



Newsletter

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

April 2025 • Volume 75 • Issue 4

2025 Scholarship Awards

By Brianna Ishihara, NVC & NVC Foundation Scholarship Committee

The NVC Foundation Scholarship Committee would like to thank all the hard-working scholars who applied for educational scholarships this year. Your passion to make meaningful and important change in our world is needed now, more than ever.

We would also like to thank the NVC and NVC Foundation members for your continued support in funding the higher education scholarship program. Without your contributions, the scholarship program would cease to exist.

The committee would also like to thank Enoch and Lynn Kanaya for funding the Col. Jimmie Kanaya Memorial Scholarship and Gwen Shigihara and family for the Dr. Mark Shigihara Memorial Scholarship. Again, we appreciate your family's generous contribution in commemoration of your loved ones. This is one actionable way we will continue to be able to remember the past by educating the future.

Finally, I would like to thank the scholarship committee members, Mary Ann Yamaguchi, Melanie King, Lauryn Takasaki, and Sue Beeson

for their continued partnership in helping to organize, revise, plan, and score applications.

We are proud to announce the recipients of the 2025 NVC and NVC Foundation Scholarships:

Okagesama de NVC Foundation Scholarship:

Kai Vu
Mateo Mar
Ty Shimizu

Dr. Mark Shigihara Memorial Scholarship

Alicia Sasaki

NVC Col. Jimmie Kanaya Memorial Scholarship:

Kelan Sato

NVC Women's Auxiliary Scholarship:

Karissa Yamaguchi

[NOTE: For scholarship details and more background on our scholarship recipients, please read their Essay articles on Page 5. Three scholarship essay articles will be printed in the May newsletter.]



Nisei Lunch April 4, 2025

Nisei Lunch Serves an Early Easter Meal

By Keith Yamaguchi, Photos courtesy of Janice Kunitsugu

The April Nisei Lunch featured an early Easter meal of ham, oven roasted sweet potatoes, green beans, rice, green salad and dessert. Thanks to Shiz Kaku and Mary Ann Yamaguchi for taking over much of the

meal preparation duties in Jim Shinbo's absence.

As most of our regular Nisei Lunch guests are aware, Jim has been the chef for the lunch program and is recovering from

(continued on pg.4)

SAVE the DATE!

NVC 80th Annual Memorial Day Service

Monday, May 26th
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

*NVC Foundation — Board Meeting

TBD

NVC Memorial Day Program

Monday, May 26, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Lake View Cemetery, 1554 15th Ave NE, Seattle

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
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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 to this year's scholarship awardees. You'll be able to read three essays in this month's newsletter and the remaining three next month.

I'm looking forward to meeting the young recipients at the May Nisei Luncheon. These meetings across multiple generations are great opportunities to meet and share experiences that can enrich our understanding and appreciation of each other's journeys. I am always inspired by the stories shared by each generation.

I hope you'll join us at our 80th Memorial Day ceremony next month at Lake View Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. Even during the COVID years, NVC/NVC Foundation conducted Memorial Day ceremonies to honor those who paid the ultimate price in

battle. I encourage everyone to join us at these events and be a part of our vibrant community.

Our building committee and board are actively working to keep the Hall in good repair and respond to the needs of our membership and renters. The gym is busy many mornings with pickleball groups and multiple evenings with basketball groups. Kyudo (Japanese archery) and taiko add Japanese culture to the mix and several community groups round out regular renters. The upstairs events space (gym) and Lefty's Room on the lower level have full A/V capabilities that make them great spaces for events.

We are working on bringing David Ono's *Defining Courage* tribute to Nisei soldiers to Seattle. Those who have seen the show in other cities have urged us to make this happen. If you are willing to help us organize, please contact me directly at dalewat@msn.com or on my mobile phone 206-953-2233.

2025-2026 NVC Officers

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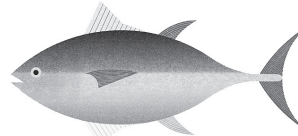
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NVC Foundation President's Column

By Jay Deguchi



The words, 'Honoring the Past, Educating the Future' have never been more appropriate.

As we reflect on our history, we are reminded of the importance of safeguarding justice and fairness for all.

Recently, Tsuru for Solidarity, under the coordination of Stan Shikuma, brought together Japa-

nese American organizations to discuss how we can respond to events affecting immigrant communities today. This organizational meeting was a first step in creating a platform for discussions emphasizing the importance of community solidarity and the ongoing relevance of standing up for fairness, dignity, and due process.

Many of the JA organizations, including ours have been grappling to understand how to maintain and gain membership over the years. As our community evolves and grows more dispersed, we all seem to be searching to find the fundamental reasons of what we are now about, and how to move forward. Even though the camps were painful and horrific, they helped create

our tight knit community, and the irony is the current situation could unite us again.

Some would say that the well-known passage by Martin Niemoller is still pertinent—"first they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out."

The Japanese community has been very successful due to hard work, dedication and a strong will. There are many who believe now maybe the time to use its influence and engage in meaningful dialogue and advocate for fairness and justice.

Tsuru for solidarity is planning to hold an upcoming community meeting. I encourage our membership to attend and share their valuable experiences and perspectives in continuing the legacy or honoring the past and educating the future.



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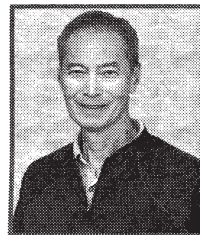


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"The Minidoka Story" by Sat Ishikawa

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
1212 S. King Street • Seattle, WA 98104
Book Inquiries Email: info@nvcfoundation.org

Partially funded by the 2008 Boeing Grant

**Nisei Lunch
Serves an Early Easter Meal
(continued from pg.1)**

some health issues. Jim is well on his way to recovery and is faithfully doing his rehab work and is feeling much stronger. We are looking forward to the day that Jim is well enough to resume his duties in the kitchen.

The Nisei Lunch acknowledged five individuals who celebrated birthdays in the month of April. Those receiving a token birthday gift were Nancy Fujimoto, Jim

Shinbo, AC Arai, Liz Olschefska, and Toshi Hayashi. Toshi will celebrate her 100th birthday this month! Toshi has been a regular guest for many years, and she looks fantastic!

At next month's lunch we will honor NVC and NVC Foundation Scholarship recipients for 2025. These outstanding young students represent the best and the brightest in our community, and it is a privilege to host them and their families to our lunch program.



Happy Birthday--Jim Shinbo & Nancy Fujimoto



Happy Birthday--Toshi Hayashi--100years young



Bingo prizes



Sue Beeson & Carole Remme

2025 ESSAY:

Okagesama de

NVC Foundation Scholarship

Kai Vu

Kai Vu is the grandson of Eileen Yamada Lamphere and is a graduating senior at the University of Washington. Kai has been studying for a B.S. degree in Public Health. He has distinguished himself through his experiences at the HealthPoint Health Scholars Program, clinical lab technician at the UW medicine lab, and epidemiology research intern through Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Kai is noted for his intelligence, drive, and commitment to community. He will be attending Tufts University School of Medicine to work towards his Doctor of Medicine & Master of Public Health degree in the fall.

"I'm being followed!" My father yelled as he ran inside, slamming and locking the door on his way in. My family turned off the lights and sat in silence, peering through the closed blinds of the living room windows for over an hour, but no one ever came. From psychotic episodes to long unmedicated periods, I witnessed early on in my childhood the detrimental impact that schizophrenia can have on individuals and their families. I once asked him during a weekend visit why he didn't take his medication; he told me he didn't like the way it made him feel, but that whenever he was with me and my brother, he felt better. My father ultimately committed suicide due to the severity of his mental illness and lack of adherence to treatment. I will never know with certainty if my presence truly alleviated some of his suffering like I so desperately wanted, but it was all I had to offer as a child. Overcoming his death and facing adversity at a young age instilled resilience and compassion in me and fostered a desire to serve other stigmatized and disadvantaged individuals, in hopes that one

day, I could use my knowledge and skills to help those with illnesses like my father.

With my father's story fresh in mind, I sought opportunities to shadow in medically underserved areas like the one I grew up in, frequently observing refugee screenings and overdue wellness exams. One patient, Ari, was a shy, stout woman who had just arrived from her war-torn home in Afghanistan, seeking refuge in the US just as my family had years ago during the Vietnam War. Being in a foreign environment, she was hesitant to communicate with the physician as he offered a soothing touch and asked about her current safety. Witnessing the cultural and healthcare barriers faced by immigrants through family and patients alike made me gain a deep appreciation for the trauma-informed care practiced by physicians to treat patients of disadvantaged backgrounds similar to Ari and my family. These experiences cultivated in me a desire to attain the medical education, skills, and cultural competency necessary to develop tailored and holistic treatment plans for patients like Ari.

My experiences compelled me to study public health and pursue opportunities in research as I enrolled at the University of Washington (UW). Interning in the Public Health Sciences Division at Fred Hutch, I led a research project investigating associations between tumor measurements and survival outcomes on a cancer clinical trial. As I collected data and read follow-up notes for each patient, learning their stories, I grew disheartened, frequently finding files labeled "Cause of Death." Performing survival analyses with their data, I wished to meet and care for each patient and attach a name, face, and identity to their assigned six-digit ID, prompting me to seek out and shadow an oncologist in the network at UW Medical Center Montlake. Rounding and observing the care team's approaches to developing treatment plans cemented my calling within medicine: I longed to be in the role of the physicians on the team, overseeing the health and treatment of patients on the frontline, and I recognized this path provided abundant opportunities to pursue all my interests in medicine and public health.

My research and shadowing experiences in the UW Medicine network inspired me to undergo training and become a licensed phlebotomist to gain hands-on patient experience and become further involved within the organization. One patient, "Will," was on PrEP (HIV-prevention) medication and frequently visited for STI panels and an abundance of other tests, which often meant getting blood draws. Among our many interactions, we bonded over shared struggles and

worries that came with being queer youth. Will confided in me about his journey to Seattle and the trauma he endured with a lack of acceptance from conservative relatives. I identified and empathized with him, and offered validation based on my similar experiences. Forming interpersonal and longitudinal relationships with diverse and marginalized patients like Will, while fostering an inclusive environment and contributing to treatment plans, left me wanting a bigger role—overseeing care with the level of medical expertise of a physician.

Providing care to sexual and gender minorities like Will also shaped my research interests in public and global health. My public health coursework taught me to analyze the unique inequities plaguing these marginalized groups using data-driven statistical methods; it wasn't until I began fostering interpersonal relationships with the many patients at our clinic who identified as gay/bisexual cisgender men or transgender women, and learning their stories, that I was able to fully understand the magnitude that such inequities have on the quality of life of these individuals on a personal level. I pursued advanced coursework in epidemiology and biostatistics and returned to Fred Hutch in the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Division the following year to pursue epidemiologic research. I received mentorship from senior faculty as I conducted a research project and published a paper analyzing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sexual behaviors and access to HIV testing among sexual minorities in

(continued on pg.6)

Essay 2025, Kai Vu
(continued from pg.5)

Peru. I plan to continue pursuing this research interest in global health throughout my schooling and career.

I aspire to provide care to underserved communities with

compassion and cultural humility, acknowledging the unique identities of my patients and ensuring their stories don't go unheard. Throughout my journey, I aim to reduce health disparities faced by immigrants, sexual minorities, and other marginalized groups.

When reflecting on the statement "okagesama de," there is not one singular person, but rather a span of experiences and interactions with others, that have shaped these goals. As a physician, I hope to provide patients with treatment plans

to facilitate long-term improvements in their quality of life, ensuring their stories don't have a premature ending like my father's.

Okagesama de NVC Foundation Scholarship Mateo Mar

Mateo Mar finds inspiration in his grandfather, James Mar, who helped found Cathay Post #186. Following in his grandfather's footsteps, Mateo has been inspired to serve his community through volunteering and creating his own small business stringing tennis rackets. He has also been involved in a student-run business where he was elected CEO and oversees the donation of all proceeds to local and international causes. Mateo plans to study business and computer science at either the University of Washington, Purdue University, or Georgia Institute of Technology in the fall.

Snap! The captured prisoners of war break the lock to their cell and escape by jumping out of the moving cattle train and then scattering. The Germans are in pursuit, but a French Indo-Chinese tribe sees the American and disguises him in their traditional clothing so that he can sneak back to General Patton's company. With the help of several local villages, he is able to eventually rejoin the American forces.

This was the story of my grandfather, James Mar, who fought in WW2 as the first Chinese soldier drafted from Seattle. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for acts of bravery. However, it is not only his bravery in WW2 that inspires me, but also, I aspire to reflect the profound impact he made on the community around him after he returned home from the war. After the military boat docked back in Seattle, my grandfather attempted to join a

local American Legion post but was denied on the basis of racial discrimination. In 1946, he then took initiative and helped found the Cathay Post #186 for minority soldiers.

As the acting commander of the post, the U.S. government commissioned him to find the families of many deceased Chinese soldiers to give the families closure. This turned into his life work as he would later become a funeral director for a local cemetery for over 60 years. His dedication to helping his community that faced discrimination and hardships due to language barriers was evident in every aspect of his life. During this time, he also took over his family's Chinatown dry goods store which he utilized as a hub for many immigrants to receive help and approach him to translate legal paperwork and documents. The store also served as a

marketplace where people could purchase or sell burial plots. Not only did he use his business as a community meeting place, he also used his profession to help support local businesses. For each funeral arranged, he would support and help purchase flowers for the family from Garland Florist, a local Japanese flower shop, for floral remembrances. This was a way for him to give back to the stores near his shop.

Reflecting on the mission of the NVC Foundation, "Honor the past and educate the future", I recognize how my grandfather embodied this principle. His resilience, leadership, and unwavering commitment to service through his businesses and profession has profoundly shaped my own aspirations by inspiring me to use my current and future career opportunities to support my local communities. Inspired by his legacy, I look forward to using my interest in business and computer science to pursue entrepreneurship. My goal is to pursue this career by supporting and partnering with local communities as my grandfather once did, exemplifying okagesama de—"I am what I am because of you."

In light of my grandfather using his local business in his community, I have also turned a hobby of mine into a local business endeavor. I started stringing my

own tennis racquets to repair strings broken on the court as a way to reduce my own personal costs involved for a favorite hobby of mine. In high school, I turned this into a local business where I helped my hitting partners and friends by providing them reduced prices for restringing their broken racquets. This small business has served as a way to connect with my tennis hitting partners and help them with broken strings. I now have a local network of friends and family that I provide my service to. I learned to make my business a pathway to help and connect with many in my community.

Additionally, I have worked on a larger project this past year as the CEO of a 32-employee student-run business called Mercer Trade Incorporation: an international business that is split into Eastern Hemisphere, Western Hemisphere, Local, Data Analytics, Marketing, and Philanthropic subsidiaries. Our business runs sales to represent different cultures around the world. As the elected CEO of the locally run company, I oversee the donation of all the proceeds from each sale to local and international causes that support our business's vision to be a socially responsible student led company. Our largest sale this year was a Christmas Tree Sale where we

(continued on pg.7)

Essay 2025, Mateo Mar
(continued from pg.6)

partnered with our local youth and family services to help support our community. We earned over \$20,000 for our youth and family services in the sale which will be used for youth education and family assistance.

Beyond the money raised for our youth and family services were the lessons I learned about community-oriented business projects. The opportunity to partner with the directors of the Youth and Family Services

helped me learn about the inspiring initiatives that our business would help support. I was also inspired by how my team and I rallied over 200 community volunteers to help support our fundraiser. The willingness of the community volunteers to support us was overwhelming and leaves me wanting to help the community all the more. During the tree sale, I also helped facilitate partnerships with local stores by helping them sell handmade ornaments. Inspired to imitate my grandfather's story in my educational and professional activities,

I learned to use my local entrepreneurial opportunities to build relationships and make lasting connections with the community members that surround us and simultaneously contribute to the well-being of the community.

My grandfather used his store and his profession to help the marginalized community around him. My grandfather passed away over 10 years ago, but his impact lives on through the testimonies of the many community members in Seattle.

As I look to continue to pursue

business, computer science, and entrepreneurship in college and beyond, my focus will also be on supporting the local communities around me. I am what I am today because of my grandfather's influence in my life and in the community he served. I look forward to honoring his legacy of service by being a community-first businessman in the future.

Okagesama de NVC Foundation Scholarship Ty Shimizu

Ty Shimizu is the grandson of NVC Lifetime Member Francis Fukuhara and a senior at Seattle Preparatory School. He is the president of Seattle Prep's Asian Pacific Islander Club, is on the track team, and has also competed on Prep's e-sports and baseball teams. He works for the non-profit organization, APICAT, doing community engagement and advocacy around tobacco, marijuana, and other health-related issues. This fall, Ty plans to study computer engineering at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo.

There have been many family members who lived out the motto of "okagesama de" for me in life such as teaching me how to perform in school and how to be loving and kind to others. The person who exemplified it the most was my grandpa by showing me a way to bounce back from hardships and be a leader. My grandfather, George Shimizu, and my late grandmother, Terumi Shimizu, grew up in Hiroshima and moved to America shortly before the horrific Hiroshima bombing. I have always admired my grandparents' ability to keep moving forward despite miss-

ing their friends and family back home. This has inspired me to persevere through any hardships I face in life. Whether it be the minor things in my life such as navigating a rigorous academic schedule to preforming on the baseball field, I always try and replicate the bravery and strength my grandparents demonstrated during their time in turmoil.

When I was 10 years old, I would face my biggest struggle yet; my mother, who has always been my greatest source of strength, passed away from an unexpected

brain aneurysm. After losing my mother so suddenly and at such a young age, it felt almost impossible to muster up the strength to keep moving forward and find hope in the coming days. During this time, I spent countless hours with my Grandpa George, who was always there to cook for me, play catch with me, and most importantly act as my beacon of hope in a time that was filled with darkness. He has always been a man of few words; however, his comforting presence and never-ending love truly helped me to regain the strength and courage I had before my mother passed. Years later, I learned about the suffering his friends and family back in Hiroshima endured during the horrific bombing, and once again I felt inspired to walk through life bravely not only for my mother but for him and my siblings as well.

My grandpa's leadership during my darkest times has inspired me to lead and support others with the same strength and compassion he showed me. Due to both

of us being introverted, I related to him a lot by not showing my affection for others verbally, but instead through my actions. To make sure everyone feels loved at my school, I try to create safe spaces for the clubs I lead so they can talk to me about anything they need. Along with this, I aim to show the underclassman how to be a man and woman for others by being compassionate and considerate to everyone. Also, I learned how to be resilient from him. His ability to keep moving forward despite losing some loved ones from the bombing taught me the importance of carrying your loved ones in your heart and keep moving forward. I strive to embody the resilience he showed me by treating everyone with kindness. Having experienced the pain and sadness of losing a loved one, I make it a priority to be compassionate, knowing that everyone may be facing their own struggles. Every day, I try my best to be a role model for others; just like my

(continued on pg.8)

Essay 2025, Ty Shimizu
(continued from pg.7)

grandpa was for me during the darkest moments in my life.

Hearing about my grandparents' unjust incarceration and the struggles they endured to build a better future has inspired me to work hard and ensure their efforts were not in vain. I feel very fortunate today to be able to attend a school where I can receive a good education and celebrate my Asian ethnicity. By working hard academically, I try to honor the past by making the most of

the opportunity they gave me. Whenever I felt like complaining about school, I thought about how much my grandpa went through and it remotivates me to keep pushing forward and how these issues were nothing compared to his. Knowing about the previous incarceration has also motivated me to make sure everyone at my school is treated equally. To ensure this, I have joined the diversity council and am the president of the Asian Pacific Islander club. By being a part of the diversity council, I can work with my peers and

teachers on how to make sure all Prep students are being treated equally.

Whatever challenges I may face in the future, I will remember how miniscule my problems were compared to my grandpa's and how he was able to overcome all of them. I will try to live out his kindness and strength he showed to me during my dark times and be a person for others. I will try to embody his leadership and legacy he has passed on to me and keep moving forward, just like he did. I want to be an

Okagesama de for the future generations of my family; just like my grandpa was for me.

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TOTAL ENCLOSED



Puyallup Valley JACL & BIJAC present

Ireichō: The Book of Names

National Monument for the WWII Japanese American Incarceration March 27 – March 30, 2026

Friday, March 27	Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church, Seattle
Saturday, March 28	Expo Hall, Washington State Fair, Puyallup (access to Remembrance Gallery)
Sunday, March 29	Bainbridge Island
Monday, March 30	Bainbridge Island

Limited appointments: ten-minute openings with stamping of six names

<https://ireizo.org/tour/>

Named after the Japanese term for “consoling the spirits,” the Ireichō monument honors both those who have gone before us as well as those who carry on the memories and legacies of forced removal, unjust incarceration, and family separation. Every visitor to the monument is invited to contribute to the creation of the monument by marking one or more names in the Ireichō with a blue hanko stamp. For many camp survivors and descendants, leaving this mark has been a way to honor the personhood of a family member who suffered the indignities and losses of the wartime incarceration.

The Ireichō is the first comprehensive listing of persons of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated in US Army, DOJ, WCCA, and WRA camps. The tour will help fulfill the vision of the Museum and The Irei Project to honor and recognize all 125,284 individuals in the Ireichō and provide an opportunity for thousands of more people across the US to engage in this powerful and intimate act of racial repair and healing.



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Seattle Japanese American Community Gathering

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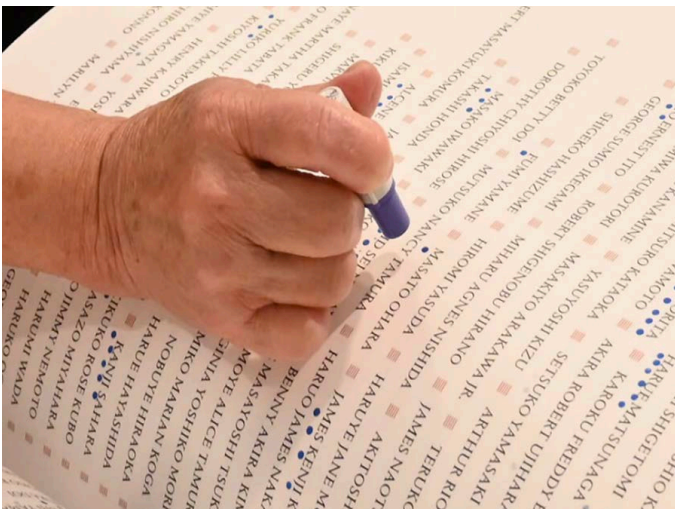
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2pm-4pm**

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Connecting the history of
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incarceration to the current
moment and uniting against
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Register online
and/or contact
organizers here!



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 your generosity and keeping us in mind.

—Scott serving in Iraq

Thank you for your support.

—Service member serving in in Djibouti

Thank you! The cup of tea made my day!

—Service member serving in Qatar

Thank you! I appreciate your contribution!

—Scharlottie serving in Kuwait

Thank you for the cup!

—Service member serving in Djibouti

Acknowledgements also received from service members serving in:

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

To send your own Cup of Joe, go to:

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

Nisei Veterans Memorial Center on Maui Invites You to Visit

Aloha!

The Nisei Veterans Memorial Center has opened a special Pop-Up exhibit that focuses on our Maui Heroes. If you enjoy the "Our Heroes" column that Melanie Agrabante has been publishing in the Maui News for the past several years and that we highlight in our Weekly Wednesday Update, then stop by the Center to see those stories gathered in one place and learn more about the history of these men.


The Education Center is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 12:00 noon - 3:30 p.m. and NO reservations are required. We also do special showings for school groups so please email or call us.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MauiNVMC/>

Telephone: 808/ 244-NVMC (6862)

Location: 1 Go For Broke Place, Kahului, HI
[665 Kahului Beach Road]


The Nisei Veterans Memorial Center ignites human potential by inspiring people to find the hero in themselves through the legacy of the Nisei Veterans.



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Kevin and Jennifer Nagai

General Donation

Hiroshi and Mitsuko Eto

In Appreciation of the Nisei Friday Lunches

T. Ted Tsue

In Appreciation of the Nisei Lunch Program

Ethel Nayematsu

David and Irene Toyohara

Pauline Yaguchi

In Appreciation of Nisei Lunch Program and Keith and Mary Ann Yamaguchi

Cho and Sharonne Shimizu

In Appreciation of the NVC Newsletter

John Katayama

In Honor of Gloria Yoshinaka's 90th Birthday

Patty and Al Hikida

Wesley Hikida

In Memory of Yoshi Kanemori

Robert M. Koba Family

In Memory of Ted "Sunshine" Nakamura

Noboru Hara

Sue Nakagawa

Reiko Sato

From their Family Gift

- In Appreciation of our Family Gathering, Tour of 442 Museum, Internee/ Veterans Walls
- In Memory of Har-uye Doi
- In Memory of Sumi and John Ohashi

Paul Nishimura

NVC Foundation Donations

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Mable Nishizaki

In Honor of Gloria Kiyomi Yoshinaka's 90th Birthday

Abigail Hikida

Jacob Hikida

Wesley Hikida

In Tribute to Gloria Yoshinaka's 90th Happy Birthday

Ken and Joyce Takeuchi

In Memory of Ray (Rei) Matsumura

Lynnett and Greg Stevenson

In Memory of Ted Nakamura

Jean Deguchi

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

NVC/WAC Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Ted "Sunshine" Nakamura

Pauline and Elaine Yoshida

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Susan Koba Churchill
Harmon Rulifson
Pauline Yaguchi

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Life

Lynnett Vasicko Stevenson



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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Community NEWS

Asian Pacific Directors Coalition – Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration

Saturday, May 3, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Armory Food & Event Hall, Seattle Center

The festival is part of the Seattle Center Festál series. It is free and open to the public.

For event schedule and list of participating vendors, see website:
<https://seattlecenter.com/events/featured-events/festal/aanh-pi-heritage-month-celebration>

Tsuru for Solidarity – Japanese American Community Call to Stop Repeating History!

Saturday, May 3, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church,
3001 24th Ave S, Seattle

Tsuru for Solidarity joins with Densho, Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee, Nikkei Student Union, and Seattle Chapter JACL in calling for a community meeting to discuss disturbing moves by the federal government that echo the treatment of Japanese Americans during WWII. In the past few months, the federal government has invoked the WWII experience of Japanese Americans as an example, even a blueprint, for how and why they can round up immigrants, detain them without hearing or charge, and hold them indefinitely in mass detention sites. The media have commented on the similarities to JA incarceration during WWII, and those caught in the immigrant roundup have cited the Supreme Court decisions in the Korematsu and Endo cases as examples of the dangers to civil liberties and the right of all to freedom under the law and Constitution of the United States. This community meeting will kick off a much-needed discussion on how the Seattle JA community can and should respond.

Registration link: https://actionnetwork.org/events/gathering-of-the-seattle-japanese-american-community?source=direct_link&

JCCCW – Kodomo no Hi 2025 (Children's Day 2025)

Sunday, May 4, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
JCCCW 1414 S Weller St, Seattle

Mark your calendars and get ready to delve into the mysteries of *yokai* at Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day) at the JCCCW! *Yokai* are supernatural beings from Japanese folklore - some are said to inhabit everyday objects, some are mimics, and some even more closely resemble humans! From the kappa to tengu, there are hundreds of different *yokai* - each with their own unique quirks and appearances. Come discover the most famous *yokai* and make some fun *yokai*-themed crafts! Translator and *yokai* specialist Zack Davisson will be giving a fun-filled presentation all about these mysterious beings. This FREE all-ages event will also feature live martial arts demonstrations, taiko drumming, tea ceremony demonstrations, and local food vendors. You won't want to miss it!

More information: <https://www.jcccw.org/kodomo-no-hi/>

Seattle Rep – New Play Reading: No No Boy

Thursday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.
Poncho Forum at Seattle Rep

Join Seattle Rep for a public new play reading of *No-No Boy*, adapted by Frank Abe from the classic 1957 novel by John Okada. *No-No Boy* tells the story of Ichiro Yamada as he returns to Seattle after two years in a Japanese American incarceration camp and two years in prison for refusing conscription into the U.S. Army during World War II. Ichiro searches for answers and a sense of justice in the face of hostility from his family and community. Adapted by Frank Abe from the novel by John Okada. Directed by Leslie Ishii. Tickets: \$15.

Information and tickets: <https://www.seattlerep.org/events/special-events/new-play-reading-no-no-boy>

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(continued on pg.13)

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Community NEWS (continued from pg.12)

Friends of Mukai – Day of Exile Ceremony: Memorial Sculpture Design Unveiling

Sunday, May 18, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Ober Park, 17130 Vashon Hwy SW, Vashon

Friends of Mukai on Vashon Island is honored to announce they have received a \$45,000 grant from the T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program to construct a memorial sculpture at Ober Park to honor the legacy of the 111 Vashon residents of Japanese descent who were expelled from their homes on Vashon Island on May 16, 1942, in response of Executive Order 9066. That Executive Order, signed by President Franklin Roosevelt on two months earlier, directed the expulsion of 120,00 persons of Japanese descent living in the Westcoast “Zone of Exclusion” into inland concentration camps.

An unveiling event for the design of the statue will be held at Ober Park at 10:00 a.m. on May 18 at Vashon’s annual Day of Exile ceremony. The public is invited to attend the ceremony! Construction of the installation is planned for completion this year.

For more information: <https://mukaifarmandgarden.org/events/vashons-annual-day-of-exile-ceremony-memorial-sculpture-unveiling/>

JACL Puyallup Valley: Remembrance Gallery Spotlight

The Puyallup Valley chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League invites you to experience the *Remembrance Gallery*, an exhibit that reflects on the incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans at the Puyallup “Assembly Center” (temporary detention camp) during World War II. The gallery honors the resilience of those impacted and encourages conversations around civil liberties and justice.

The gallery is a powerful and educational stop for visitors of all ages and will be open during the Washington State Fair this fall, from **August 29 to September 21, 2025** (except closed on Tuesdays and on September 3).

To learn more and stay connected with exhibit updates and behind-the-scenes content, follow us on social media:

Facebook: @puyallupvalleyjac

Instagram: @puyallup_valley_jac



www.nvcfoundation.org

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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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