

The North American Post 北米報知

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New Year's Day Special Bilingual Edition HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024 新年特別号

迎春

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Japan in a Suitcase Program Changes Lives

By Lacey Ott
For The North American Post

The following article is an edited version of a speech delivered by Lacey Ott at the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington's centennial gala.

I am here tonight as an elementary educator, to speak to you about both the impact and importance of the Japan-America Society of Washington State's educational programs.

Since its inception in 1994, I have been served by this incredible group for more than half of that time, so I feel like I can reasonably speak to the impact I've seen on my students, both annually, and generationally.

For those that are not aware of what this program is, in short, my students get to experience a day in the life of a Japanese student. They get to hold Japanese textbooks and peruse them, attempt to use chopsticks, try on uniforms that Japanese school students use every day, and they all but have a heart attack when they discover that school begins in April in Japan. But most importantly — They see how much respect the students have for their teachers, their school, and each other.

As always, my students are most shocked to hear that there are no janitors at school, leaving the Japanese students to clean their own classrooms, bathrooms, school, staff lounge, and even serve their own lunches to their classmates. This understanding helps to foster what I call an "attitude of gratitude," and leads us to enriching conversations about how differently their actions might be around our school campus if they knew they would be cleaning it all together.

So, what is the impact I see? I see an impact both annually and generationally. Bear with me and I will explain.

Annually, I mean year after year without fail, and immediately following a Japan in a Suitcase (JIS) presentation in my classroom, there is an instantaneous improvement in respect among the students both peer to peer and student to staff.

There is an increased curiosity for learning both the Japanese culture, and the cultures of their peers, of which they hadn't previously considered getting to know until JIS sparked their interest in celebrating differences while digging for similarities to find common ground.

They begin to respect the looks and smells of each other's cultural foods.

And they literally ask me to throw out other subjects to give more time to Social Studies so that we can explore culture more in depth.

While each year brings new and special awareness to each group, these are the things that are fostered in my students every year regardless of my student demographics. Last year, after returning from the Gala with a food gift from a generous attendant, my students got to try a very special dessert called yokan.

The unwrapping of the seven fanciful layers of packaging of this exquisite dessert made my students swoon and had one proclaiming that she would, "Go to Japan someday, if nothing else, for the food!"



Lacey Ott, a fourth-grade teacher at Wellington Elementary School in Woodinville, delivers a speech about the Japan America Society's Japan in a suitcase program at the society's centennial gala.

The Japan in a Suitcase experience doesn't merely entertain the students; it truly builds bridges of understanding.

When I think of the generational impact I've seen in my students because of the Japan in a Suitcase enrichment experience, a student named, well, let's call him Weston... comes to mind. (He was too shy to let me share his name). I taught Weston in third grade, and he is now a junior in high school. For the last eight years he's come to visit me off and on to give me the latest life updates, and he proudly proclaimed to me last June that he had survived his first year of Japanese. Knowing his plan for college, this didn't seem to fit into his career needs, so I was intrigued and had to ask him why he decided to take Japanese, seemingly out of the blue, so late in his high school experience.

His response?

He said, "Well, you know that 'suitcase project' you do?"

"Yes," I said, "go on."

He replied, "Well I still have it, and for whatever reason, I was looking back at it, and I remembered how fun it was to study Japan and do that thing, with that lady who brought the suitcase of goodies."

I chuckled and let him know that I still do Japan in a Suitcase, with "that lady," Lisa, and her suitcase of goodies. While I don't quite see it yet, I know that his language lessons he took will serve him in some way in his future, all because of a seed that was planted in elementary school because of JIS's educational programming.

That is generational bridge building, fostering a love for one another.

Another student, also a junior, and classmate of Weston, is Olivia, or Liv as I call her; she has also come to visit me for the past eight years with life updates, but the number one thing that I hear from

her is that her vote for her annual family vacation is still, and will always be, for Japan. She says she knows her family can't afford it, but says she will always dream big, and someday go, even without her family.

In this suitcase project that Weston referred to, we study 25 countries on the Pacific Rim, and yet, Japan still stays everyone's favorite, and I believe this is because of the hands-on experience that Japan in the Schools provides.

In summary, I can personally attest to the fact that the Japan-America Society's educational programs have been strategically building the bridges between American culture and Japanese culture in our public schools for the past two decades.

With increasing budget deficits in our public schools across our state, our hands are tied — our hands-on experiences and field trips are becoming a thing of the past.

So, the most special thing about Japan in Schools for me is that this program is completely free to me, my students, and my school, ensuring that we can continue to open our minds to a world outside of our own, and bring Japan to us, even when we can't go there.

In the spirit of forging friendships and understanding between the peoples of Japan and Washington state, we can continue to build bridges into the next century, and beyond.

Lacey Ott is a fourth-grade teacher at Wellington Elementary, Woodinville. She delivered this speech at the Gala of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington, Westin Hotel, Seattle, November 28, 2023.

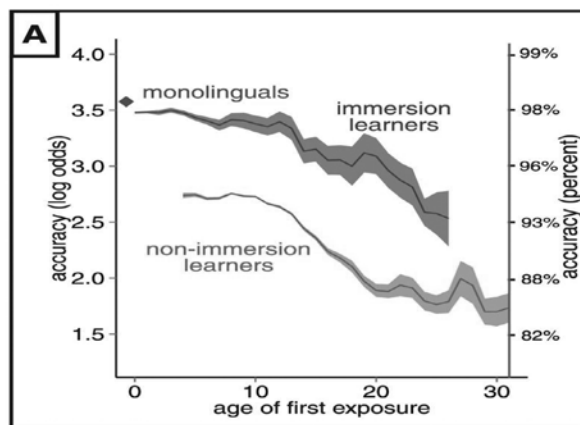
SANSEI JOURNAL: The Second-Language Learning Window

By David Yamaguchi
For The North American Post

It is hard to circulate in the Greater Seattle Japanese community, where one regularly encounters strongly bilingual Shin-Issei and Shin-Nisei and largely monolingual Japanese American Sansei and Yonsei, without regularly thinking about who acquires a second language, who doesn't, and why. The question is timely because we have an opportunity to influence which Seattle-area youth will be able to work effectively in Japan across the coming decades and fill gaps in its declining labor force.

As a Sansei who stands between the two groups linguistically, today I wanted to share the graphic shown here. New to me, it is the most remarkable picture of the second-language learning process I have seen in my entire life.

The descending lines summarize the main findings of a grammar quiz posted on the internet, to which over 669,000 responded. The upper curve



shows how the second-language ability of those who immigrate to a new country varies by age of immigration. The lower curve describes how the ability varies in non-immersion contexts, for example, through foreign-language study in school. The two curves show "that learners must start by 10-12 years of age to reach native-level proficien-

cy. Those who begin later literally run out of time before the sharp drop in learning rate at around 17-18 years of age." Notably, the authors place the "beginning of the end" of second-language acquisition at 17.4 years.

In summary, the key points for optimal study are to start learning the second language by age 10 and to get as far as you can by age 17. Beyond this point, you can study all you want, but you're facing diminishing returns. Your brain is no longer flexible enough to easily acquire the second language.

A related point is that if two years of college Japanese study are in your plans, then it would be more effective to place them earlier in your course of study. This amount of exposure meets the level of study recommended by the U.S. Department of State for its foreign service workers.

David Yamaguchi is Executive Director of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington (dyamaguchi@jassw.org).

Spring Japan Tour Orientation Set for Jan. 19

By Bruce Rutledge
For the North American Post

There's still time to sign up for The North American Post's spring Japan tour. We revived the tour last year after a long hiatus for the pandemic and have plans for two more trips in 2024.

The spring 2024 tour, scheduled for April 10-24, includes five nights in Tokyo, two in Takayama, and six in Kyoto. It also includes day trips from Tokyo to Yokohama and from Kyoto to Kobe, Kanazawa and Hiroshima.

This is a great way to immerse yourself in Japan. It's a walking tour with transportation on bullet trains and subways, so be sure to pack comfortable walking shoes.

Last year, NAP successfully completed two of these tours with about 20 people each.

The price of \$5,075 per person for a double occupancy room includes airfare to and from Japan, a rail pass, and a bilingual tour guide. In a nutshell, a bargain!

The tour is filling up fast, but as of this writing, there are still several spots open. If you're interested, please write japantour@napost.com for more information.

We'll be holding an orientation on January 19 from 4 to 6pm at the North American Post office (519 6th Ave S, Seattle 98104). The orientation is open to both participants of the spring 2024 tour and those who are curious about the tours.

We look forward to traveling with you in the new year!



Tokyo as viewed from the top floor of Shibuya Sky. Photo by Kate Rutledge

New Cherry Trees Grace Market Entrance

By NAP staff

A small plaque across the street from the entrance of Pike Place Market honors the planting of eight new cherry trees along Pike Street.

The message on the plaque was written by Kyle Kinoshita of the Japan American Citizens' League. He reminds us that more than 75% of the vendors in the market were Japanese American until they were

imprisoned during World War II.

In the last couple of years, the city contemplated replacing the cherry trees with hybrid elms, which planners argued would nicely frame the Market entrance as people approach it on Pike Street.

Save the Market Entrance, led by Ruth Danner, spearheaded the campaign to preserve the cherry trees. A ceremony was held in early December to unveil the plaque.



Commercial Kitchen Available for Startups at Nisei Veterans Hall

By David Yamaguchi
For the North American Post

On November 20, the King County Public Health inspector signed off on a new commissary kitchen permit at the Nisei Veterans Committee Hall, 1212 S. King Street, Seattle. As of that date, the kitchen facilities there are up to code for startup small-business food-vendor use. The renovation is a small-business assistance pilot program funded by the Washington State Department of Commerce. It is the brainchild of Kanako Matsumoto and Dale L. Watanabe, who

started the small-business assistance program of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington (jassw.org).

As background, if you want to start up a food business, you cannot currently prepare food in your home kitchen, then bring it elsewhere and sell it. Kitchen cleanliness and continuous temperature-control of the prepared food are paramount and required by the King County Health Department.

The kitchen is a part of JASSW's broader Japanese small-business assistance program. The improvements significantly upgrade the NVC Hall, last remodeled in

2008. The first business currently in the kitchen door is Nigiri Zanzan. It is a part of Great Rice, which imports rice from Yamagata Prefecture, north-central Japan. Top local sushi restaurants use their rice. The JASSW Commissary Kitchen at NVC Memorial Hall is open to other minority businesses using the facility on a space available basis. It is set up to accommodate three small businesses at a time.

Potentially interested businesses should start by filling out the small-business contact form at jassw.org.

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Dear fellow Washingtonians,

On behalf of the Office of the Secretary of State, I wish you a very peaceful, joyous, and prosperous 2024. I was fortunate to travel to Japan to conduct a trade mission in October. I loved seeing the strong sense of community, many traditions to honor history, and commitment to building relationships between Japan and Washington, which I am excited to continue in 2024.

During the Nov. 7 general election, more than 1.75 million Washingtonians made their voices heard to improve communities across the state. My office has been working hard to ensure everyone eligible has equal access to civic and voter education programs and ways to cast their votes, especially non-English-speaking voters, voters with disabilities, new residents, and voters in tribal and underserved communities.

Voters this year will decide many important items affecting our communities, including the race for the U.S. presidency. Those interested in voting can easily and conveniently register online at VoteWa.gov.

In the year ahead, I look forward to continuing to expand Washington State Library resources and deal with challenges to libraries everywhere, including book banning. Books serve as a gateway to life experiences, empowering readers to understand different places, cultures, religions, perspectives, and ideas. What's more, libraries serve as safe spaces where everyone may gather.

I hope the new year brings a clear resolution to another challenge: the future of our State Archives. The Archives preserve our history and provide public access to understanding the state's identities and cultures. They are at risk due to structural deficiencies. The building they are housed in near the Capitol floods frequently, and I am urgently trying to bring a long-planned new State Library Archives Building to fruition.

I am confident that 2024 will be a wonderful year of exciting possibilities. If you would like to reach my office, please do so at 360-902-4151 or secretaryofstate@sos.wa.gov.

Once again, I am sending you and your loved ones many good wishes for a Happy New Year.

Steve Hobbs
Secretary of State



3010 77th Ave SE, Suite 102
Mercer Island, WA 98040
(206) 374-0180 jassw@jassw.org

Dear Friends,

新年明けましておめでとうございます。Happy New Year from the Japan America Society of the State of Washington (JASSW)! On July 24, 1923, the Japan Society of Seattle was formed by local businessmen, educators, and politicians, both Japanese and American, to foster "Peace in the Pacific." Since then, the society has demonstrated unwavering commitment to its broader mission "to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of Japan and Washington State."

As we begin 2024, JASSW is well positioned to continue "Building Bridges to the Next Century" through its essential work of deepening bonds between the two nations, fostering cultural understanding, inspiring younger generations to become future global leaders, and driving economic growth. Our mission is deep and takes a long-term outlook in developing meaningful investments and commitments.

Building community through exchanging ideas and culture at the grassroots level and creating positive experiences leading to mutual understanding are ongoing collaborations in which we all can participate. JASSW does this through programs in classrooms and boardrooms. Through lively discussions with community partners both in-person and virtually, we create opportunities to learn from and celebrate each other.

We welcome NAP readers to join our Society in its mission to bring communities together, ensuring that the bridges we construct today will foster continuing "Peace in the Pacific." My hope is that our community circles will continue to expand outward, contributing to "Peace in the World."

We wish you a year filled with joy, prosperity, and meaningful connections.

Sincerely,

Shoko Farmer
2022-2024 Chair



Japanese Cultural & Community Center of WA
ワシントン州日本文化会館

1414 S Weller St.
Seattle, WA 98144
www.jccw.org

Dear Family and Friends of the "J",

Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu! Happy New Year to All!

2023 seems to have gone as fast as it arrived! While the year has sped through, 2023 has been a remarkably busy, challenging, and rewarding year. Through your continued support we have had another year of successes. Below is a brief list of accomplishments by our wonderful staff and volunteers:

Reinstated in-person youth Japanese Language classes!

Our online adult classes have surged to an all-time high of 200+ students!

Interest continues to grow in our adult prep classes for those studying for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT).

The Seattle Rep joined the Omoide writing group in a collaborative performance presenting dramatic readings and original music at "What is Home: Japanese American Stories from Omoide."

Our own Northwest Nikkei Museum co-curators Eric and Maddy participated in a panel discussion at Emerald City Comic Con.

Participated at the Sakura Matsuri (Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival).

Hosekibako resale shop continues to thrive and our online shopping service continues to grow – all proceeds support the operation of the "J."

Hosted a booth at Hai! Japantown 2023 at the Wing Luke Museum.

Our community classes (judo, karate, taiko, etc.) and events continue to grow and offer unique experiences – come join us!

We are very fortunate to have such a great staff, volunteers and community. Wishing you all a healthy and safe holiday season and a big thank you for your continued support!

Kurt Tokita, Board President



Kurt Tokita
Board President



**Nisei Veterans Committee
NVC Foundation**

NVC Memorial Hall
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Seattle, WA 98144
(206) 322-1122

Greetings!

Another banner year has elapsed, and the NVC and NVCF are deeply grateful for your support, partnership, collaboration, and opportunity to educate and share the extraordinary legacy of the Japanese American service members who served during WWII.

We've traveled outside the local area (e.g., the 16th Annual PPALM General Membership Meeting and Reception in DC and the weeklong Association of the US Army's President's Reception). Our 78th consecutive Annual Memorial Day service at Lake View Cemetery was well attended. It was extraordinary that The Honorable Erika Moritsugu, Deputy Assistant to the President and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Senior Liaison to the White House, was our distinguished speaker. We hosted the farewell for Consul General Inagaki and Mrs. Inagaki and a welcome event for incoming Consul General Iyori and Mrs. Iyori. Our partnership with the Japan-America Society of Washington's Small Business Empowerment Academy will help empower Japanese and Japanese American small and microbusiness owners through our new status as a Commissary Kitchen, which will help generate revenue and support Washington state's Small Business Resiliency Network.

The Nisei experience continues to inspire us and the Greater Seattle community as we build a better tomorrow by embracing this unique and special legacy. And we'll continue to overcome and adapt to a new normal. The challenges attributed to COVID and an uncertain local and world economic outlook will only dare us to persist and endure in our mission through our programs and services.

Akemashite omedetuō gozaimasu as we enter the Year of the Dragon.

Michael J. Yaguchi, Lt Col, USAF (ret) Commander Shawn Brinsfield President



Densho

The Japanese American Legacy Project

1416 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98144
<https://densho.org/>

Dear friends,

Having just celebrated my one-year anniversary as Densho's new Executive Director, I am so grateful for the opportunity to work alongside all of you to steward and uplift the legacies of our Japanese American communities.

As I reflect on my first year with Densho, I have been thinking deeply about the importance of preserving stories of Japanese American WWII incarceration for future generations. Human beings are storytellers, using narratives to make sense of our experiences. The stories we tell define us, guide our actions, and enrich our lives. I have also learned so much from witnessing my own father publicly share his experiences as a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing so that future generations, including my own daughter, can hear and learn from those who lived through history.

Through my own family's experiences, I have always known the profound impact of sharing our stories as a practice of remembrance and an act of resilience, weaving together a shared history that connects us all. This is the essence of Densho's work, and it is all made possible thanks to the power of community — so thank you for contributing to our collective memory-keeping efforts!

With warm wishes for a happy 2024,

Naomi Ostwald Kawamura



**Naomi Ostwald
Kawamura**
Executive Director



**Japan Business Association of Seattle
(Shunju Club)**

シアトル日本商工会 (春秋会)

919 124th Ave. NE, #207,
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あけましておめでとうございます。皆様におかれましては、ご家族、親しい方々とともに新しい年を健やかに迎えることとお慶び申し上げます。日頃よりシアトル日本商工会の活動にご理解、ご支援、ご協力を賜り、誠にありがとうございます。商工会を代表して厚く御礼申し上げます。

当会は日本に縁をもちつつ、ノースウエストに根を張り、当地の福祉・教育・文化・産業・行政の発展に尽くしてこられた多くの先人の尊い努力と献身を礎に、脈々と続くその志を受け継いでまいりました。

縁あって、こんにち同じ時代と地域社会を共有する私たちの使命は、世界のなかでも重要で卓越した役割を持つ、日米パートナーシップを様々な機会を支え、より一層価値を高め、ここで育んだ信頼関係を国・地域を越えて広げ、そして人類の未来を創ることにあります。

新年にあたり、皆さまとともに、改めて歴史に想いを馳せ、「いま」に努力を捧げ、希望溢れる未来を描き、この使命を果たしたいという思いを強くいたしました。皆さまのご多幸を祈念いたします。

2024年(令和6年)元旦

シアトル日本商工会(春秋会)会長 小田切信之

Dear Friends and Families,

Happy 2024! I wish you all a happy and healthy new year with your families and loved ones. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation with the activities of the Japan Business Association of Seattle (JBAS). On behalf of the JBAS, I would like to express our sincere gratitude.

JBAS has inherited the noble efforts and dedication of many of our predecessors who, while having ties to Japan, have put down roots in the Northwest and contributed to the development of welfare, education, culture, industry, and government in this region.

As we share the same era and community today, our mission is to take every opportunity to support and enhance the U.S.-Japan partnership, which plays an important and prominent role in the world, and to extend the trust fostered here beyond national and regional boundaries to shape the future of humanity.

On the occasion of the New Year, I would like to join with all of you in recalling our history once again, and to do our best in the "present" to fulfill this mission and envision a future filled with hope.

Warm wishes,

January 1 st, 2024

Nobuyuki Odagiri

President, Japan Business Association of Seattle (Shunju kai)



Nobuyuki Odagiri
President

The Obi

By **Lori Matsukawa**
The North American Post

The stylists padded quietly in their tabi, speaking highly feminine and polite Japanese. Mariko Kayama, "Niki" Nakamitsu, and the renowned Yu Ugawa wrapped me in an undergarment, a collar garment and finally, an astounding black silk kimono exploding with red, purple, and gold flowers. Plum, cherry, iris.

Shoka Ludden did what I considered impossible. She swept my short hair up with the help of oddly shaped hairpins and spurts of softly fragrant Shu Uemura hair spray. The purpose: to reveal the nape of my neck which is framed just-so by the kimono collar.

The highlight of this elaborate outfit was the shiny gold obi, hand-tied by Ugawa-san. She is a tiny woman, but a mighty one. She creased, folded, and knotted the thick silk brocade fabric. Her experienced hands commanded the heavy cloth to transform into a flowing, sumptuous bow of bold and exquisite size.

I loved that the back of my costume was even more evocative than the front. I imagined walking past cherry trees along a riverbank in Kyoto and having the last vision of me being the disappearing chrysanthemum blossoms at the nape of my neck and the obi, beckoning like a wind-kissed flower.

"Who is that woman? How old is she?" One cannot tell because the long furisode sleeves and exploding obi are meant for young, unmarried women. The curls and flowers in her hair are flirty, not reserved. A woman departing in mystery.

Note: The stylists are from Kimono Art here in Washington State. This was just the second time the author had ever been dressed in formal kimono. The first time was in Tokyo at age 17.

Lori Matsukawa wrote the children's book, *Brave Mrs. Sato*, about stories her grandmother told her (napost.com, Nov. 10).



Mariko Kayama (left) and Yu Ugawa dressing me in a kimono.



The completed obi.



From left to right, Mariko Kayama, Yu Ugawa, me, and Niki Nakamitsu at the Japanese American Society of the State of Washington centennial gala.

Couple Pens Sweeping World War II Love Story



Kent and Constance Hays Matsumoto will be speaking about their book on January 9 at Harbor Book Co. on Bainbridge on 6:30 PM and on January 10 at Island Books on Mercer Island at 6 PM.

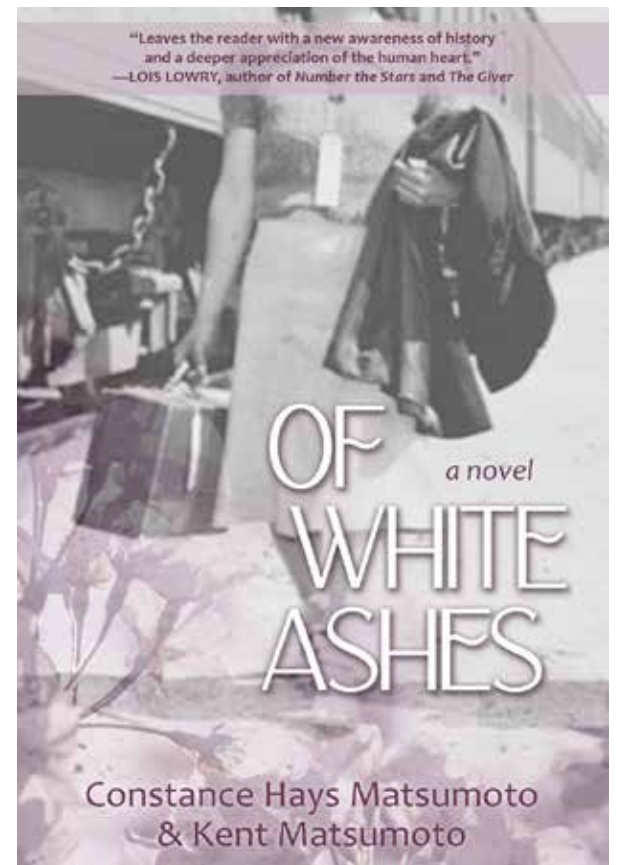
By **Bruce Rutledge**
The North American Post

Ruby Ishimaru is a Japanese American growing up in Hawaii. Koji Matsuo is a Japanese youth living in Hiroshima. World War II reshapes their lives, sending Ruby and family to incarceration camps on the mainland after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and forcing Koji to grapple with the effects of the grinding Japanese war machine and the atomic bomb dropped on his city all while hiding a secret.

That is the premise behind "Of White Ashes," a resilient love story penned by Kent and Constance Hays Matsumoto and published by Apprentice House Press, an independent book publisher at Loyola University Maryland. The authors will be in town this January for two events in the Seattle area.

While the book is fiction, the Matsumotos say the story is based on the lives of Kent's parents. His American mom was incarcerated during World War II, and his American dad was in Hiroshima at the time of the bombing. The fictionalized version of their love story brings Ruby and Koji together in California, where they immediately fall in love and begin to forge a future together and heal from their personal traumas. But the danger of history repeating itself looms large. Can Ruby and Koji overcome the odds and live a happy life together despite what they had been through?

Connie and Kent say writing this novel as a couple has brought them closer together. While Kent's parents rarely spoke to him of their wartime experiences when he was growing up, once he married Connie, his mother began to open up to her



daughter in law.

The choice to turn this family memoir into fiction gave the writers more artistic license and freed them from worrying about what other family members thought of their depiction of Ruby and Koji.

The Matsumotos will be in the Seattle area for two special presentations and book signings on January 9 and 10. They'll be at Eagle Harbor Book Co. on Bainbridge Island on Jan. 9 at 6:30 and at Island Books on Mercer Island on Jan. 10 at 6. Both events are free and open to the public.

The Matsumotos also donate a portion of their book sales to the Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages.

If you are a fan of historical fiction, especially fiction that combines a love story with the harrowing events of World War II, be sure to catch one of these events.

CLASSIFIEDS クラシファイド

JOB Looking for a change of life? How about a place to live, food and getting paid to be a caregiver/ roommate for an elderly Japanese lady. You must speak Japanese. Located in Silverdale, Washington. This is not a nursing position but a friend and general roommate type of position. The monthly pay range depends on experience and personality. References required. Contact: Jim (jfc611@icloud.com)

JOB Uwajimaya is hiring: Come join our team. We have several immediate openings available. Apply today! Visit www.uwajimaya.com/jobs

JOB 84 Yesler, Northwest Seafood

Restaurant is hiring. Contact Takahashi: (206)618-7739

MEETUP 百年の歴史を持つシアトル短歌会です。新会員を募集しています。楽しく学びながら短歌を作ってみませんか?短歌を作りましたという方も大歓迎です。歌会は毎月第二月曜日午前十時から川辺ハウスの図書室にて開催。見学、または入会ご希望の方、田宮までご連絡ください。206-851-4303またはatamiya@comcast.net

SHOP Hosekibako, Japanese Resale Shop, Thursday-Sunday 10am-3pm, Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington:1414 S Weller St. A Seattle store offering Japanese art,

antiques, collectibles & household treasures. Donations of new or used Japanese items are accepted year round!

SHOP Okura Art China, 23 piece tea set, in original box, never used. Brought from Tokyo to Seattle in 1973, etched and painted gold trim on white and burgundy with painted gold leaves. Pattern # 6MJ 1306. A beautiful tea set for a collector. Please call or email for pictures (some included here), pricing, and information. Sam, 509-771-9324 samdcole1966@gmail.com

• CLASSIFIEDS: <https://napost.com/classifieds/>



A beautiful 23-piece tea brought from Tokyo to Seattle in 1973. Contact Sam for more info: samdcole1966@gmail.com

What a Night! JASSW Celebrates 100 Years!

Photos by David Yamaguchi For The North American Post



ABOVE: Ellen Eskenazi raises her paddle during the auction. A former exchange student in Japan, today she is Associate Director of the UW Japan Studies Program. Photo: KS

UPPER MIDDLE: Shoko Farmer (left) and Masami Katayama awaiting guests at the gala entrance. They



are JASSW Executive Committee Chair and 2023 Gala Chair, respectively. They stand next to 2023 centennial-year calligraphy written by Chiyo Sanada.



LOWER MIDDLE: At the Westin Hotel, Seattle (Nov. 28, 2023).

RIGHT: 1001-crane artwork of the JASSW logo made by Lane Shigihara (right). A corporate employee by day, Shigihara is an emerging community artist by night.

2024 明けましておめでとーございます

Building Bridges to the next Century

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JASSW JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY of the State of Washington 1923-2023

<https://jassw.org>