

## Videotapes of Medal of Honor ceremonies available through Nisei Veterans Committee

by Arlene Oki

The Nisei Veterans Committee is now taking orders for its outstanding video, "America at its Best" — a legacy of two Nisei patriots. The videotape documents the Medal of Honor ceremony at the Seattle Center Arena earlier this year and the dedication ceremony to rename the Seattle Federal Courthouse in honor of Pfc. William Nakamura.

The prologue introduces the subject matter of the videotape:

"Fifty-six years after their heroic acts were officially cited, 22 Asian American soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor. In the spring of 2001, two historic events celebrated the heroism of Washington State native sons Pfc. William Nakamura and T/5 James Okubo. During these events the saga of the Japanese American experience unfolded in the telling of the valor of the Nisei soldiers during WW II, revealing a profound portrait of Freedom's soul."

Prices for the videos are:

- |                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 copy (\$35.00 + \$5.00 postage)   | \$40.00 ea. |
| 3 - 5 copies, including postage     | \$35.00 ea. |
| 6 or more copies, including postage | \$33.50 ea. |

Please send your order(s) with checks referenced to the MOH video and payable to the Nisei Veterans Committee to:

Nisei Veterans Committee  
Nakamura/Okubo MOH Committee  
1212 South King Street  
Seattle, WA 98144

Telephone: (206) 322-1122.

## Chapter Permanent Site Committee meets

by Gil Hirabayashi

The ad hoc Permanent Site Committee met on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the issues regarding establishing a permanent home for the Seattle JACL. Those attending were Akemi Matsumoto, Arlene Oki, Bill Tashima, Ray Ishii, Jeffrey Hattori, Sue Taoka, and myself. We talked about what JACL needed in terms of space for archives, office or cooking facilities, hosting functions, and parking. We discussed the need for a survey of the general membership to find out what they wanted in a permanent site. We also mentioned the possibilities of sharing a potential space with other API or civil rights agencies.

The general recommendations were:

1. A permanent site committee should be formed. It would include those with expertise in real estate, financing and fund raising, and community development.
2. Pursue a study, using a consultant, to determine the feasibility of fund raising and potential site identification.
3. Discuss with other API civil rights oriented groups if they would be interested in being tenants at JACL's site.
4. Begin looking at potential sites.

If you have any comments or suggestions or want to be involved let me know.

## Chapter 2001 Board Profiles

**AYAKO HURD** has been active in JACL for over 20 years. She serves on any committee as needed. Currently Ayako is on the Nominations and Electronic Venue committees. She has a particular interest in archiving Seattle JACL's historical documents. Ayako is Nisei and was raised on a farm in Fife. She graduated from Knapp's Business College. She is now retired and has the honor of being our oldest board member. Her goal is to serve, where necessary.

**SUZANNE HAMADA** plunged into Seattle JACL one year ago. She served on the 2000 Installation Banquet committee and is now co-chair of the 2001 banquet. In addition, she is the Recording Secretary of the Chapter and a member of the Executive Committee. Suzanne has a BS degree in Biology from California. Her family is biracial, white-Japanese, and she and her Sansei husband have two daughters. Suzanne wanted to become more active in our chapter and has an interest in increasing our



Board Profiles, continued from page 1

membership and in spreading the workload of the board.

**TATSUO NAKATA** has been active in JACL for not quite two years and is already a national officer: The Vice President of Youth Development! He has served on the scholarship and anti-discrimination committees. Tatsuo is the Legislative Aide to Representative Velma Veloria in Olympia. He has a BA in political science from Seattle University. Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Tatsuo is mixed-race, half Japanese Hawaiian, other half mixed German, Cherokee. Tatsuo coordinated the National JACL Youth/Student Conference held at Seattle University this summer. His goals for our chapter are to continue to see it grow and be at the forefront of civil rights issues.

**SHEA AOKI** is a lifetime member of JACL and has been involved for over 60 years. She has served on almost all of our committees but most notable are the Cherry Blossom committee for over 25 years, the Endowment committee from 1988—1994 and serving as Chapter Historian for many years. Shea went to the Dhurstle Designing and Tailoring School and she still occasionally works when she is needed. Shea is also a volunteer at Keiro Nursing Home and is active in the Japanese Episcopal Church community. At 86, Shea hopes to encourage young people to know their Nikkei history and the history of Seattle JACL.

**JOY SHIGAKI** has worked with Seattle JACL for three years. She served on Scholarship, Anti-Discrimination, Banquet, and Youth Development committees and is currently First Vice President of Operations for the Chapter. Joy has a BA degree in American Ethnic Studies and works as a Community Relations Specialist for King County. A Sansei, Joy is married to a South African and is vitally interested in community engagement in social justice, development and local and international reconciliation. She serves on the board to contribute to the growing vision and impact of JACL in the civil rights and equity arena.

**ARLENE OKI** has been very active in Seattle JACL and the greater APIA community for 25 years. She has served on almost every committee of the Chapter and has attended at least six national JACL conventions. Arlene is currently the President Elect for 2002 and the Second Vice President for Civil Rights. She graduated as a RN from the Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing and went on to get a BS degree in Nursing Education from Whitworth College in Spokane. She currently works for the City of Seattle as a Planning and Development Specialist and is very involved in Refugee Affairs. She is Sansei with a huge family including seven grandchildren. Arlene serves JACL

because she believes in community service and in promoting equity and justice for Americans of Japanese ancestry.

**KAZZIE KATAYAMA** has been involved in Seattle JACL for over 15 years. She has served on all of our committees preferring to support and foster leadership of newer members rather than being chairperson herself. Kazzie has a BA in Social Service and Community Development and is a Project Coordinator for King County. Kazzie is Nisei and has a huge extended family with three grown sons. Her goals for the chapter are to promote community involvement and youth development, coalition building, and to collect and record past and present JACL events and projects as the 2001 Chapter Historian. Kazzie is the unofficial Chapter mentor for our new leaders.

**LINDA TANOUYE** has been on the Board of Seattle JACL for three years and is currently Fourth Vice President for Public Relations and Fundraising. Linda has also served on the Banquet and Electronic Venue committees. A Sansei, Linda has a Masters degree in Education and is a certified Case Manager, Disability Manager, and Rehabilitation Counselor. She works for A Diversified Disability and Rehabilitation Management Service. She got involved in JACL to honor her father's work in the community and to show her appreciation for the work of the Issei and Nisei activists. Linda is particularly interested in bringing our Chapter up to speed with new technology and is busy learning to use our computer equipment.

**MANAJI SUZUKI** is new to Seattle JACL and wanted to get involved because she grew up in a community with few Nikkei and few immediate family members. She also wants to contribute toward the advancement of social justice for all ethnic groups. Being involved with JACL "just feels good!" This year Manaji is co-chairing the 2002 Banquet Committee and is on the Cherry Blossom, International Relations and Anti-Discrimination committees. She has a BA degree in Biology, received her MD degree from the University of Missouri, and did her residency at Johns Hopkins University, Department of Pediatrics. She currently works as a Pediatrician at Medalia Silverlake Pediatrics. Manaji is a Nisei and loves to cook.

**AKEMI MATSUMOTO** has been a Seattle Board member for five years, first back in 1975, serving as chair of the scholarship committee and then again starting in 1999 working to fight for affirmative action through APACE and in our civil rights work. Currently President of the Chapter,

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Akemi hopes to clarify Board processes and procedures, increase communication among Board members, and build strong coalitions among civil rights organizations within the Nikkei, APIA and other communities of color. JACL matches Akemi's basic values: social justice and Nikkei culture and traditions. Akemi has a BA degree in Asian Studies from the University of Colorado and a Masters in Education from Oregon State University. She has worked at Yakima Valley College, Highline Community College, and Bellevue Community College for the last 25 years as a counselor and instructor in Human Development.

Membership

Individual

Teri Eguchi  
Frank Fujii  
Mary Fujita  
Penny Fukui  
Tom Hayashi  
Fumiko Hayashida  
Miyuki Hirasawa  
Yoshi Ishino  
Fred Kaneko  
Fran Kato  
Sally Kitano  
Masao Kojima  
Yuriko Kojima  
Aya Kozu  
George Kozu  
Michael Latimer  
Henry Matsubu  
Toru Matsuoka

Lillian Mukai  
Frank Muramatsu  
Barbara Nagaoka  
Emil Nakao  
Fusao Nakashima  
Janice Nishimori  
Tairoku Nishimori  
Chizuko Norton  
Lillian Ogawa  
Alice Oishi  
Arlene Oki  
Joan Ota  
Jeff Sakamoto  
David Seno  
Norman Suzuki  
Hideko Tachibana  
Frieda Takamura  
Carl Yamada (New)  
Ida Zodrow (New)

Couples/Family

Mr. and Mrs. Stan Kawamoto  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Itoi

Thousand Club

Zenji Shibayama

Student

Mia Guzman (New)  
Edwin Hamada  
Angela Horiuchi  
Sheryl Santos (New)

Boosters

Elsie Taniguchi

"Born in Seattle" on sale at St. Peter's Episcopal Dec. 1

by Polly Shigaki

Bob Shimabukuro will sell and autograph copies of his new book, "Born in Seattle: The Campaign for Japanese American Redress," Saturday, December 1, 2001, 10 AM-noon, at the Women & Friends of St. Peter's Episcopal Church Holiday Craft Fair, 1610 So King St., lower parish hall, 10am-4pm.

Thank You!!!

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

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Gift cards available

The five-card set of reprints of award-winning artist Aki Sogabe's seven-panel public art mural commemorating the influence of Nikkei farmers in the development of Pike Place Market is available for purchase and can be ordered by using the order form below. The set is priced at \$15. All proceeds benefit the Seattle Chapter JACL.



Japanese Farmers at the Pike Place Market

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ sets of "Japanese Farmers at the Pike Place Market," a five-card set. I have enclosed \$15 for each set, plus a \$3 postage and handling fee."

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET (OR PO BOX #): \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (indicate whether day or eves/weekend) \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed form to:  
Seattle Chapter JACL  
PO Box 18558  
Seattle, WA 98118-0558



## Chapter co-hosts book reading on Japanese American draft resisters

Eric Muller, a Professor of Law at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will be reading from his new book titled *Free to Die for their Country: The Story of the Japanese American Draft Resisters in World War 11*.

The event will take place on November 16, 7 PM at Densho, 1416 S. Jackson Street. Phone (206) 320-0095. Densho will be co-hosting this reading with the Seattle Chapter JACL and the PNW District JACL.

### Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter

The Seattle Chapter JACL 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.: 206 622-4098

Issue no: Volume 38, no. 11

Editor: Bob Shimabukuro.

Web page coordinator: Ryan Minato

Contributors: Gil Hirabayashi, Akemi Matsumoto, Arlene Oki, Polly Shigaki and Bill Tashima

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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.

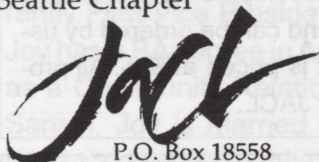
Calendar items emphasize chapter or community events not likely to be covered by community newspapers or by other newsletters.

Web address: <www.jaclseattle.org>

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

Please let us know your concerns.

Seattle Chapter



P.O. Box 18558  
Seattle, WA 98118-0558

## OFFICERS

*President*, Akemi Matsumoto  
(206-937-2013,  
akemiseattle@hotmail.com)

*Pres.-elect*, Arlene Oki (425-556-9110)

*First VP-Operations*, Joy Shigaki

*Second-VP-Civil Rights*, Arlene Oki (425-556-9110)

*Third VP-Youth*, Ryan Minato  
(206- 722-2358,  
ryanminato@hotmail.com)

*Fourth VP-Public Relations*,  
Linda Tanouye (425-869-8161, Addrehab@aol.com)

*Treasurer*, Jeffrey Hattori (253-630-4854,  
jeffreyh@nikkeiconcerns.org)

*Corresponding Secretary*, Ann Fujii-Lindwall  
(fujiiindwall@home.com)

*Recording secretary*, Suzanne Hamada (206-985-2697,  
sdhamada@yahoo.com)

*Historian*, Kazzie Katayama  
(206-722-2266)

*Membership*, Bill Tashima,  
(206-525-0531,  
Buber@aol.com)

*Web Page Coordinator*, Ryan Minato

## BOARD

Elaine Akagi (reikoa@aol.com)

Shea Aoki

Ryan Chin

(rchin3@yahoo.com)

Shanon Doolittle

(shanondoolittle@hotmail.com)

Dawn Furushima

(furd@excite.com)

Gil Hirabayashi

(aimeegilhirabayashi@netscape.net)

Ayako Hurd

(ayakoohurd@dellnet.com)

Steve Idemoto (si@econop.org)

Ruthann Kurose

(kuroman@wa.net)

Mike Latimer

(mikelatimer@zeronet.net)

Cathy Lowenberg

(c\_lowenberg@hotmail.com)

Matthew Nakata

May Namba

Chiz Norton

Manaji Suzuki

(manaji@gateway.net)

Kip Tokuda

(tokuda\_ki@leg.wa.gov)

Vicki Toyohara

(dnmukai@msn.com)

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