

Kakehashi かけ橋

A "Bridge" to Japanese and Japanese American Arts & Culture

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JAPANESE
CULTURAL &
COMMUNITY
CENTER of
WASHINGTON

Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company: New Development Planned on Japanese Heritage Site

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206-568-7114
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Japanese workers at the Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Mill. (From University of Washington, Clark Kinsey collection)

BY ARISA NAKAMURA

In 1917, several hundred young men were recruited from Japan to harvest and mill timber for the Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company. Located at the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, the lumber company harvested timber from over 165,000 acres of forest, built and maintained forest railway lines and employed over 1,200 workers. Notice of

segregated bunkhouses.

The Japanese laborers were noted for their hard work and significant contributions in timber and forestry techniques that are still in use in the modern lumber industry. For example, Japanese foresters brought ideas to implement replanting of forests and sustainable yields, which was influenced by the practice developed in 18th century Japan, during the

(continued on page 8)

Remembering the Puyallup Assembly Center: "Guns were pointed at us, not away from us"

BY TYLER SIPE

Sharon Sobie-Seymour sold caramel apples and fudge under the Washington State Fair's grandstand as a teenager in the late 1970s. She frequently chatted to customers about more than just apples, she also shared her family's World War II story and experiences.

"I decided in my 'teenage wisdom' that I'd try and tell customers about Japanese American history," said Sobie-Seymour, who has been active in the Japanese American community for nearly two decades. "I

always had long lines from engaging customers in our history, but my manager told me I couldn't do that, that I was being too political."

Sobie-Seymour will return to the same Puyallup fairgrounds on September 2nd. She's been working tirelessly with six other members of the Puyallup Valley JACL in organizing the 75th Remembrance of the Puyallup Assembly Center.

Seventy-five years ago, the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup took on a much more
(continued on page 8)

Message From the 'J' President: Welcoming Newcomers

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Greetings!

As Seattle and its outlying regions blossom due to economic growth, we will experience a steady flow of newcomers to the area.

This brings back many memories, as I was a newcomer to many schools, towns, and countries for the first eighteen years of my life as a military brat. First and second grade in Wyoming, third grade in Hawaii, fourth and fifth in Taiwan, sixth through tenth in Florida, eleventh and twelfth in Redmond—four elementary schools, one junior high and two high schools.

It wasn't always an easy adjustment moving every few years and leaving friends behind, but the military community was always very welcoming. Everyone was in the same boat, or perhaps same plane, since my father was in the Air Force.

I recall the first day we moved into military housing in Florida (sixth grade)—every kid in a three-block area was playing in my front yard. There were easily forty kids of all ages running around, introducing themselves and pointing to the house they lived in—amazing and very welcoming.

The most difficult move was when my dad retired in Redmond when I was a high school junior. Needless-to-say, there was no welcoming committee—most of the

other students had grown up and attended school together and had already formed their own groups and clubs. It wasn't easy to break into one of their groups, so most of us newcomers hung out together.

As we reflect on the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, keep in mind of how our families felt as they were alienated, incarcerated, and released only to fend for themselves in their own country—as American citizens. Today's newcomers will arrive in all shapes and sizes, ages, religions and ethnicities—some will be Americans, others not. While we continue to fight for "Never Again", let's go the extra mile and extend a heartfelt welcome to the newcomers, and invite them to the JCCCW to show them our culture, history and heritage.

Thank you,
Kurt Tokita



Board President
Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington

JCCCW and North American Post Awarded 4Culture Grant for Seattle Tomodachi Project

BY STEPHANIE IKEDA

Local artist Sam Goto writes and draws the comic strip 'Seattle Tomodachi' for the North American Post. The comics deal with a wide variety of topics on the Japanese community in Seattle including local history, holidays and customs.

As the copyright owner of Goto's comics, JCCCW received a 2017 Heritage Projects Award from King County 4Culture to publish a special educational issue of the North American Post featuring a curated selection of Goto's artwork illustrating articles about local Japanese American history. Although still in the planning stages, the issue will be available through the North American Post's regular circulation and online through JCCCW's website in 2018.



Sam Goto works on his comic 'Seattle Tomodachi' (Handout Photo)

Hajimemashite, 2017 Ganbaru Interns!



Catherine Dodd



Ryan Matthews



Saya Maeda



Brenda FNU

BY THEO BICKEL

Time to break out the watermelons and beach balls! It's finally summer and the JCCCW is bustling with new faces! We are very grateful to have our summer cohort of eight Ganbaru interns, who are assisting the 'J' in another exciting summer of community events, research, and real world professional experiences.

Coming from Japan and across the United States, these young students take the mission of the JCCCW to heart – they are dedicating 20 to 30 hours a week here at the 'J.'

Over the summer they will be assisting us in planning and running our two biggest summer events: JCCCW Summer Camp (July 17-21) and All Things Japanese Sale (August 18-20).

Interns will also support the 'J' in our operations from updating our contact database, developing marketing and social media content, running our Hosekibako instagram and much more.

The Ganbaru Internship program was developed as an integral program to the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of

Washington to cultivate youth leadership through meaningful contributions to the mission of the 'J.' The word ganbaru in Japanese means to give one's best effort, and month after month, young leader after young leader, our interns have done exactly that.

If you come by and visit, be sure to meet our newest cohort members!

We are extremely excited to have Ganbaru spirit and creativity brought to the table by our interns. Arigato Gozaimasu.

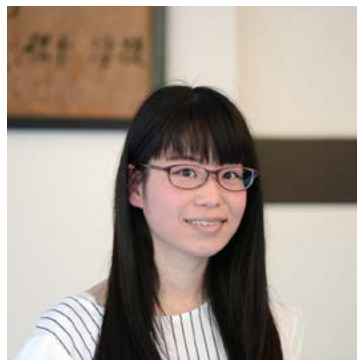
If you or someone you know is interested in the Ganbaru internship, please visit the JCCCW website to learn more. Fall quarter applications are open now.



Chiaki Katsura



Andrew Lemmhuus



Momoka Saida



Chihiro Ishikawa

Follow Us Online

Don't forget to follow us online for information on upcoming events and programs! You can find us on Twitter, Facebook, and of course, our website!

twitter.com/jcccw www.facebook.com/JCCCW www.jcccw.org www.instagram.com/jccc_washington/

All Things Japanese Sale Set for August 19 - 20



Hosekibako is now located in Building 2 of the JCCCW (Photo by Tyler Sipe)

BY THEO BICKEL

If you want to attend a unique, interesting, and fun rummage sale consider coming to JCCCW's annual All Things Japanese Sale, taking place Saturday, August 19th and Sunday, August 20th.

True to its name, the All Things Japanese Sale features Japanese-only items that our community has donated to help raise funds for the 'J.' You'll walk away with something very special while supporting the center at the same time.

The All Things Japanese Sale is closely tied to our Hosekibako: Japanese Resale Shop, translated as 'Jewelbox'. Our one of a kind brick-and-mortar store is situated in an old classroom on the ground level of our campus and is open weekly and sells a curated mix of the items that are donated.

The eclecticism and spontaneity of what we receive on a day-to-day basis is really what makes us stand out. While thrift shops get just about everything but the kitchen sink - some even accept those too - Hosekibako is all Japanese items.

Hosekibako is a lot of contradictions: old and new, plastics to antiques, mingei to mass-produced items, dark patina to bright colors, sacred tea ceremony utensils right by a retro PowerRangers plastic rifle in a rainbow colored box. All these interesting juxtapositions make Hosekibako so spectacular.

If you are interested, please come and see Hosekibako for yourself (you can visit me there on Saturdays).

Personally, I love thrift shopping. You never know what you will find and when you pick up an item with no box nor label, you just experience it as it is. The item is there for you to take up a new chapter in your home.

For this summer's sale, we are already pricing and preparing hundreds of ceramics, many exquisite dolls, beautiful artwork, and much more. There will be things for collectors and thrift-shoppers alike (\$1 sake cups abound). Every year we fill up entire rooms to prepare all of our items to sell.

The revenue we generate from the sale

assists us in providing quality, free community events like our annual Bunka no Hi, coming up in early-November. We would be very grateful if you donated any Japanese items of your own to our All Things Japanese Sale. I guarantee someone will love it!

Hosekibako is open 10AM-3PM Thursdays-Saturdays at the JCCCW campus. You can learn more about visiting and donating at: jcccw.org/hosekibako-japanese-resale-shop or visit 'Hosekibako - Japanese Resale Shop' on Yelp.



Theo Bickel, Volunteer & Intern Coordinator

Upcoming Exhibit to Feature Seattle Issei Pioneer Genji Mihara



A Photo of Genji Mihara outside of the Japanese Language School (Courtesy of JCCCW Northwest Nikkei Museum and the Ohgi Family)

BY STEPHANIE IKEDA

The Northwest Nikkei Museum is planning to open a permanent exhibit featuring the life story of Genji Mihara, a prominent Seattle Issei (first-generation Japanese immigrant). Mihara played an instrumental role in JCCCW's own history including serving as President of the Japanese Language School and Manager of Hunt Hotel.

The exhibit will take visitors on a journey in time from the early immigration days of the 1900s all the way through the post-war years. The exhibit will feature quotes and poetry by Mihara himself, including writings from when he was one of many Issei arrested immediately following Pearl Harbor and held in special Department of Justice-run detention centers, far away from their family and friends in War Relocation Authority camps such as Minidoka.

The exhibit is currently slated to open by the end of 2017. More specific dates and details will be released through JCCCW's media outlets as they develop. Please email inquiries to admin@jcccw.org.

Hosekibako

Are you looking to take up a Japanese art? Let Hosekibako be your source of inspiration and resource! From kimono to judo uniforms to ikebana equipment, there is something in the shop for you! Come by and take a look! Hosekibako is open Thursday-Saturday from 10am to 3pm. All proceeds go to supporting JCCCW programs and events.

E-newsletter

Would you like to learn more about JCCCW on a monthly basis? Subscribe to our monthly E-newsletter and you will receive up-to-date information about events and activities going on at the JCCCW, and around the community! To sign up, please contact admin@jcccw.org.

Ganbaru Internships

How can your talents and skills make a difference? Do you enjoy meeting new people and gaining new experiences? Each quarter, the JCCCW is busy with interns who provide support to our programs such as NW Nikkei Museum and other special events. Interns have assisted with research, database work, graphic design and more!

Internships are available:

Winter: January - March
Spring: April - June
Summer: June - August
Fall: September - December

Internship applications may be completed online at jcccw.org or you may reach our Volunteer & Intern Coordinator, at (206) 568-7114.

Calling All Yoisho Volunteers!

BY THEO BICKEL

'Yoisho!' is the sound of hard work that goes on around the 'J.' Our Yoisho Volunteers dedicate their time and skills to help run our programs, support our operations, and host our events. In the spirit of service, our volunteers are the lifeblood of the JCCCW.

We are looking for people to assist us in the following positions to this summer: NW Nikkei Museum catalog volunteers, who will assist in cataloging the JCCCW's permanent and special collections of museum artifacts; Hosekibako store volunteers, a role that provides retail experience in a multicultural and bilingual environment; and Kintsugi Garden volunteers, who has a passion for Japanese

gardening, and enjoys maintaining green spaces.

If you're eager to learn more about Japanese culture and Washington Nikkei history, gain professional experience, make new friends, and most importantly have fun, a Yoisho Volunteer opportunity might be right for you!

If you would like to join or have any questions about Volunteer Opportunities, please submit a volunteer application on our website at JCCCW.org or contact JCCCW Volunteer Coordinator at theob@jcccw.org.

Kids Shine During Annual

BY HIDEKO TAKAHASHI

On May 7, the JCCCW hosted the 8th Annual Kodomo no Hi, or Children's Day Festival. More than 1000 guests attended the event that featured a variety of Japanese cultural arts.

Kodomo no Hi is a free family event named after the Japanese national holiday, which takes place every year in Japan on May 5. The holiday celebrates children's health and happiness.

Mirroring the national holiday in Japan, the JCCCW offers child-friendly cultural activities and performances. This year, the 'J' organized Japanese-style festival games such as a fishing game, coin toss game and water yo-yos. Guests - both children and adults alike - had fun playing the games and winning prizes.

Performances and demonstrations, including martial arts, Japanese classical and folk dances, taiko and kamishibai (traditional Japanese storytelling), were also highlights of the memorable day.

The JCCCW would like to thank the volunteers, performers, exhibitors and the guests for supporting the event.



Kodomo no Hi Festival

Photos by Eugene Tagawa and Jason Gu



(The Snoqualmie Falls Mill: Japanese Heritage Site in Danger, continued from page 1)

Edo period. The Snoqualmie mill is known as the first in the country to begin the practice of reforestation and the sustainable harvesting of timber.

In May 1942, the Japanese were forced to leave the mill site under Executive Order 9066. Reportedly, the Japanese dumped everything related to Japan into bunkhouse outhouse pits, since they could only bring what they could carry. One day later, all the bunkhouses were burned to the ground by the remaining townspeople. The land where the bunkhouses were situated has remained undeveloped for 75 years. The former mill site and surrounding area is

a significant archeological site. It is a place where education and interpretation of the site as it relates to the history and contributions of the Japanese to the lumber and railroad industries in the Pacific Northwest can be told.

In order to preserve its historical significance and to reveal the stories related to the Japanese at the Snoqualmie mill site, JCCCW is making efforts raise awareness among local community members, historians, archeologist and the City of Snoqualmie of its interest in research, preservation and interpretation of the site. More specifically, JCCCW supports further consideration by the City

of Snoqualmie as to portions of the site that should remain undeveloped and maintained for open space because of its importance as an historically significant site.



Japanese bulk houses were located near Mill Pond. (Photo by Karen Yoshitomi)

(Remembering the Puyallup Assembly Center: "Guns were pointed at us, not away from us.", continued from page 1)

somber atmosphere than its modern-day environment of amusement rides, sweet and savory food, and dozens of live entertainment performances.

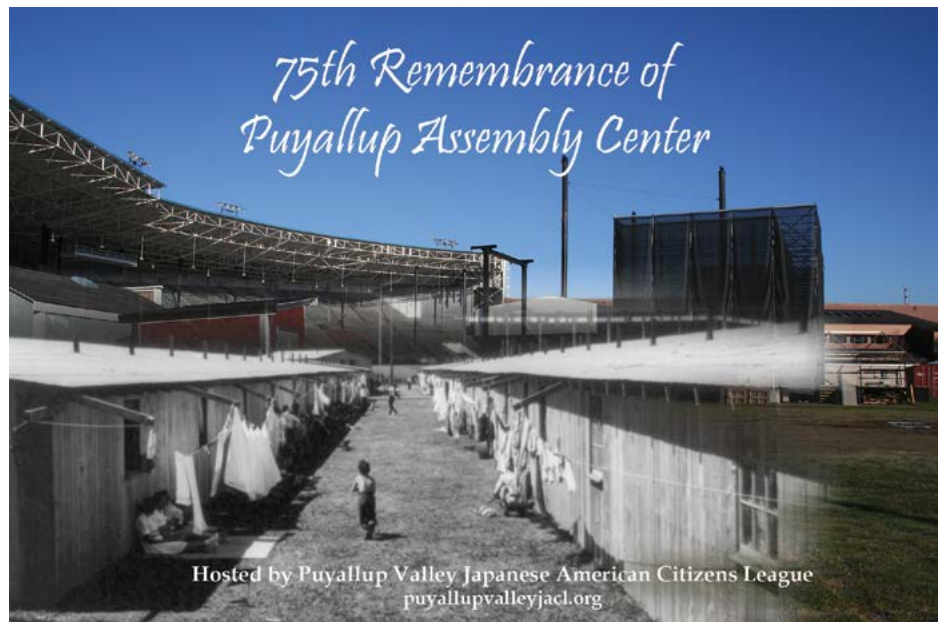
From April to September 1942, following the signing of Executive Order 9066, more than 7,600 Japanese Americans from Seattle, Alaska, and rural parts of Pierce County were forcibly removed from their communities and relocated to the Puyallup Assembly Center – nearly doubling the small farming town's population overnight – before being transferred to desolate incarceration camps in California, Idaho, and Wyoming.

Elsie 'Yotsuuye' Taniguchi was five years old when her younger brother, parents, and extended relatives were sent to the Puyallup Assembly Center, also called by the ironic euphemism "Camp Harmony."

"There was nothing but confusion and bewilderment," Taniguchi said, recalling her time at the overcrowded fairgrounds. "We were told that soldiers were assigned to the fairgrounds for our protection, but we realized the guns were pointed at us, not away from us."

Much of Taniguchi's life has been spent educating students, historians, and the public about Japanese American history and incarceration experiences.

"I live by the motto 'Aspire to Inspire before I Expire,'" Taniguchi said. "If we don't share this information with the general



A composite of the Washington State Fairgrounds during the World War II and today (Handout Photo)

public, especially with today's current political environment, people will think that this never happened."

The September 2nd remembrance, being held from 10am to 11am at the fairgrounds' Coca-Cola stage, will take place during the Washington State Fair. The iconic event has an attendance of more than a million people, giving Taniguchi, Sobie-Seymour, and other organizers of the event an opportunity to further share with the public the World War II stories and experiences of Nikkei living in the Northwest.

"I want to make sure that they (incarceration survivors) realize that younger

generations stand on their shoulders" Sobie-Seymour said holding back tears. "We owe so much to them."

To learn more about the September 2nd remembrance, including speaker Tom Ikeda, the rededication of the Tsutagawa sculpture, an unveiling of banners with the more than 7,600 names of people who were sent to the Puyallup Assembly Center, a short video called 'The Silent Fair,' as well as a museum exhibit with photos, artifacts, and a recreation of a barrack used by families on the fairgrounds, visit <http://www.thefair.com/pac>.

Announcements & Calendar

j represents JCCCW Events

August

August 6

FROM HIROSHIMA TO HOPE

The annual floating lantern ceremony honors the victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. With more than a thousand participants, the more than three-decade old event is the largest anywhere outside of Japan. The event starts around 6PM at Green Lake in Seattle.

August 19 | 10AM-4PM **j**
August 20 | 11AM-2PM **j**

ALL THINGS JAPANESE SALE

Not your average rummage sale! Join us on August 19 & 20 for the JCCCW's annual All Things Japanese Sale, a unique shopping experience that includes an eclectic variety of new and used quality Japanese antiques, collectibles, and more! Also, do you have Japanese items you could donate to the J? We would gratefully accept any of your gently used Japanese kitchen items, clothing, textiles, art or more. You can drop them off at our office at 1414 S Weller St, Seattle WA 98144 between 10AM-5PM. Feel free to call us at (206) 568-7114 to ask questions. Alleyway unloading is available for an easy drop-off.

Questions? Comments? Contact us!

The JCCCW aims to provide information about community events and programs to its members. If you have any questions or comments regarding our newsletter, programs, events, or would like to tell us about your own community events, please feel free to contact us by email admin@jcccw.org, telephone, (206) 568-7114, or by stopping by our main office Monday- Friday from 9am-5pm at 1414 South Weller Street!

August 26 | 12PM-8PM

HAI JAPANTOWN X MAHOUTO MARKET

A Japan and Asia inspired one day pop-up shop and market will be centered near Nagomi Tea House. The event will feature several Seattle and Pacific Northwest artists, and will showcase the Nihonmachi neighborhood.

September

September 9 for Kids **j**
September 27 for Adults **j**

JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL

The sounds of Nihongo echo through the hallways of the JCCCW for the first day of Japanese Language School. Interested in learning to read, write, and speak Japanese? Visit www.jcccw.org for more information about the JLS' fall semester offerings.

October

October 28 **j**

Shakuhachi Matsuri

The fifth annual Seattle Shakuhachi Matsuri will be held at the JCCCW featuring top professional players of traditional Japanese bamboo flute. There will be morning and afternoon workshops for participants and the public is invited to the master concert at 4PM. A \$20 donation is requested for the concert. There will also be flutes, CDs and t-shirts for sale! Please contact Larry Tyrrell at shakuhachigaku@gmail.com for tickets or more information.

November

November 12 **j**

BUNKA NO HI JAPANESE CULTURE DAY

Bunka no Hi is an annual event for sharing and promoting Japanese and Japanese American culture and heritage. Each year, hundreds of guests of all ages attend and experience a fascinating array of performances, cultural demonstrations, arts and crafts, food and more. It is free and open to the public. Please mark your calendar and join us on November 12th!

Save the Date

March 31 **j**

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY of the JCCCW

Save the date! The 'J' invites you to attend a special gala that will mark the JCCCW's 15th Anniversary! The event will take place Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 5 pm at the newly built Hyatt Regency Lake Washington in Renton. During the celebration, we'll be honoring Japan Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki and JP Morgan Chase NW Chair Phyllis Campbell. Please join us! And stay tuned for more information!

Event / Meeting Space Available

The JCCCW campus offers unique networking opportunities for both established and start-up programs in a convenient in-city location; offering rare opportunity to connect with both the Japanese and Japanese American communities in Seattle. For more information on rental space and rates, contact the JCCCW office at (206) 568-7114!

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

from September 2016 - June 2017

Thank you very much for your support in helping us build community! We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. In addition to these donors we have had hundreds of people give their time and effort to volunteer for our events and help support us with their in-kind donations. Thank you to each of you who have worked with us to preserve, promote and share Japanese and Japanese American culture and heritage.

\$1 - \$99

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Jim Rose
Tazue Sasaki
Seattle Art Museum
Seattle Seido Karate
Debra Shimizu
Suyama Peterson Deguchi
Swenson Say Faget
Susumu & Katsuko Takahashi
Glenn & Eilene Tamai
Tom Tanaka
Grace Tazuma
Troy Parke & Mayumi Terada
Tuyet-Quan Thai
Hiroaki Tojo
Shokichi Tokita
Bryon Tokunaga
Susumu & Hideko Tsutsumi
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Lori Yonemitsu
Christine Yorozu
Jana Nishi Yuen

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Tsutomu & Yoko Sasaki
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Tegna
Calvin & Yvette Terada
Herb Tsuchiya
Uwajimaya
Leanne Nishi & Rick Wong
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\$25,000+

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Memberships are available at all levels to accommodate everyone. Base benefits include membership to Nikkei Bunko (Japanese Language Library) and the Resource Center (English Language Library), 10% discount at the Hosekibako re-sale shop, and a copy of our biannual newsletter Kakehashi.

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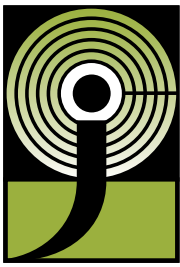
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