

## 'Shinnen suggests strength of conviction and faith'

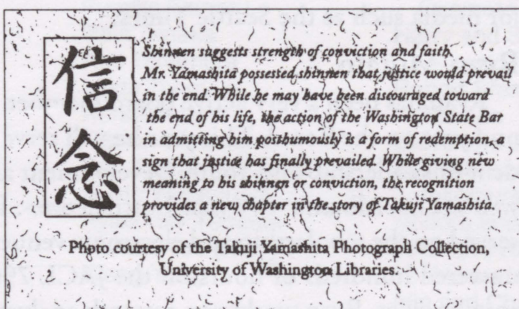
by Akemi Matsumoto

As part of the University of Washington Law School's 100th Anniversary, a gross injustice was undone March 1. Takuji Yamashita was finally inducted into the Washington State Bar Association 99 years after he graduated from the Law School.

A graduate of the University of Washington Law School in 1902, Yamashita passed the bar exam, but was refused entry because of laws which excluded Asians from induction into the Bar. Excluded from his chosen profession, he became an accomplished businessman. In 1921 he challenged the Alien Land Law in the U.S. Supreme Court, decades before JACL took up this fight.

On March 2, Seattle JACL, the Asian Bar Association of Washington, the Wing Luke Asian Museum, the Ehime Club, and the Organization of Chinese Americans held a reception for Yamashita's 20+ family members who came to Seattle for the bar induction ceremony. Wang Yung, in his welcoming statement, said the greater Asian Pacific Islander community owes a large debt to Yamashita who challenged racist laws and believed very deeply in the American creed of liberty and justice for all.

The kanji chosen for this historical event, Shinnen, suggests strength of conviction and faith. Mr. Yamashita possessed shinnen that justice would prevail in the end. We would all do well to keep that faith as we struggle today against injustice.



# JACL

Seattle Chapter Newsletter

April 2001

VOLUME 38, NO. 4

## We need your help at the 26th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival!

by Bill Tashima

Ikebana. Taiko. Kimono, Kids dress-up. Karate. Sumi. Koto. Sushi. Kendo. Shibori. Soba noodle making. All this and more at the 26th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival, Friday- Sunday, April 20-22, at the Seattle Center.

Seattle's "Sakura Matsuri" is the Pacific Northwest's largest public event showcasing the depth and breadth of traditional and contemporary Japanese art and culture.

This year's theme is "Chubu Region—Traditions and Visions: the cutting edge." A special prefectural exhibit will include Master Swordsmith, Yoshindo Yoshihara; Itto-Bori wood carving by Master Yoshitaka Tanimoto; and Buyo Dance "Kokaji" (the Swordsmith). The Yatai Food Court will feature demonstrations by a Master Soba Maker and National Champion, Yoshui Yasuhisa; Mitarashi Dango (sweet dumplings) by Master Koichiro Hori; and much more.

**Look for the JACL Booth  
at the  
Cherry Blossom Festival  
Seattle Center  
April 20-22!**

In all, over forty exhibits will be presented along with ongoing entertainment and demonstrations at the Flag Pavilion, Seattle Center Pavilion, and the Center House.

Legacy exhibits will include photo exhibits from Bainbridge Island, Lake Washington JACL, Nisei Vets Committee, JACC Densho project, and Northwest Nikkei Museum. The International Academy of Media Arts and Science will present a virtual reality installation of "Beyond Manzanar" by Tamiko Thiel.

As a longtime supporter of this festival, the Seattle JACL will have an information area with chapter news, membership information, and our historical booklet. We will also be selling bento boxes of inari and maki sushi.

We need your help!!

We are looking for sushi rollers, inari stuffers, bento boxers, clean up folks—the more, the merrier. If you would like to volunteer to help make sushi on Saturday morning, April 22, or if you would like to volunteer your help at the festival, please call Manaji Suzuki at (425) 355-2727, Shea Aoki at (206) 723-6061, or Bill Tashima at (206) 525-0531.

## Proving ourselves as Americans

from Sharon Solbie-Seymour

The Medal of Honor committee is presenting local government councils a copy of the William Nakamura Courthouse Bill in appreciation of their support for the federal bill.

In addition to the King County Council, supporters in the Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah, Redmond and Seattle city councils will be presented copies. The March 19 issue of "The Metropolitan King County Council Home News" acknowledged their presentation with the following article titled, "County Council Honored for Support of Nakamura Courthouse Bill."

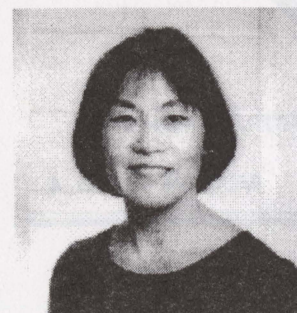
*Representatives of the Nisei Veterans Committee presented to the Metropolitan King County Council a copy of the bill signed by President Clinton last year renaming the U.S. Courthouse in downtown Seattle in honor of Medal of Honor recipient William Kenzo Nakamura.*

*Councilmember Greg Nickels, prime sponsor of the Council resolution urging Congress to rename the 62-year-old courthouse, accepted*

See "Closure" on page 2

## President's Message: Kodomo no Hi

Come visit the Mukai Farm and Garden, the first designated Asian American King County Landmark. Repeat the Mukai family tradition of having tea in the garden the first weekend of May when the Cherry Blossoms are expected to be in bloom. See the historical slide presentation about the strawberry farm and the only Japanese garden designed by an Issei woman. Celebrate Children's Day with Japanese American crafts, Boys' Day Dolls, sweets and beverages. Experience a piece of Nikkei history.



Akemi Matsumoto

Take the Vashon Ferry from West Seattle which runs every 45 minutes. Cost of the ferry round trip is \$9 for driver and car, \$2.50 for adult passengers, \$1.80 for children over 5.

When you arrive on the north end of Vashon Island, proceed south on Vashon Highway SW. Continue to the commercial district. Turn right at the first stop sign onto Bank Road (US Bank on corner). Go west 1 mile to 107th Ave SW. Turn left on 107th and go to the end of the road. Mukai garden is on the right. Look for the giant Koi windsox.

This event is Sponsored by the Seattle JACL, Densho Project and Seattle Sansei.

### Committee Members Needed!

We want our general members to participate actively in our mission. Please contact the following committee chairs to volunteer.

International Relations: Manaji Suzuki (425) 355-2727

First event is Cherry Blossom Festival weekend of April 20-22nd.

Civil Rights/Antidiscrimination/Political Education: Shanon Doolittle (425) 867-9438

Family Events Committee: Linda Tanouye 425 869-8161

### Seattle JACL Goals for 2001

- I. Increase our Seattle JACL Chapter membership to 600 by December 31, 2001.
- II. To improve the efficiency of the Board by fully practicing our meeting ground rules:
  1. Be informed of, agree with, and abide by the decision making process of the Board.
  2. Be open and express opinions freely during the meetings.
  3. Follow through on commitments made.

We will self-evaluate our efficiency in June and December.
- III. To do at least one joint project with a civil rights group we have not worked with before in order to continue our coalition building.

Japanese Children's Day  
Sunday, May 5, 2001  
1:00-5:00 p.m.  
Mukai Farm and Garden  
Vashon Island

## JACL Board Profiles

### Ann Fujii-Lindwall

Ann has been active in the Seattle JACL for seven years. During that time, she has been the Recording Secretary and has served on the scholarship and installation banquet committees, this year co-chairing the latter. She enjoys being involved in the community and hopes to gain skills needed for success in her career. Ann works as an office manager in the Health & PE Curriculum Department of the Seattle Public Schools. Ann graduated with a bachelor's degree in editorial journalism from the U.W. Ann believes we "need to promote our organization and our accomplishments more aggressively by placing articles in community publications and major media such as the Seattle Times.

### Ryan Minato

Ryan has been a very active board member, just starting his second year on the Board. This year he will serve as Third Vice President of Leadership and Youth Development and the Seattle JACL web site coordinator <www.jaclseattle.com>. In the past, Ryan has served on the scholarship and electronic venue committee and volunteered hundreds of hours on the JACL 79th Anniversary History Booklet. Ryan works as a research analyst and office administrator for the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. Ryan has a bachelors degree in economics and mathematics from Western Washington University. Ryan is the grandson of the 1946 Seattle Chapter president, George Minato.

### Chizuko Norton

Chiz has been a chapter member for at least five years. She has served on the Installation Banquet and Aki Kurose Academy Committees and will be our 2001 chapter's liaison to Nikkei Concerns, serving on both boards. Chiz has a Master's Degree in Social Work and has a part-time private psychotherapy practice. Chiz, a Nisei, wants to serve on the board to do what she can to help us all of us to work together regardless of our generation. Chiz loves to read and garden.

### 'Closure to a cloud,' continued from front page

*the copy of the final bill given to the Council by Nisei Veterans Committee member Tosh Okamoto and Sharon Seymour of the Japanese American Citizen's League. "This honors a person who showed his patriotic valor and gave his life for his country. It proves that while we don't always get it right the first time, in the end, we can."*

*"We served to prove ourselves as Americans," said Okamoto. "The honor received by William Nakamura puts closure to a cloud that has been over my head for many, many years."*

To order your personal War Relocation Authority Evacuee File, write Old Military and Civil Branch National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408.

Send your name and relocation camp assigned. File numbers and internment years are not necessary.

## Membership (New and Renewals)

### Individual

Vicki Asakura  
Fanny Atcheson  
Marion Critney  
Flo Fujita  
Amy Yoshi Hara  
Sharon Harada  
Frank T Hidaka  
Gilbert R Hirabayashi  
Robert Seko  
Karen Hopkins  
Eddie K Ito  
George N Kakiuchi  
Gene Kanamori  
Tetsuden Kashima  
Seji Kanazawa  
Lois Kaneko  
Ben Kawakami  
Sally Kazama  
Larry T Kazumura  
Nomoko Kido  
Frank Kikuchi  
Joanne Kimura  
Frank Y Kitamoto  
Misayo Kumamura  
Janice Kumasaka  
Ruthann Kurose  
Yeichi Kozu  
June Kubo (New)  
Sumi Kuriyama  
Bob Matsumoto  
Miyo McCoy  
Jan T Matsumoto  
Yoshiye Mayeda

George C Miyake  
Aiko Mizuki  
James H Nakamoto  
Wayne Nakamura (New)  
Craig Nakata  
Sylvia Nogaki  
Toshiko Okamoto  
Susan Otani  
Sharon Tomiko Santos  
Robert Seko  
Jeanne I Semura  
Ruth T Shimano  
Samuel H Shinozaki  
Eddie T Suguro  
Ruth A Sumida  
Fumiko Tamaru  
Paul Tanaka  
Kaz Tanemura  
Linda Tanouye  
Kenneth Usui  
Marion Watanabe  
Wm Toshio Yasutake  
David Yamaguchi  
Ayako Iky Yamada  
Donald Yee (New)  
Wang Yung

### Couples/Family

Walter and May Higa  
George and Marie Ishii  
Yukio and Yukino Imada  
Wayne Isa  
Toshio and Aki Ito  
Tsutomu and Yaeko Ito

William and Ayako Toki Johnson  
Art and Yuri Kaku  
Chris and Jean Kato  
Terry and Shirley Kameda  
Wayne and Yuka Kimura  
Nami and Taro Kusunose (New)  
Clement and Rosalie Miyaya  
Donald Mukai and Vicki Toyohara-Mukai  
George and Jean Nishi  
Dennis and Susan Okamoto  
Harry and Sachiko Okazaki  
Robert Shimabukuro and Alice Ito  
Steve and Joyce Suzuki  
Yoshiaki and Naomi Takemura  
Noboru and Takako Taki  
John and Rose Tenma  
Yoshio and Daisy Tomita  
Min and Cherrie Tsubota  
Tosh and Jackie Uyeji  
George and May Yano

### Thousand Club

Martin Matsudaira  
Ted Nakanishi  
William Tashima

### Century Club

Herbert M Tsuchiya

### Student/Boosters

Dane Canida  
Matthew Tatsuo Nakata

### Boosters

Charles Aramaki  
Pauline N Asaba  
Chiyoko Baba  
Kimiko Calhoun  
Mitsuko Hashiguchi  
Ruby Inouye Shu, MD  
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Steve Iwago  
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Shizue Kaku  
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Thomas Kobayashi  
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M Tsukada  
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Pearl Yanagimachi  
Fumiko Yoshikawa

### Membership Categories

Individual	\$50
Couple	\$85
1000 Club/Century	\$70-\$140
Spouse	\$40
Lifetime	\$1,000-\$2,000
Student/Youth (up to 25 years of age)	\$20
Boosters (Seattle JACL only)	
Regular	\$20
Seniors	\$15

Membership questions should be directed to Bill Tashima at (206) 525-0531, or <buber@aol.com>.

## Donations

### Booklet

George Azumano  
Bi Hoa Caldwell  
Judy Chambers  
Densho Program  
Tsuchino Forrester  
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Lilly Ikeda  
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Tom and Diane Iwata  
Phyllis Kanda  
Mac Kaneko  
Sally Kazama  
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Aiko Okamoto  
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Floyd & Pauline Shiosaki  
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Kaz Tatsumi  
Elmer Tazu,ma  
Tosh Tokunaga  
Saki Tsuchiya  
Joe Tsujimoto  
Mae Yamada  
Homer/Miyuki Yasui

### General

Silver: \$1 99  
Gold: \$100 500  
Platinum: \$501 999  
Sapphire: \$1000 5000  
Diamond: \$5000+

Martin Matsudaira  
Matthew Tatsuo Nakata  
Robert Shimabukuro & Alice Ito  
Hiro Suzuki  
Tosh & Jackie Uyeji.

### Silver

Wayne Isa  
Martha Kawaguchi  
Misayo Kumakura

### Gold

Fumiko Yoshikawa  
Colleen Seymour

### Banquet

Nobuo & Mary Isomura  
Minoru & Sueko Yamaguchi  
Takashi Hori  
Sharon Allen Felton  
Tom & Janet Kometani  
Tom Sakai  
William T. Hirata  
Marcia Fujimoto  
Margaret Pageler  
Coleen M. Seymour

## Thank You!!!

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter is sponsored partly through generous donations from:

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Seattle Chapter JAACL is a non-profit, grassroots civil rights organization dedicated to empowering our local community through high-quality programs and strategic partnerships focusing on activism, education, and youth leadership development. As a chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, we strive to be a leading Asian American advocacy group for civil and human rights while promoting and preserving the values and cultural heritage of Japanese Americans.

Our primary means of carrying out our mission is a monthly meeting, held at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the chapter office (316 Maynard Ave. S., Seattle) except August. All are welcome. (Those wishing to make presentations or be added to the meeting agenda should contact President Akemi Matsumoto.)

### Seattle Chapter JAACL Newsletter

The Seattle Chapter JAACL Newsletter is published a week after the third Wednesday of each month by the Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League, P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, Washington, 98118-0558. Office address: 316 Maynard Ave. South, Seattle, Washington, 98104. Ph.: 622-4098

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Board members should submit materials to the editor (<shimaito@home.com>, fax 206-722-2044, 6621 S. Bangor St., Seattle, WA 98178) by the Friday after the monthly board meeting.

Calendar items emphasize chapter or community events not likely to be covered by community newspapers or by other newsletters.

Web address: <www.jaclseattle.org>

E-mail address: <e-mail@jaclseattle.org>

Please let us know your concerns.

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