

# Minidoka National Internment Monument

by Emily Hanako Momohara

During August 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, a team of archeologists struggled to uncover remains of an internment camp that our country and nature have hidden for nearly sixty years. Before leaving office, President Clinton proclaimed the 73 remaining acres of the Minidoka Relocation Center to be a National Monument. Like many Seattle Japanese Americans, my family was sent to this desolate and dry area in Southern Idaho. During this archeological dig, I had the opportunity to be a guest photographer while our history was being unearthed and recognized for its national relevance.

Jeff Burton, author of *Confinement and Ethnicity*, led an excavation of the Honor Roll area, Japanese style garden behind it, and a portion of the military police station foundation. In 1943, entering Minidoka would require passing through a barbed wire fence, under a looming guard tower and checking-in at a military police station. After these layers of incarceration, the prominent Honor Roll board, crowned with an American eagle, stood announcing the names of the Minidoka Nisei soldiers. Behind this incredible symbol of patriotism and loyalty, was a traditional Japanese style garden, designed and constructed by Seattle's Fujitaro Kubota. The archeological team mapped and uncovered rock walkways leading up to the Honor Roll and throughout the garden.



Honor Roll for Serving in U.S. Army, Minidoka Relocation Center.  
Photo Credit: WRA Photography, Bancroft Library.

The Southern Idaho media ran several television, radio and newspaper articles about the archeological dig, which attracted many locals to come out and learn more about internment. Volunteers from the Twin Falls area rolled up their sleeves and dug into the soil. Among

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# Everyone Speeds, But Who Gets Stopped?

by Akemi Matsumoto

The City of Seattle Mayor's Office, the Police Department and a Citizens' Task Force have been discussing various mechanisms to determine if, and the extent to which, racial profiling occurs in the policing of our city. Racial profiling is defined as the "illegal use of race or ethnicity as a factor in deciding to stop and question, take enforcement action, arrest, or search a person or vehicle without a legal basis under the United States Constitution."

The questions of how to monitor police behavior are complex. Collecting search data that can be compiled into patterns of police behavior is critical in order to determine if profiling is happening and the extent to which it is happening. Everyone speeds sometime. Who gets stopped, who gets a warning, and who gets a ticket? Is there evidence of police behavior differences with various communities of color?

In his book, *Profiles in Injustice*, David Harris contends that it is ineffective policing to stop young men of a certain color or ethnic group merely because young men of the same color or ethnic group make up the majority of America's prison population. Using racial or ethnic appearance to predict who is a likely criminal doesn't work. Harris shows, using police department statistics that stopping more Blacks and Hispanics does not turn up more criminals. The rates at which police actually find contraband on the African Americans and Hispanics they stop for police searches—known as hit rates—is the same or lower than the rate for Whites. Observing behavior is the most effective tool for catching criminals, not race nor ethnicity.

Racial profiling on the national level is especially relevant today after September 11<sup>th</sup>, as relevant as it was in 1942 during the Internment of Japanese Americans. As in 1942, there have been mass arrests, often of US Citizens with no due process, based solely on the ethnic background or religion of those arrested. In a time of fear it is important for our government to remember that the violation of civil rights weakens us all and our ability to fight terrorism.

## President's Message

by Arlene Oki, President

The requests keep pouring in. Whether it is a request for a donation, volunteers to help with a community event or a "Japanese American Farmers at the Pike Place Market" picture for an auction, it seems the Seattle Chapter JACL is a good resource for the community. In the coming months, our board members will volunteer their time providing good support for such committees as the Sports Exhibit Committee for the Wing Luke Museum, the Hate Free Zone Campaign and "Hiroshima with Hope," in addition to our Seattle Chapter committees. A major event still in its planning stages is one that will commemorate not only the tragic terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last September 11, but also demonstrate our concerns about the erosion of civil rights in this nation.

### Arab American Camps?

Comments recently made by Peter Kisanow, a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, regarding the possibility that Arab Americans might be incarcerated in WWII concentration camps, are deeply unsettling. It is terrible that someone would suggest such an idea in the first place, but to hear it from someone who was appointed by the Bush administration to serve as an advisor on civil rights issues is totally irresponsible. The Seattle Chapter agrees with the stand taken by our national organization and has joined a coalition of groups who are expressing outrage at his remarks.

### Reparations for Descendants of African Slaves.

I was recently invited to speak at a panel discussion on the issue of reparations for the descendants of African slaves. My part of the program was to provide information about the Japanese American campaign for redress. Information was provided about HB 40, the Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act, introduced by Congressman John Conyers, D-Michigan. With strong similarities to the Commission to Study the Wartime Internment of Japanese Americans in 1983-84, the

Commission proposed by Rep. Conyers will study the impact of slavery on the social, political and economic life of African Americans and this nation.

### Sad Departures

So many times we have said how fortunate we've been to have Suzanne Hamada as our secretary for almost two years. Now, we are greatly saddened that she and her family will be moving to Pullman, WA where her husband, Edwin, has accepted a position at Washington State University. Edwin has also been a dedicated board member and for the past year, has been an advisor to the Kaizen, our young adult group. In addition to taking meeting minutes, Suzanne has been an energetic leader (with Dr. Manaji Suzuki), of the Installation Banquet Committee. Suzanne's passion for her work, her enthusiasm for life in general, and her extraordinary skills will be greatly missed. Thank you, Suzanne and Edwin, for your generous contribution of time and energy to the Seattle Chapter and hopefully, you will soon return to the Seattle you love.

I was happy to have an opportunity to say goodbye and best wishes to Consul General Fumiko Saiga who is leaving her assignment in Seattle to take an important position as *Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Japan* to the United Nations. She is the first woman to serve as the Seattle Consul General and will, I am sure, handle her new responsibilities in New York City with great skill and diplomacy.

### Newsletter Changes

The newsletter is a monthly responsibility that is time-consuming and often frustrating. Thus, we are very grateful that President-elect Tatsuo Nakata has agreed to assume responsibility as our newsletter editor. Many thanks to Joann Natalia Aquino for her excellent service as editor during the past five months.



## Announcements

### Thank You

#### Donors:

Elaine Hayes      Hugo Kurose  
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#### Newsletter sponsored in part by these generous donors:

The Bon Marche  
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### Events Calendar

Sept. 6 – God of Cookery, Hong Kong film as part of Chinatown - International District Summer Events, Hing Hay Park, 407 Maynard Ave. S, Seattle, FREE, 8:30 PM. Contact: (206) 621-1815.

Sept. 21 – Public Hearing for September 11th Anniversary, Town Hall, 1119 -8th Ave., Seattle, 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM. Contact: Liza Wilcox, Hate Free Zone, (206) 723-220.

Jan. 25, 2003 – Board Installation Banquet for Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League, DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac. Contact: May Namba, (206) 784-3824.

Ongoing through November 17  
Visas for Life: The Story of Dr. Feng Shan Ho, Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 Seventh Ave. S, Tues.-Fri. 11 AM - 4 PM. Contact (206) 623-5124.

## Recent Membership

### Individual

Kiyoshi George Fukano	Kathy Koza
Jeffrey Hattori	Alan Kurimura
Manah Hirabayashi	Kay Mori
Douglas Kanai	Kenji Onishi
Rod Kim	Joe Yabuki
Kazuo Kobayashi	Etsuo Yoshitome
Janet Kometani	

### Couples and Family

Hugo Kurose Family  
Gail Nomura/Stephen Sumida  
Curtis Ono/Wendy Nakatsukasa Ono  
Ruth and Benjamin Woo

### Thousand Club

Frank Miyamoto (upgrade)

### Minidoka, continued from page 1

the volunteers spending a day at the site was former internee and internationally recognized artist—Roger Shimomura. Also present were: Dr. Bob Sims, who is working on a book about Minidoka, and Ms. Gail Dubrow, author of *Sento at Sixth and Main*. Dr. Sims traveled from Boise to participate and Ms. Dubrow flew out from Seattle for additional preparation for a graduate level class that she will be teaching on Minidoka at the University of Washington.

The future for Minidoka has yet to be determined. Neil King, Superintendent of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, is planning meetings this November in Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and Washington, including an evening in Seattle, to ask the Japanese American community what we want to see happen at Minidoka. From discussing the possibilities with King and Anna Tamura, Landscape Architect for the National Park Service, there are few limitations at this point. Construction of an interpretive or visitors center and/or the reconstruction of the Honor Roll and garden are among possible ideas. Additionally, a walking tour could be established with park rangers or self-guided electronic devices. King made it clear that community involvement in the planning stage was essential to the success of the Monument. For myself and the Nikkei community, especially those with ties to Minidoka, this is an excellent opportunity to influence the development of Minidoka and the representation of our history.

If you would like more information about the work in progress at Minidoka, log onto [www.nps.gov/miin](http://www.nps.gov/miin) or contact: Neil King, (208) 837-4793, [miin\\_gmp@nps.gov](mailto:miin_gmp@nps.gov) or Anna Tamura, (206) 220-4157, [anna\\_tamura@nps.gov](mailto:anna_tamura@nps.gov).

Information about the Honor Roll or its garden can be directed to Anna Tamura. Also, photographs of the excavation will soon be available at [www.friendsofminidoka.org](http://www.friendsofminidoka.org).

## 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation Banquet – You're Invited!

by Manaji M. Suzuki and Suzanne Hamada,  
2003 JACL Installation Banquet Committee Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Board and Membership, we would like to cordially invite you to our 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation Banquet on Saturday, January 25, 2003, at the DoubleTree Hotel – SeaTac. Our theme for the banquet is "Reflecting on our Past: Shining into the Future". No better correlative do we have of this theme than the installation of our in-coming Seattle Chapter JACL president, Mr. Tatsuo Nakata and our keynote speaker Ms. Pramila Jayapal. Ms. Jayapal is a writer/activist and is currently the Founder and Director of the *Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington*. For the past ten years, she has been involved in domestic and international social justice issues, with a particular focus on women's issues and contributions of indigenous communities to the world. JACL and Mr. Nakata are proud and active partners with the Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington.

As mentioned above, the 81<sup>st</sup> Installation Banquet will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel – SeaTac 18740 Pacific Hwy. South, Seattle, WA 98188. The evening will start with a cocktail reception, entertainment, and a raffle from 5:30-6:30 PM followed by dinner at 6:30 PM. All proceeds from raffle sales will support the JACL Scholarship Fund. Please contact May Namba (206) 784-3824 for information and don't forget to mark your calendars! Hope to see you there!

### Aki Sogabe: 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 \$1.50 postage and handling fee."

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Please send completed form to: Seattle Chapter JACL  
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**Mission Statement:** The Seattle Chapter JACL 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.

**Chapter Board Meeting:** Our primary means of carrying out our mission is a monthly meeting, held at 6:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month, except August, at the chapter office, 316 Maynard Ave. S., Seattle. Those wishing to make presentations or be added to the meeting agenda should contact President Arlene Oki prior to the meeting. All are welcome.

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**Article and Event Submission:** Board members should submit materials to the editor (nakata\_ta2001@yahoo.com) 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.

Seattle Chapter JACL website: [www.jaclseattle.org](http://www.jaclseattle.org)  
E-mail address: [email@jaclseattle.org](mailto:email@jaclseattle.org)

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Kiku Hayashi (kikuhayashi@hotmail.com)	Tone Shimizu (shimizut@worldnet.att.net)
Ayako Hurd (ayako_hurd@msn.com)	Manaji Suzuki (manaji@gateway.net)
Steve Idemoto (si@economp.org)	Masako Tamura (masaeric@hotmail.com)
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Mike Latimer (michael.s.latimer@vssmb.com)	Kip Tokuda (tokuda_ki@leg.wa.gov)
Ann Fujii Lindwall (fujiiindwall@attbi.com)	Vicki Toyohara (donandvickimukai@msn.com)
Ron Mamiya (ron.mamiya@ci.seattle.us)	Alan Yabui (ayabui@bcc.ctc.edu)
	Janice Yee (janiceyee@deniselouie.org)
	Vicki Yuki (vyuki@sea-pha.org)

Seattle Chapter JACL  
P.O. Box 18558  
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