

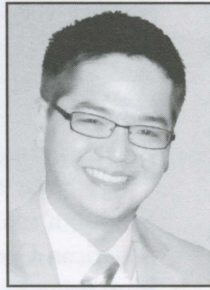
## Gary goes to (the other) Washington

by Nate Caminos

Watching Gary Locke speak last Wednesday, as the presidential nominee to become our next U.S. Commerce Secretary, is the latest chapter in a long book for me. One of my earliest memories was when I was 5 years old. It was a winter morning; my mom and I were in the car on the way to Kindergarten. In-between songs on the radio, she asked me what I wanted to be when I grow up. My reply was simple and direct, "I want to be President of the United States." I still laugh about it to this day, but my passion for civics has had an extensive journey with several bursts of inspiration.

As a young child in the islands, I was constantly exposed to the likes of Mayor Frank Fasi, and Senator's Inouye and Akaka. Asian American's were all around me in the most notable positions. I remember donating canned foods with my uncle at a local food bank one weekend, when Governor Ben Cayatano and a swarm of

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## Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality

On Saturday, April 18, 2009, Seattle University School of Law will host a conference, "Looking Back, Reaching Forward," to celebrate the founding of its new Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality.

The morning session will look back on the historic struggle for equality, focusing on the World War II Japanese American internment cases, the coram nobis cases, and their present day relevance. The date of the conference was selected to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the decision vacating Mr. Korematsu's World War II conviction for refusing to comply with orders removing Japanese Americans from the West Coast. The afternoon session will bring together advocacy groups and academics to discuss ways to forge partnerships to further the cause of equality.

The Center's mission is broad in scope, seeking to foster critical thinking on issues of, and support advocacy efforts in order to achieve, equality with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, disability, age and religion. It will be an incubator of ideas as well as a gathering point for teachers, students, scholars and various activists.

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## Day of Remembrance

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On February 18, both the Washington State House of Representatives and Senate took time from their hectic schedules to recognize the Internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during WWII. The Executive Committee of the Seattle JACL requested to Senator Chris Marr from Spokane and Senator Steve Hobbs that the State Senate follow the established tradition in the House of Representatives, recognizing the most significant date in Japanese American History. The date Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1942 that authorized the relocation of Japanese Americans from their homes on the West Coast.

Representatives from Nissei Vets, Seattle JACL and Wing Luke Asian Museum were present to witness this remembrance. Two Seattle JACL Board members, Representative Bob Hasegawa and Senator Steve Hobbs joined the two other Japanese Americans, Representative

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## Communications Committee Update

Seattle JACL is getting digital! As part of the our Board's strategic objectives for 2009, the Communications Committee is working on several initiatives to improve our communications and increase our capacity for the future. Initiatives include:

- Setting up a new web site platform that will allow greater flexibility and speed in updating the web site. We believe this system will help the Seattle JACL to be a better resource for social justice and API events and news in the region. See the new site at [www.jaclseattle.org](http://www.jaclseattle.org)
- Create an online email newsletter to supplement the print newsletter.
- Create greater consistency in our newsletter frequency.
- Begin to collect email addresses from members to better reach out through multiple platforms.
- Update and improve membership and organizational materials.

We feel these initiatives will allow JACL Seattle to move forward, utilizing new technologies to reach new audiences while at the same time continuing to serve the needs of those who prefer paper and ink. We need your help to make this a success; we need to begin collecting email addresses to start connecting with you in new ways. Please take a moment to send us your email address at: [jaclseattle@yahoo.com](mailto:jaclseattle@yahoo.com)

### Happy Girls' Day

March 3 is Girls' Day or Hinamatsuri (Doll Festival) and is celebrated in Japan, Okinawa, Hawai'i, and even here in Washington state. Families pray for the happiness and prosperity of their girls. Girls' Day is celebrated to help ensure the girls grow up happy, healthy and beautiful.

A set of hina dolls or hina ningyo (replica of emperor, empress, attendants, court ladies, musicians, and ministers in their traditional court dress of the Heian period) is displayed. Hina ningyo are taken out of the closet from mid-February and put away after Hinamatsuri. There is an old superstition or belief that the hina doll display should be taken down and put away after the festival day, otherwise the girls will not get married until much older or not at all.

In addition to the display of dolls, families enjoy eating sakura mochi (sweet pink mochi cakes), Hinachirashi (colorful sushi), and Hina arare (colorful rice crackers), playing popular games, as well as singing the Hinamatsuri song to celebrate the girls' happiness.

#### The Hinamatsuri Song

*Akari o tsukemashou bombori ni  
Ohana o agemashou momo no hana  
Go-nin bayashi no fue taiko  
Kyo wa tanoshii Hinamatsuri*

*Let's light the lanterns  
Let's set peach flowers  
Five court musicians are playing flutes and drums  
Today is a joyful Dolls' Festival*

Girls' Day is the one day during the year (third day of the third month) devoted to the daughters in the family. The wish for the girls' happiness is a long tradition passed on through the generations from grandmother to mother from mother to daughter.

### Locke, continued from page 1

news cameras came right at me. I instantly became the cute kid on television, carrying bags of noodles with the Governor as the news anchor spoke on the importance of giving underprivileged neighborhoods.

When I moved to the Pacific Northwest, I was shaken by the complete reversal of race and cultural representation. I slowly lost interest in politics and began thinking about different careers. That all changed in the fall of 1996.

As I was still getting my feet wet as a freshman in High School, a man named Gary Locke became the first Chinese-American Governor of our state. I was shocked. I've never met him, nor ever heard of him before. However, the public success and footage of Gary and his family in front of the Governor's mansion were powerful, and extremely compelling to a 14 year old boy in the suburbs of Auburn.

The following years I stacked my school quarters with courses such as civics, philosophy, government and law. All while I watched as a spectator as then Governor Locke spoke out on civil rights issues, including I-200 in 1998. When I was a senior at the University of Washington in 2004, I had the privilege to be the Government Affairs Director on behalf of all students at our state Capitol in Olympia.

In what became Governor Locke's final year at the helm, I had the unique opportunity to advocate for a bill side-by-side with fellow advocates that would amend the language of I-200 to make it permissible to learn about the race and cultural background of a student in order to provide a holistic review of every college applicant.

In his time, Gary Locke has broken down several barriers throughout our fine state. His work continues to be an inspiration to more and more students in our community. Nowadays, our young generation is more engaged and interested in politics, no longer as just a hobby, but rather becoming much more paramount in and out of our classrooms and in the workforce. It is the younger generation that redefines the grassroots movement, stepping up where our parents and grandparents once stood, and decisively sending Barack Obama to the White House.

As just one small product of this movement, I am extremely thankful for Gary Locke, paving a clearer path to get me where I am today. I wish him the best of luck in his new capacity as he makes his way to our nation's capitol. Hundreds of thousands of us had the great fortune to have him in our state for so long, but soon there will be millions of young Asian-American's across the country, watching from afar who are seeking inspiration. Hopefully they will find a piece of that in Gary, as easily as I have.

### Korematsu, continued from page 1

At present, Mr. Korematsu's wife and daughter, Kathryn Korematsu and Karen Korematsu-Haigh, Dale Minami, Peter Irons, Professors Eric Yamamoto and Lorraine Bannai, Rod Kawakami, Sharon Sakamoto, and Peggy Nagae will be attending together with other members of the Korematsu, Hirabayashi and Yasui coram nobis legal teams.



If you wish to attend, please register by April 8, 2009. For more information about the Center and to register online for the conference, please go the law school's website at <http://www.law.seattleu.edu> and click on Centers and Institutes. You can also call (206) 398-4300.

DEAN KELLYE Y. TESTY AND SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

invite you to join in celebrating the founding of the

#### FRED T. KOREMATSU CENTER for LAW and EQUALITY

commemorating the 25th anniversary of the granting of Mr. Korematsu's coram nobis petition and launching the Center's work toward ensuring justice for all.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009

Seattle University School of Law  
12th and Columbia

- 8:15 A.M. - Commemorative breakfast
- 9:00 A.M. - Looking Back on the Historic Struggle for Equality
- 12:15 P.M. - Lunch
- 1:45 P.M. - Reaching Forward to the Future
- 4:00 P.M. - Reception

Seating is limited and reservations are required. Please RSVP online at <http://alumniweb.seattleu.edu/NetCommunity/korematsulaunch> or call 206-398-4300 by April 8.

For more information about the Center, please visit the website at [http://www.law.seattleu.edu/Centers\\_and\\_Institutes/Korematsu\\_Center.xml](http://www.law.seattleu.edu/Centers_and_Institutes/Korematsu_Center.xml)

### Remembrance, continued from page 1

Sharon Tomiko Santos and Senator Chris Marr in our state legislature in supporting speeches of resolutions recognizing the significance of the Day of Remembrance. If you are interested in listening to these speeches, please follow the links to the videos at [www.jaclseattle.org](http://www.jaclseattle.org).



Day of Remembrance - Olympia.

Our special honoree Ms. Fumiko Hayashida was also in Olympia and was recognized by both bodies along with members of the Nissei Vets and Seattle JACL.

Seattle JACL also cosponsored the Day of Remembrance on Feb 19 at South Seattle Community College. Both our president Dawn Rego and our Corresponding Secretary May Namba spoke at the event.

The University of Puget Sound held a Day of Remembrance on March 10 sponsored by Diversity Theme Year, Asian Pacific American Student Union, Departments of English and History, Center for Writing, Learning and Teaching, and the Denso Project. This would be the first Day of Remembrance event for the University.

#### Bentobox Cookbook Order Form

All proceeds from the cookbook will go to the local chapter to continue their work on civil rights, youth leadership, and community engagement.

Questions: \_\_\_\_\_

Price per book: \$15.00

\$20.00 for shipment within the states.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Books: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone Day/Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to JACL and remit to:  
Kendee Yamaguchi  
JACL Cookbook

Renton, WA 98059

Information

Mission Statement: The 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.

Chapter Board Meeting: Our primary means of carrying out our mission is a monthly meeting, held at 6 PM on the third Wednesday of each month, except August, at the chapter office, 316 Maynard Ave. S, Seattle.

Seattle Chapter Newsletter: Published a week after the third Wednesday of each month by the Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League. Address: PO Box 18558, Seattle, Washington, 98118. Phone: (206) 622-4098

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Article and Event Submission: Board members should submit materials to the editor 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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