable to Keith Yamaguchi.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Keith Yamaguchi at kyamavet@gmail.com or by phone at 206 390-1253 mobile. I look forward to seeing you at Emerald Downs on June 7, 2025!

5625 119TH AVE SE, BELLEVUE, WA 98006



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Community NEWS

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 - AND -

Saturday, March 29 at Nippon Kan Theater, 5:00pm

Join JCCCW for the first ever Seattle screenings of Ikebiki 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:

- **University of Washington Screening**
Friday, March 28, 2025 Doors open-6 PM Screening-7 PM
University of Washington, Architecture Hall, Room ARC 147
3943 W Stevens WY NE, Seattle
General Admission: \$25 Students & Seniors (65+): \$19
<https://events.humanitix.com/uw-screening>
- **Nippon Kan Theater Screening**
Saturday, March 29, 2025 Doors open-4 PM (small reception) Screening-5 PM
Nippon Kan Theater, 628 S Washington St, Seattle
General Admission: \$25 Students & Seniors (65+): \$19
<https://events.humanitix.com/copy-of-kintsukuroi-seattle-premiere/tickets>

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

The 50th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival will be held Friday April 11, 2025 - Sunday April 13, 2025, at the Armory Food & Event Hall and Fisher Pavilion. Over the years, the award-winning non-profit Festival remains a free, life-enriching experience dedicated to increasing the understanding and friendship between the people of Japan and the Pacific Northwest. As a public service, the Festival presents cultural and educational programs, arts, technologies, and the rich heritage of Japan. Join us in celebrating the beautiful sakura, cherry tree blossom. Long may it blossom in your heart! Today, the Festival is the largest and oldest of its kind in the Northwest. The festival is part of the Seattle Center Festival series and is free and open to the public.

More information: <https://cherryblossomfest.org/>

JASSW – Annual Meeting & Spring Gala

Wednesday, April 23, 4:30pm – 8:00pm

The WING, 719 S King St, Seattle

The Japan-America Society of the State of Washington (JASSW) invites you to their Annual Meeting 2025 at the Wing Luke Museum. The Annual Meeting is JASSW's premier networking event, offering a chance to reflect on past accomplishments, learn more about the Society, and connect with the leadership team as they share future goals. The meeting will be followed by the Spring Gala, featuring a special violin performance by Yuuki Hashimori, a Japanese buffet-style dinner, dessert, raffle prizes, and more. Join in celebrating the JASSW mission of promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of Japan and Washington State by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information.

More information: <https://jassw.org/events/annual-meeting/>



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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LEGACY ENDOWMENT FORM

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

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

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