

A display of the "Camp Harmony D-4-44" exhibition at the Wing Luke Asian Museum—WLAM photo

Camp Harmony barrack added to WLAM permanent exhibition

by *Rekha Kuver*

"Camp Harmony D-4-44," an exhibit featuring a recreation of a barrack from the hastily built Puyallup Assembly Center at the Western Washington Fair Grounds, is now on display at the Wing Luke Asian Museum. The exhibit is part of the museum's "One Song, Many Voices" exhibition. "Camp Harmony" opened to the public February 19, 2001, the 59th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The inception of this installation was in 1991, when WLAM began researching the Japanese American experience with the goal of creating an exhibition exploring the 100-year history of Japanese Americans in the Pacific Northwest. This research, led by Sally Yamasaki, Michelle Kumata, and the late Harry Fujita and guided by a community advisory committee made up of local nisei, sansei and yonsei, led to the design and construction of "Executive Order 9066: Fifty Years Before and Fifty Years After."

The centerpiece of this successful exhibition was a barrack installation modeled after the dwellings in the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho, where most Seattle Japanese Americans were sent. Relying almost exclusively on the participation, labor, and collective knowledge of the Japanese American community, this exhibition was completed and opened years to the day that the executive order was signed by President Roosevelt.

Utilizing the same model of exhibition development by community experience and expertise, WLAM has reconstructed a partial barrack of

See "Camp Harmony exhibit" on page 4

Thousands attend ceremonies honoring Nikkei war heroes

by *Arlene Oki, Medal of Honor Committee*

The dedication of the courthouse is a tribute not only to the heroism of Pfc Nakamura, but also to all the other Nikkei servicemen who volunteered to fight for freedom and democracy while those same privileges were denied to their family and friends at home. The courage and honor of these men in the face of such prejudice are an incredible legacy to the entire Japanese American community. — John Tateishi, JACL National Director.

On March 25, 2001, over 1,500 individuals including Congressman Jim McDermott, Governor Gary Locke, King County Executive Ron Sims, Mayor Paul Schell, Bellingham Mayor Mark Asmundson, military leaders, and Nakamura and Okubo family members came together at the Seattle Center Mercer Arena to pay tribute to Private First Class William K. Nakamura, Technician Fifth Grade James K. Okubo and other Medal of Honor awardees. A photo exhibit featuring the 442nd and MIS was displayed in the reception hall and an outstanding commemorative booklet was distributed to everyone who attended the ceremony. Additional copies can be obtained from the Nisei Veterans Committee.

There were many tears witnessed at this deeply moving ceremony—an event that sadly took place 56 years after these brave war heroes served so gallantly in the Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the MIS during WWII. It was just last year that Nakamura, Okubo and other Asian Pacific Americans received this highest military honor. Of the total 22 awards, 20 were Nikkei and most were awarded posthumously.

On Monday, March 26, in another moving ceremony before a standing room only crowd, the U.S. courthouse at 1010 5th Avenue was officially renamed the William Kenzo Nakamura Courthouse. MC Lori Matsukawa introduced speakers June Oshima of the Nakamura family, Congressman McDermott, Mayor Schell, Seattle Councilwoman Jan Drago, State Representatives Kip Tokuda and Sharon Santos, Justice Betty Fletcher, National JACL Director John Tateishi, NVC Commander Robert

See "MOH" on page 3

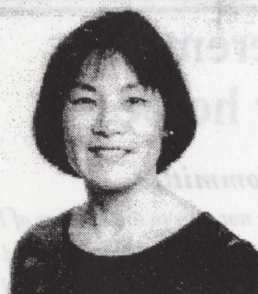
Scholarship reception to be held in May

Please join the Seattle JACL on May 24, 5:30–7:30 PM, in honoring a few of the best and brightest students in Washington State. We will be hosting a reception for the 2001 Seattle Chapter JACL scholarship winners at the Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle. For more information, contact Cathy Lowenberg at (360) 902-0398 or Steve Idemoto at (206) 633-6580 ext. 6, or check our website for the latest update.

A special place in the fight for social justice

by Akemi Matsumoto

Thank you, JACL, for the wonderful opportunity to attend the joint JACL/Organization of Chinese Americans leadership conference March 30-April 3, 2001! The cherry blossoms were just about to bloom in Wash-



Akemi Matsumoto

ington, D.C., the pace was furious and every moment was scheduled with presentations on topics as varied as the use of the internet in effectively promoting an organization, to updates on the census debate, redistricting, and hate crimes legislation currently before Congress.

I learned two important lessons from the conference. First, it is absolutely vital to the well being of our community to have a national lobbying presence in Washington,

D.C. Bill Lan Lee would never have been appointed Assistant Attorney General, nor would the Federal Courthouse in Seattle been named after William Nakamura had we not had a presence in Washington, D.C.

Kristine Minami, Daphne Kwok, and Karen Narasaki work to build a united APIA voice to promote legislation that protects and aids individuals in our communities to have their fair share. Second, I appreciate even more the sacrifice our APIA public servants have made to serve in public office. Congressman David Wu "sold everything that was liquid" and took a second mortgage on his house to run for Congress. He won, and is now in Washington serving his first term. The work is long, tedious, and demands sacrifice of family time, privacy and finances. There were many young APIAs at the conference and I could see a few of them inspired to run for public office.

Meeting with the Organization of Chinese Americans is also important to JACL. As the only two national membership-based Asian American Civil Rights organizations, our voices are stronger when we speak together. We are equal targets of hate, the glass ceiling, and racial profiling. As our Japanese American community continues to disperse geographically and our numbers decrease due to out-marriage and lack of new immigration from Japan, it is important to work together with other Asian Pacific Islander communities on our common agenda of social justice. This summer the National OCA conference will be held in Seattle the last weekend of July. Let's attend. We are most welcome.

The most touching event for me was to visit the new National Japanese American Memorial. Still under construction, with cranes, debris and a fence all around it, the Memorial moved me deeply. Walking into the circle with the names of each of the concentration camps and the number of men, women and children interned in each was a powerful reminder of the injustice our community suffered. I believe the silence about the internment experience in our community taught me to hold our history at an emotional distance. When I walked into the memorial, tears of sadness and a pride for how we survived it enveloped me. Never

JACL Board Profiles

Bill Tashima

Bill is currently our membership chair and has the very difficult job of keeping our database up-to-date and processing our membership renewals and new applications. He has been active in JACL since 1963 as a Junior JACLeR. Bill works as Office Director for the Social Security Administration in Seattle. He has a A.B. degree from Heidelberg College in Political Science with a minor in German. He also did some post graduate work at Kent State University. He is a sansei and enjoys working with the Nikkei community. His favorite drink for after-meeting debriefings is an extra dry Sapphire martini double up with two olives. Bill has been involved in Seattle JACL since 1989.

Cathy Lowenberg

Cathy Lowenberg is a new addition to Seattle JACL. Serving on the board for the first time, she is chair of the Scholarship Committee. Cathy has two bachelors degrees, one in American Ethnic Studies and the other in Creative Writing both from the University of Washington. She works as a Public Liaison Officer for the office of Governor Gary Locke. Her ethnic identification is typical of our changing Nikkei community—she is mixed Japanese, Korean, Puerto Rican, German and Irish. Her hobby is collecting oral histories of Asian American Union activists. She really respects JACL "as an important and effective voice for all Asian Americans when it comes to civil rights."

May Namba

May has been very active in JACL and is a life member of our Chapter. Among many other responsibilities, she served as membership chair for many years in addition to working on the Banquet Committee, the Pike Street Market Art Project, International Relations Committee, and the Aki Kurose Scholarship committee. May is retired and has a bachelor's degree in Geography. She is a nisei with a large family of sons, daughter-in-laws, and grandchildren. Her hobbies are reading and knitting on a knitting machine. She is an excellent cook and brings us goodies from time to time.

Chapter newsletter now online

by Linda Tanouye

We are now publishing our news letter on the web. Check out our site for the earliest edition of the newsletter: <www.jaclseattle.org>.

If you wish to receive the newsletter online, send us a request at <email@jaclseattle.org>. You will receive a monthly e-mail alert when your newsletter is published at our site and your name will be deleted from the newsletter mailing list. By volunteering to receive your newsletter online you will save the chapter money for other worthy causes.

again can I talk about the incarceration with just my head. Japan Americans have a special place in the fight for social justice. Because the incarceration, we need to continue the fight.



Aki Sogabe's "Song of Farmers"

Chapter to sell commemorative note cards

by Linda Tanouye

Seattle Chapter will be selling sets of note card size reproductions of Aki Sogabe's panels installed at the Pike Place Market. These panels memorialize the influence of the Japanese American farmers who played a significant role in the development of the Market. The set, which will be sold for \$15, consists of five cards with panels one and seven (text panels), printed on the back of the panels of artwork: Songs of the Earth, Song of Farmers, Song of Joy, Song of Sorrow, and Song of Memories. E-mail JACL at <email@jaclseattle.org>, or call (206) 622-4098 for more details.

MOH, continued from front page

Sato, Acting Regional Administrator of the General Services Administration Robin Graf, and the Courthouse renaming's prime mover and shaker Steve Finley. A videotaped message from NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw was shown along with an announcement that a segment of that night's news would feature Seattle events honoring Nakamura and Okubo.

The Medal of Honor Committee is also working to mount commemorative plaques for Nakamura and Okubo at their high schools and to name a medical/dental clinic now under construction at Fort Lewis in honor of James Okubo. The facility will be completed early next year.

Seattle Chapter members Elaine Akagi, Sharon Sobie-Seymour and Arlene Oki enjoyed being a part of the hard working Committee. Kudos to the Committee's inspirational and efficient chair George Yamane, NVC Commander Bob Sato, Joe Feldman, Steve Finley, Lloyd Hara, Paul Hosoda, Reed Jarvis, George Morihoro, Hiro Nishimura, Tosh Okamoto, Jack Pang, Jane Saunders, Frank Sato, Ken Sato, and Pentson Sugamura for their extraordinary efforts.

Thank you!

Warm thanks are due calligrapher Page Tanagi for the use of the JACL logo for our new chapter newsletter masthead.

Notice to membership of Proposed By-Law Amendments

At the April 2001 Board meeting, the By-Laws committee presented changes to the current by-laws. While the by-law changes are too long to be presented in the newsletter, the changes can be accessed at our website for review. The changes have been made to ensure that our by-laws are in compliance with our present practices. *The board voted to recommend these changes to the general membership.* We welcome your feedback at this time.

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to join us at our board meeting on June 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the JACL Office (316 Maynard Avenue South). All members are invited to attend this meeting, as they are to all board meetings.

Feel free to contact Joy Shigaki at 206/ 328-8156 or by e-mail at <shigaki@juno.com>.

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| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Individual | Thousand Club |
| Marcine Anderson (New) | Margaret Yanagimichi |
| George J Arakawa | Boosters |
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Rae Hanashiro/Dan Peterson (New)
Joy Shigaki/Vincent Boots

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

Thank You!!!

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Camp Harmony, continued from front page

Camp Harmony, which was located in the Western Washington (Puyallup) Fairgrounds in the spring and summer of 1942.

The barrack of "Camp Harmony D-4-44" was built by Bob Shimabukuro, who designed and built the Minidoka recreation. Paul Aburano aided Shimabukuro in building the Minidoka replica in the "E.O. 9066," the "Camp Harmony" installation in "One Song, Many Voices," and a previous edition of the Camp Harmony exhibit at the Western Washington Fair in September 2000.

Seattle Chapter JAACL Newsletter

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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.

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Please let us know your concerns.

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